

★ Difference between copy by value & copy by reference

Copy by value:

- It takes place in case of primitive data types i.e. String, Number & Boolean
- Primitive data types can hold only 1 value at a time
- Here value is copied to new variable.

eg:-
var x = 7;
var y = 'ABD';
var a = x;
var b = y;

here value of x i.e. 7 is copied to a & 'ABD' to b

- Variables are independent of each other.

Copy by Reference:

- It takes place in case of ^{composite or} non primitive data types i.e. Array, Objects, function
- Composite data types can hold collections of values & more complex entities.
- Here in spite of value address of memory location is passed to new variable.

eg:
var user = { name: 'Parasf' };
var Nishant = user;
admin.name = 'Choudhary';

- Both user & Nishant store address of memory location

★ How to copy by value composite data type (array + objects)

There are 3 ways to copy by value for composite data types:

- 1) Using spread (...) operator
- 2) Using Object.assign() method
- 3) Using JSON.stringify() and JSON.parse() methods

1) Using Spread :

It spread the elements of that particular array or object & its values can be used to assign to some other variable

eg: let a = [10, 20, 30]

let b = [...a]

a[0] = 99

console.log(a) // print [99, 20, 30]

console.log(b) // print [10, 20, 30]

eg: In Objects:

let obj1 = { foo: 'bar', x: 42 };

let obj2 = { foo: 'baz', y: 13 };

let clonedObj = { ...obj1 }

2) Using Object.assign() :

The Object.assign() method copies all enumerable own properties from one or more source objects to target object.

eg: var a = [1, 2, 3]

var b = Object.assign([], a)

console.log(a, b) // [1, 2, 3] [1, 2, 3]

b[2] = 100

console.log(a, b) // [1, 2, 3] [1, 2, 100]

In Object:

const target = { a: 1, b: 2 };

const source = { b: 4, c: 5 };

const ret = Object.assign(target, source);

console.log(target); // Object { a: 1, b: 4, c: 5 }

console.log(ret); // Object { a: 1, b: 4, c: 5 }

3) Using `JSON.parse()` & `JSON.stringify()`

`JSON.parse()` takes JSON string & transform it into Javascript object.

`JSON.stringify()` takes Javascript object & transform it into JSON string.

eg: `a = [1, 2, 3]`

`var b = JSON.parse(JSON.stringify(a))`

`console.log(a, b) // [1, 2, 3] [1, 2, 3]`

`b[2] = 100`

`console.log(a, b) // [1, 2, 3] [1, 2, 100]`