**Concatenation vs Template Literals**

Concatenation + vs Template Literals ${}

We've looked at Substitution Strings **vs** Template Literals, but one more point I want to make is comparing the + concatenation approach to the newer template literals approach (that was introduced in ES6).

What do I mean?

Looking at our lecture example, lets define 2 variables:

A picture containing text, device

Description automatically generated

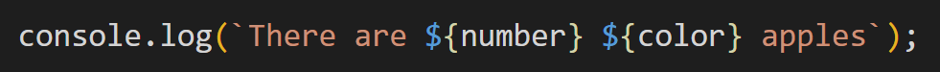
***\*\*don't worry about what the let word means. I will be explaining this in a later section, when we talk about Variables.***

Lets say you wanted to console this to the screen. How could you do it?

We can use the + concatenation approach, like this:



But we can also use template literals and write out our description like this:



Both of these methods are entirely valid and both produce the desired result, being “**There are 33 green apples**”.

However, one has a clear advantage over the other.

Which is better?

**Strings in JavaScript have been historically limited**, lacking the capabilities one might expect coming from languages like Python or Ruby. ES6 template literals (which are available in Chrome 41 and above), fundamentally change this.

Template literals are in most cases better, for the following reasons:

1. It is arguably easier to read
2. Template literals make multiline strings much easier
3. Using concatenation can quickly get out of hand when dealing with longer templates
4. Reusability is hard unless you define your template in a small custom function
5. Template literals make way for **tagged template literals**(don't stress, tagged template literals are simple. They allow us to run a template string through a function. Why is this useful? Well, rather than have the browser immediately assign that value to a variable, we have control over how an actual string is made).

Conclusion

Just as the majority of the development community has implicitly agreed on using let as the default over var, the same thing is happening with template literals.

Template literals provide an easy way to interpolate variables and expressions in strings by using ${} syntax.

In saying this, however, there is nothing stopping you from using the + sign to concatenate strings. At the end of the day, you need to do what is most comfortable to you.

Got it?

I hope so ... see you in the next lecture!