

# Understanding `npm start` in Node.js Projects

In your `package.json`, you have this part:

```
json

"scripts": {
  "start": "node index.js",
  "test": "echo \"Error: no test specified\" && exit 1"
}
```

Here, the `"start"` script is defined as:

```
bash

node index.js
```

This means: → When you run the command `npm start`, **Node.js** will execute the file `index.js`.

**Why?** Because in a Node.js project, you usually need to run your server application. `index.js` is the starting point (entry file) of your server, where you create your Express app and tell it to listen for HTTP requests. `node index.js` just tells Node to **read and run** that file.

## In short:

- `node` = command to run a Node.js application.
- `index.js` = the file that launches your Express server.

**Example:** If inside `index.js` you have something like:

javascript

```
const express = require('express');
const app = express();
const PORT = 3000;

app.get('/', (req, res) => {
  res.send('Hello World!');
});

app.listen(PORT, () => {
  console.log(`Server is running on port ${PORT}`);
});
```

Then running `npm start` (which runs `node index.js`) will start your server, and you can open `http://localhost:3000` in the browser.