**JavaScript History**

The very first JavaScript version was ES1 also known as ECMAScript 1. It was released in 1997, followed by the release of ES2 the next year. In 1999, ES3 came with support for many new concepts like regular, linear, constructor expressions, and try-catch block statements.

**JavaScript / ECMAScript**

**JavaScript** was invented by **Brendan Eich** in 1995.

It was developed for **Netscape 2**, and became the **ECMA-262** standard in 1997.

After Netscape handed JavaScript over to ECMA, the Mozilla foundation continued to develop JavaScript for the Firefox browser. Mozilla's latest version was 1.8.5. (Identical to ES5).

**Internet Explorer** (IE4) was the first browser to support ECMA-262 Edition 1 (ES1).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **ECMA** | **Browser** |
| 1995 |  | JavaScript was invented by Brendan Eich |
| 1996 |  | Netscape 2 was released with JavaScript 1.0 |
| 1997 |  | JavaScript became an ECMA standard (ECMA-262) |
| 1997 | ES1 | ECMAScript 1 was released |
| 1997 | ES1 | IE 4 was the first browser to support ES1 |
| 1998 | ES2 | ECMAScript 2 was released |
| 1998 |  | Netscape 42 was released with JavaScript 1.3 |
| 1999 | ES2 | IE 5 was the first browser to support ES2 |
| 1999 | ES3 | ECMAScript 3 was released |
| 2000 | ES3 | IE 5.5 was the first browser to support ES3 |
| 2000 |  | Netscape 62 was released with JavaScript 1.5 |
| 2000 |  | Firefox 1 was released with JavaScript 1.5 |
| 2008 | ES4 | ECMAScript 4 was abandoned |
| 2009 | ES5 | ECMAScript 5 was released |
| 2011 | ES5 | IE 9 was the first browser to support ES5 \* |
| 2011 | ES5 | Firefox 4 was released with JavaScript 1.8.5 |
| 2012 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Safari 6 |
| 2012 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in IE 10 |
| 2012 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Chrome 23 |
| 2013 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Firefox 21 |
| 2013 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in Opera 15 |
| 2014 | ES5 | Full support for ES5 in all browsers |
| 2015 | ES6 | ECMAScript 6 was released |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Chrome 51 |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Opera 38 |
| 2016 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Safari 10 |
| 2017 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Firefox 54 |
| 2017 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in Edge 15 |
| 2018 | ES6 | Full support for ES6 in all browsers \*\* |

**Note**

\* Internet Explorer 9 did not support ES5 "use strict".

\*\* Internet Explorer 11 does not support ES6.

**The ECMA Technical Committee 39**

In 1996, Netscape and Brendan Eich took JavaScript to the ECMA international standards organization, and a technical committee (TC39) was created to develop the language.

ECMA-262 Edition 1 was released in June 1997.

## From ES4 to ES6

When the TC39 committee got together in Oslo in 2008, to agree on ECMAScript 4, they were divided into 2 very different camps:

**The ECMAScript 3.1 Camp**:  
Microsoft and Yahoo who wanted an incremental upgrade from ES3.

**The ECMAScript 4 Camp**:  
Adobe, Mozilla, Opera, and Google who wanted a massive ES4 upgrade.

August 13 2008, Brendan Eich wrote an [email](https://mail.mozilla.org/pipermail/es-discuss/2008-August/006837.html):

*It's no secret that the JavaScript standards body, Ecma's Technical Committee 39, has been split for over a year, with some members favoring ES4, a major fourth edition to ECMA-262, and others advocating ES3.1 based on the existing ECMA-262 Edition 3 (ES3) specification. Now, I'm happy to report, the split is over.*

The solution was to work together:

* ECMAScript 4 was renamed to ES5
* ES5 should be an incremental upgrade of ECMAScript 3.
* Features of ECMAScript 4 should be picked up in later versions.
* TC39 should develop a new major release, bigger in scope than ES5.

The planned new release (ES6) was codenamed "Harmony" (Because of the split it created?).

ES5 was a huge success. It was released in 2009, and all major browsers (including Internet Explorer) were fully compliant by July 2013:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Chrome 23 | IE10 / Edge | Firefox 21 | Safari 6 | Opera 15 |
| Nov 2012 | Sep 2012 | May 2013 | Jul 2012 | Jul 2013 |

ES6 was also a huge success. It was released in 2015, and all major browsers were fully compliant by March 2017:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Chrome 51 | Edge 14 | Firefox 52 | Safari 10 | Opera 38 |
| May 2016 | Aug 2016 | Mar 2017 | Sep 2016 | Jun 2016 |

JavaScript was invented by Brendan Eich in 1995, and became an ECMA standard in 1997.

ECMAScript is the official name of the language.

ECMAScript versions have been abbreviated to ES1, ES2, ES3, ES5, and ES6.

Since 2016, versions are named by year (ECMAScript 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020).

**ECMAScript Editions**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ver** | **Official Name** | **Description** |
| ES1 | ECMAScript 1 (1997) | First edition |
| ES2 | ECMAScript 2 (1998) | Editorial changes |
| ES3 | ECMAScript 3 (1999) | Added regular expressions Added try/catch Added switch Added do-while |
| ES4 | ECMAScript 4 | Never released |
| ES5 | ECMAScript 5 (2009) |  |

|  |
| --- |
| Added "strict mode" Added JSON support Added String.trim() Added Array.isArray() Added Array iteration methods Allows trailing commas for object literals |
| ES6 | ECMAScript 2015 |

|  |
| --- |
| Added let and const Added default parameter values Added Array.find() Added Array.findIndex() |
|  | ECMAScript 2016 |

|  |
| --- |
| Added exponential operator (\*\*) Added Array.includes() |
|  | ECMAScript 2017 |

|  |
| --- |
| Added string padding Added Object.entries() Added Object.values() Added async functions Added shared memory Allows trailing commas for function parameters |
|  | ECMAScript 2018 |

|  |
| --- |
| Added rest / spread properties Added asynchronous iteration Added Promise.finally() Additions to RegExp |
|  | ECMAScript 2019 |

|  |
| --- |
| String.trimStart() String.trimEnd() Array.flat() Object.fromEntries Optional catch binding |
|  | ECMAScript 2020 |

|  |
| --- |
| The Nullish Coalescing Operator (??) |

This tutorial covers every version of JavaScript:

* The Original JavaScript ES1 ES2 ES3 (1997-1999)
* The First Main Revision ES5 (2009)
* The Second Revision ES6 (2015)
* Yearly Additions (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)

**Browser Support**

ECMAScript 1 - 6 is fully supported in all modern browsers.

**Browser Support for ES5 (2009)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Browser** | **Version** | **From Date** |
| Chrome | 23 | Nov 2012 |
| Firefox | 21 | May 2013 |
| IE | 9\* | Mar 2011 |
| IE / Edge | 10 | Sep 2012 |
| Safari | 6 | Jul 2012 |
| Opera | 15 | Jul 2013 |

\* Internet Explorer 9 does not support ECMAScript 5 "use strict".

**Browser Support for ES6 (2015)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Browser** | **Version** | **Date** |
| Chrome | 51 | May 2016 |
| Firefox | 52 | Mar 2017 |
| Edge | 14 | Aug 2016 |
| Safari | 10 | Sep 2016 |
| Opera | 38 | Jun 2016 |

Internet Explorer does not support ECMAScript 2015.

## Browser Support for ECMAScript 2016

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Browser** | **Version** | **Date** |
| Chrome | 52 | Jul 2016 |
| Firefox | 54 | Jun 2017 |
| Edge | 14 | Aug 2016 |
| Safari | 10.1 | Mar 2017 |
| Opera | 39 | Aug 2016 |