

# ReferenceError

Baseline Widely available \*



The **ReferenceError** object represents an error when a variable that doesn't exist (or hasn't yet been initialized) in the current scope is referenced.

**ReferenceError** is a [serializable object](#), so it can be cloned with [structuredClone\(\)](#) or copied between [Workers](#) using [postMessage\(\)](#).

**ReferenceError** is a subclass of [Error](#).

## Constructor

[ReferenceError\(\)](#)

Creates a new **ReferenceError** object.

## Instance properties

Also inherits instance properties from its parent [Error](#).

These properties are defined on **ReferenceError.prototype** and shared by all **ReferenceError** instances.

[ReferenceError.prototype.constructor](#)

The constructor function that created the instance object. For **ReferenceError** instances, the initial value is the [ReferenceError](#) constructor.

[ReferenceError.prototype.name](#)

Represents the name for the type of error. For **ReferenceError.prototype.name**, the initial value is **"ReferenceError"**.

## Instance methods

Inherits instance methods from its parent [Error](#).

## Examples

### Catching a ReferenceError

JS

```
try {
  let a = undefinedVariable;
} catch (e) {
  console.log(e instanceof ReferenceError); // true
  console.log(e.message); // "undefinedVariable is not defined"
  console.log(e.name); // "ReferenceError"
  console.log(e.stack); // Stack of the error
}
```

## Creating a ReferenceError

JS

```
try {
  throw new ReferenceError("Hello");
} catch (e) {
  console.log(e instanceof ReferenceError); // true
  console.log(e.message); // "Hello"
  console.log(e.name); // "ReferenceError"
  console.log(e.stack); // Stack of the error
}
```

## Specifications

Specification
<a href="#">ECMAScript® 2026 Language Specification</a> # sec-native-error-types-used-in-this-standard-referenceerror <a href="#">↗</a>

## Browser compatibility

[Report problems with this compatibility data](#) [↗](#) • [View data on GitHub](#) [↗](#)

															
															
<div>ReferenceError</div>	✓ 1	✓ 12	✓ 1	✓ 5	✓ 1	✓ 18	✓ 4	✓ 10.1	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 4.4	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 0.10
<div><a href="#">ReferenceError()</a> <a href="#">constructor</a></div>	✓ 1	✓ 12	✓ 1	✓ 5	✓ 1	✓ 18	✓ 4	✓ 10.1	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 4.4	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 1	✓ 0.10

<a href="#">ReferenceError</a> <a href="#">is serializable</a>	✓ 77	✓ 79	✓ 103 *	✓ 64	⊗ No	✓ 77	✓ 103 *	✓ 55	⊗ No	✓ 12	✓ 77	⊗ No	⊗ No	⊗ No	⊗ No
<div>✓ Full support</div> <div>⊗ No support</div> <div>* See implementation notes.</div>															

# See also

- [Error](#)