

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

```

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

[ECMAScript® 2026 Language Specification](#)

[# sec-native-error-types-used-in-this-standard-referenceerror ↗](#)

Browser compatibility

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

	Mobile						Desktop								
	Chrome	Edge	Firefox	Opera	Safari	Chrome Android	Firefox for Android	Opera Android	Safari on iOS	Samsung Internet	WebView Android	WebView on iOS	Bun	Deno	Node.js
ReferenceError	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	1	12	1	5	1	18	4	10.1	1	1	4.4	1	1	1	0.10
ReferenceError()	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
constructor	1	12	1	5	1	18	4	10.1	1	1	4.4	1	1	1	0.10

ReferenceError is serializable	✓ 77	✓ 79	✓ 103	✓ 64	✗ No	✓ 77	✓ 103	✓ 55	✗ No	✓ 12	✓ 77	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No	✗ No
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✓ Full support ✗ No support * See implementation notes.

See also

- [Error](#)



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