The JavaScript **this** Keyword

Example

```
const person = {
  firstName: "John",
  lastName : "Doe",
  id       : 5566,
  fullName : function() {
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
};
```

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What is **this**?

In JavaScript, the `this` keyword refers to an **object**.

Which object depends on how `this` is being invoked (used or called).

The `this` keyword refers to different objects depending on how it is used:

In an object method, `this` refers to the **object**.

Alone, `this` refers to the **global object**.
In a function, `this` refers to the **global object**.
In a function, in strict mode, `this` is `undefined`.
In an event, `this` refers to the **element** that received the event.
Methods like `call()`, `apply()`, and `bind()` can refer `this` to **any object**.

Note

`this` is not a variable. It is a keyword. You cannot change the value of `this`.

this in a Method

When used in an object method, `this` refers to the **object**.

In the example on top of this page, `this` refers to the **person** object.

Because the **fullName** method is a method of the **person** object.

```
fullName : function() {
  return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
}
```

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this Alone

When used alone, `this` refers to the **global object**.

Because `this` is running in the global scope.

In a browser window the global object is `[object Window]`:

Example

```
let x = this;
```

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In **strict mode**, when used alone, `this` also refers to the **global object**:

Example

```
"use strict";
let x = this;
```

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this in a Function (Default)

In a function, the **global object** is the default binding for `this`.

In a browser window the global object is `[object Window]`:

Example

```
function myFunction() {
  return this;
}
```

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this in a Function (Strict)

JavaScript **strict mode** does not allow default binding.

So, when used in a function, in strict mode, `this` is `undefined`.

Example

```
"use strict";
function myFunction() {
  return this;
}
```

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this in Event Handlers

In HTML event handlers, `this` refers to the HTML element that received the event:

Example

```
<button onclick="this.style.display='none'">
  Click to Remove Me!
</button>
```

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Object Method Binding

In these examples, `this` is the **person object**:

Example

```
const person = {
  firstName  : "John",
  lastName   : "Doe",
  id         : 5566,
  myFunction : function() {
    return this;
  }
};
```

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Example

```
const person = {
  firstName: "John",
  lastName : "Doe",
  id       : 5566,
  fullName : function() {
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
};
```

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i.e. **this.firstName** is the **firstName** property of **this** (the person object).

Explicit Function Binding

The `call()` and `apply()` methods are predefined JavaScript methods.

They can both be used to call an object method with another object as argument.

See Also:

The Function call() Method

The Function apply() Method

The Function bind() Method

The example below calls person1.fullName with person2 as an argument, **this** refers to person2, even if fullName is a method of person1:

Example

```
const person1 = {
  fullName: function() {
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
}

const person2 = {
  firstName:"John",
  lastName: "Doe",
}

// Return "John Doe":
person1.fullName.call(person2);
```

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Function Borrowing

With the `bind()` method, an object can borrow a method from another object.

This example creates 2 objects (person and member).

The member object borrows the fullname method from the person object:

Example

```
const person = {
  firstName:"John",
  lastName: "Doe",
  fullName: function () {
    return this.firstName + " " + this.lastName;
  }
}

const member = {
  firstName:"Hege",
  lastName: "Nilsen",
}

let fullName = person.fullName.bind(member);
```

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This Precedence

To determine which object `this` refers to; Use the following precedence of order.

Precedence	Object
1	bind()
2	apply() and call()
3	Object method
4	Global scope

Is `this` in a function being called using bind()?

Is `this` in a function is being called using apply()?

Is `this` in a function is being called using call()?

Is `this` in an object function (method)?

Is `this` in a function in the global scope.

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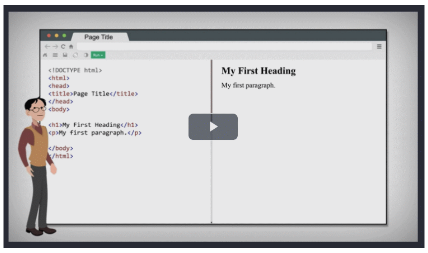

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1>My First Heading</h1>
<p>My first paragraph.</p>

</body>
</html>
```

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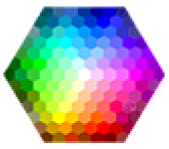

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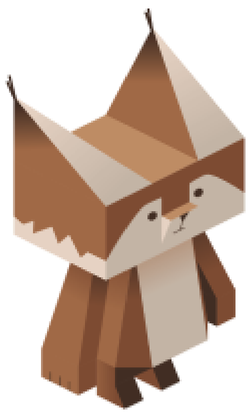

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