In JavaScript, return and console.log() are **very different** — they serve **different purposes**. Here's a clear comparison:

**✅ return – *Sends back a value from a function***

* It **ends the function** and sends a result **back to where the function was called**.
* The returned value can be **stored in a variable**, used in expressions, or passed to other functions.
* It does **not** display anything on the screen.

**Example:**

function add(a, b) {

return a + b;

}

let result = add(3, 5); // result is now 8

**✅ console.log() – *Displays a message in the console***

* It is used for **debugging or showing output** in the **browser's console**.
* It does **not return** anything — it only **prints**.

**Example:**

function add(a, b) {

console.log(a + b); // prints 8 in the console

}

add(3, 5);

**🔁 Comparison Table:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Feature | return | console.log() |
| Purpose | Send data back | Show data in console |
| Can store in var? | ✅ Yes | ❌ No |
| Visible to user? | ❌ No (unless used) | ✅ In console only (not on page) |
| Ends function? | ✅ Yes | ❌ No |
| Used in logic? | ✅ Yes | ❌ Not recommended |

**🔄 Together**

You can use both:

function add(a, b) {

return a + b;

}

let result = add(3, 5);

console.log(result); // Output: 8