

# [ Lesson 6 ]

Roi Yehoshua 2018

## [ What we learnt last time? ]

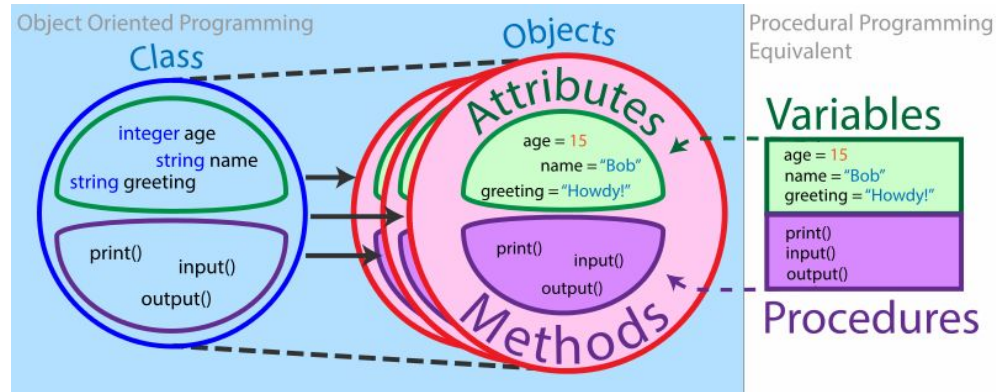
- Functions in Javascript
- Passing functions as arguments
- Scope of various types of variables
- Debugging Javascript code

## [Our targets for today]

- Basics of Object Oriented Programming
- JavaScript objects
- Object methods
- Object cloning

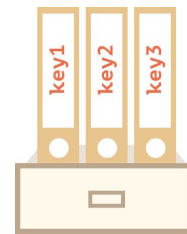
# [Object Oriented Programming]

- **Object-oriented programming (OOP)** is a programming paradigm based on the concept of "objects", which represent the entities in the program
- Objects may contain data, in the form of **fields**, also known as **attributes** or **properties**
- Objects may contain code, in the form of **functions**, also known as **methods**
- Objects are instances of classes, which also determine their type



# [Objects in JavaScript]

- An object is a collection of related data and/or functionality
- We can imagine an object as a cabinet with signed files
  - Every piece of data is stored in its file by the key
  - It's easy to find a file by its name or add/remove a file



- An empty object (“empty cabinet”) can be created using one of two syntaxes:

```
let user = new Object(); // "object constructor" syntax
let user = {};           // "object literal" syntax
```



- Usually, the figure brackets {...} are used. That declaration is called an *object literal*.

## [Literals and Properties]

→ We can immediately put some properties into {...} as “key: value” pairs:

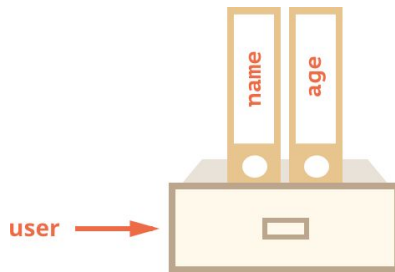
```
let user = {    // an object
  name: 'John', // by key "name" store value 'John'
  age: 30 // by key "age" store value 30
};
```

→ A property has a key (also known as “name” or “identifier”) before the colon “:” and a value to the right of it

→ In the user object, there are two properties:

→ The first property has the name “name” and the value ‘John’

→ The second one has the name “age” and the value 30



## [ Exercise (1) ]

- Write the following code, one line for each action:
  - Create an empty object product
  - Add the property name with the value 'Laptop'
  - Add the property price with the value 1200
  - Change the value of the price to 1000
  - Show the product's name and price on the screen
  - Remove the property name from the object

# [Literals and Properties]

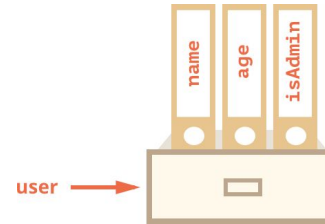
→ Property values are accessible using the **dot notation**:

```
// Get fields of the object  
alert(user.name); // John  
alert(user.age); // 30
```

→ You can add new properties to an object also using the dot notation

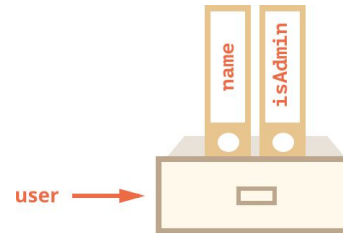
→ The property can be of any type

```
// Add properties to an object  
user.isAdmin = true;
```



→ To remove a property, we can use **delete** operator:

```
// Delete properties from an object  
delete user.age;
```





## [Literals and Properties]

- Square brackets also provide a way to obtain the property name as the result of any expression, which may depend on user input as in the following example:

```
let user = {  
  name: "John", age: 30  
};  
  
let key = prompt("What do you want to know about the user?", "name");  
  
// access by variable  
alert(user[key]); // John (if enter "name")
```

- Square brackets are much more powerful than the dot notation, but they are also more cumbersome to write
- So usually when property names are known and simple, the dot is used. And if we need something more complex, then we switch to square brackets.

## [Property Value Shorthand]

→ The use-case of making a property from a variable with the same name is so common, that there's a special *property value shorthand* to make it shorter:

```
let name = "John";  
let age = 30;  
  
let user = {  
  name: name, age: age  
};  
alert(user.name); // John
```



```
let name = "John"; let age = 30;  
  
let user = {  
  name, // same as name: name age //  
  same as age: age  
};  
alert(user.name); // John
```

→ We can use both normal properties and shorthands in the same object:

```
let user = {  
  name, // same as name: name  
  age: 30  
};
```

## [ Property Existence Check ]

- Accessing a non-existing property returns undefined
- Thus, you can test if a property exists by getting it and comparing it to undefined:

```
let user = {};  
  
alert(user.noSuchProperty === undefined); // true means "no such property"
```

- There also exists a special operator **in** to check for the existence of a property

```
let user = { name: "John", age: 30 };  
  
alert("age" in user); // true, user.age exists  
alert("blabla" in user); // false, user.blabla doesn't exist
```

## [for..in Loop]

→ To iterate over all keys of an object, there exists a special form of the loop: **for..in**

→ The syntax:

```
for (key in object) {  
    // executes the body for each key among object properties  
}
```

→ For instance, let's output all properties of user:

```
let user = {  
    name: "John", age: 30, isAdmin: true  
};  
  
for (let key in user) {  
    // keys  
    alert(key); // name, age, isAdmin  
    // values for the keys  
    alert(user[key]); // John, 30, true  
}
```

## [Exercise (2)]

→ We have an object storing salaries of our team:

```
let salaries = { John: 100,  
  Ann: 160,  
  Peter: 130  
}
```

→ Write the code to sum all salaries and store in the variable sum

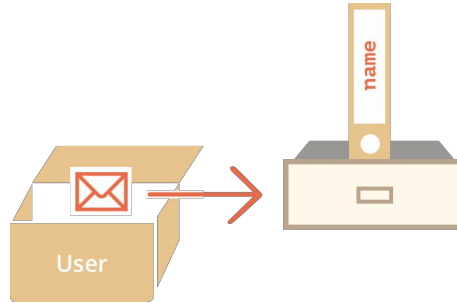
→ Should be 390 in the example above

→ If salaries is empty, then the result must be 0

## [Object References]

- When you define an object in JavaScript, the object's variable stores not the object itself, but its address in memory, i.e., a **reference** to it

```
let user = {  
  name: "John"  
};
```

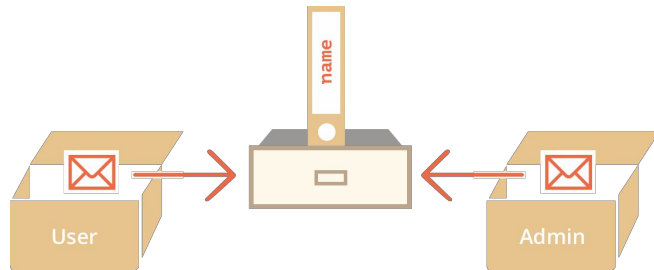


- The object is stored somewhere in memory, and the variable `user` has a “reference” to it
- If we imagine an object as a cabinet, then a variable is a key to it

## [Copying Objects by Reference]

- When an object variable is copied (or passed as a function argument) – the reference is copied, not the object:

```
let user = { name: "John" };  
let admin = user; // copy the reference
```



- Now we have two variables, each one with the reference to the same object
- We can use any variable to access the cabinet and modify its contents:

```
admin.name = "David"; // changed by the "admin" reference  
alert(user.name); // "David", changes are seen from the "user" reference
```

## [Comparing Objects by Reference]

- The equality `==` and strict equality `===` operators for objects work exactly the same
- Two objects are equal only if they are the same object
- For instance, two variables reference the same object, they are equal:

```
let a = {};  
let b = a; // copy the reference  
  
alert(a == b); // true, both variables reference the same object  
alert(a === b); // true
```

- And here two independent objects are not equal, even though both are empty:

```
let a = {};  
let b = {}; // two independent objects  
  
alert(a == b); // false
```



## [ Const Object ]

- An object declared as const *can* be changed
- For instance:

```
const user = { name: "John"
};
user.age = 25; // No error, since the reference "user" doesn't change
alert(user.age); // 25
```

- The const would give an error if we try to set user to something else, for instance:

```
// Error (can't reassign user) user = {
  name: "David"
};
```

## [Cloning Objects]

- Copying by reference is good most of the time
- However, there are we cases where we want to duplicate an existing object, i.e., create an independent copy of it
- We can write the code that replicates the structure of an existing object by iterating over its properties and copying them on the primitive level (using a for..in loop)
- Also we can use the method **Object.assign()** for that. Its syntax is:

```
Object.assign(dest[, src1, src2, src3...])
```

- Arguments dest, and src1, ..., srcN (can be as many as needed) are objects
- It copies the properties of all objects src1, ..., srcN into dest
- Then it returns dest

## [Cloning Objects]

→ For example, we can copy all properties of user into an empty object

```
let user = {  
  name: "John", age: 30  
};  
let clone = Object.assign({}, user);  
  
// now clone is a fully independent clone clone.name =  
"David"; // changed the data in it  
alert(user.name); // still John in the original object
```

→ Note that if there are properties in user that are references to other objects, they will be copied by reference

→ There is a standard algorithm for **deep cloning** that handles such cases

→ You can use a working implementation of it from the JavaScript library [lodash](#)

→ The method is called [\\_.cloneDeep\(obj\)](#).

## [Object Methods]

- JavaScript methods are actions that can be performed on objects
- A method is a property containing a function definition:

```
let user = {  
  name: "John", age: 30  
};  
user.sayHi = function () { alert("Hello!");  
};  
  
user.sayHi(); // Hello!
```

- Here we've used a Function Expression to create the function and assign it to the property user.sayHi of the object
- So, here we've got a method sayHi of the object user

## [Method Shorthand]

→ There exists a shorter syntax for methods in an object literal:

```
let user = {  
  sayHi: function () { alert("Hello");  
  }  
};
```

→ we can omit "function" and just write sayHi():

```
let user = {  
  sayHi() { // same as "sayHi: function()"  
    alert("Hello");  
  }  
};
```

## [Exercise (3)]

- Create an object calculator with three methods:
  - read() prompts for two values and saves them as object properties
  - sum() returns the sum of saved values
  - mul() multiplies saved values and returns the result

```
let calculator = {  
  // ... your code ...  
};  
  
calculator.read();  
alert(calculator.sum());  
alert(calculator.mul());
```

## [Symbol Type]

- Symbol is a primitive type for unique identifiers
- Object property keys may be either of string type, or of symbol type
  - Property keys of other types are coerced to strings
- A value of Symbol type can be created using Symbol():

```
let id = Symbol();
```

- We can also give symbol a description, mostly useful for debugging purposes:

```
// id is a symbol with the description "id"  
let id = Symbol("id");
```

- Symbols are guaranteed to be unique, even if they have the same description

```
let id1 = Symbol("id");  
let id2 = Symbol("id");  
alert(id1 == id2); // false
```

## [Hidden Properties]

- Symbols allow us to create “hidden” properties of an object, that no other part of code can occasionally access or overwrite
- For instance, if we want to store an “identifier” for the object user, we can use a symbol as a key for it:

```
let user = {  
  name: "John"  
};  
let id = Symbol("id");  
  
user[id] = "ID Value";  
alert(user[id]); // we can access the data using the symbol as the key
```

- The benefit of using Symbol("id") over a string "id" is that if another script wants to have its own "id" property inside user for its own purposes, then it can create its own Symbol("id"), without causing any conflicts:

```
// ...  
let id = Symbol("id");  
user[id] = "Their id value";
```



## [Symbol Type]

→ If we want to use a symbol in an object literal, we need square brackets:

```
let id = Symbol("id");  
  
let user = {  
  name: "John",  
  [id]: 123 // not just "id: 123"  
};
```

→ That's because we need the value from the variable `id` as the key, not the string `"id"`

→ Symbols are skipped by `for..in` loops

→ In contrast, `Object.assign` copies both string and symbol properties

## [System Symbols]

- There exist many “system” symbols that JavaScript uses internally, and we can use them to fine-tune various aspects of our objects
- They are listed in the specification in the [Well-known symbols](#) table, e.g.:
  - `Symbol.hasInstance`
  - `Symbol.iterator`
  - `Symbol.toPrimitive`
  - ...and so on
- For instance, `Symbol.iterator` allows us to make an object iterable
  - We'll see its use very soon

## [Constructor Functions]

- The regular {...} syntax allows to create one object
- But often we need to create many similar objects, like multiple users or menu items
- That can be done using constructor functions and the "new" operator
- Constructors are regular functions, that follow two conventions:
  - They are named with capital letter first
  - They should be executed only with "new" operator

```
function User(name) {  this.name =  
    name;  this.isAdmin = false;  
}  
  
let user = new User("Adam");  
alert(user.name); // Adam  
alert(user.isAdmin); // false  
  
let user2 = new User("Ann");  
alert(user.name); // Ann
```

## [ The new operator ]

- When a function is executed as new User(...), it does the following steps:
  - A new empty object is created and assigned to **this**
  - The function body executes
    - Usually it modifies this, adds new properties to it
  - The value of this is returned
- In other words, new User(...) does something like:

```
function User(name) {  
  // this = {};      (implicitly)  
  
  // add properties to this  this.name =  
  name;  
  this.isAdmin = false;  
  
  // return this;      (implicitly)  
}
```

## [Methods in Constructor]

- In the constructor, we can add to **this** not only properties, but methods as well
- For instance, new User(name) below creates an object with the given name and the method sayHi:

```
function User(name) {  
  this.name = name;  
  
  this.sayHi = function () {  
    alert("My name is: " + this.name);  
  };  
}  
  
let john = new User("John"); john.sayHi(); // My  
name is: John
```

## [ Control questions ]

1. What is Object Oriented Programming?
2. What is Object?
3. What are the ways to create an object in JavaScript?
4. What is method? How can we call one?
5. Can there be two methods with same name in an object?
6. How can we clone an object?

# [ Materials ]

Core materials:

<https://learn.javascript.ru/object>

Additional materials:

[https://developer.mozilla.org/ru/docs/Web/JavaScript/Guide/Working\\_with\\_Objects](https://developer.mozilla.org/ru/docs/Web/JavaScript/Guide/Working_with_Objects)

<https://learn.javascript.ru/destructuring>

Video materials:

<https://youtu.be/J1alrZFnGig>