

Helpers

Helpers

- In handlebars there are built-in helpers - namely (each, if, unless, and with)
- A customised helper is a function that is created (by the developer) to carry out some task such as capitalising each word in a sentence, summing up the duration of all the songs in the playlist, etc..

Steps to follow:

1. Add code to create and name the helper in `server.js`



2. Call the helper (by name) in the required expression

1. Add code to create and name the helper in server.js

- To create a helper, we add a *helpers* identifier to the *app.engine* declaration

```
app.engine('.hbs', exphbs({
  extname: '.hbs',
  defaultLayout: 'main',

  helpers: {

  }

}));
```

1. Add code to create and name the helper in server.js

- The helpers function is assigned a name, receives a parameter, and will return a value
- In this case the function name is *formatDate*, a date is passed in, and the month name, day number and year are returned

```
helpers: {  
  formatDate: function (commentdate) {  
    let d = new Date(commentdate);  
    let daynum = d.getDate();  
    let month = d.getMonth();  
    let thisYear = d.getFullYear();  
  
    let months = ['January', 'February', 'March', 'April', 'May', 'June', 'July', 'August',  
                  'September', 'October', 'November', 'December'];  
    let monthname=months[month];  
  
    return monthname + " " + daynum + ", " + thisYear;  
  }  
}
```

2. Call the helper (by name) in the required expression

- When you wish to display the date, use an expression (as usual) but add the *helper* name first and then the value (date) that you want passed to the helper
- In this case we will pass the value *date* to the helper *formatDate*
- The formatted date is returned and displayed

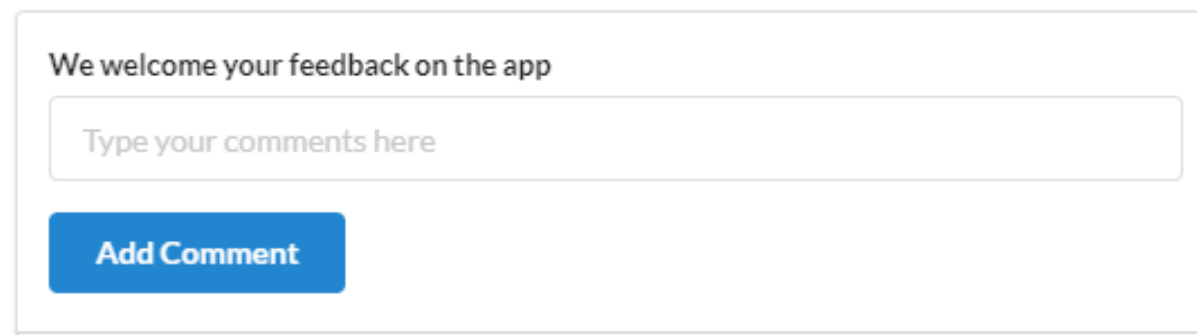
```
<span class="date">{{formatDate date}}</span>
```

Example:

- In this example, we will add a date when saving the comment added by the (current) user of the app
- When the comments are listed, the date will be formatted in a particular way

Example

- The form to add a comment



We welcome your feedback on the app

Add Comment

- The code to create today's date and time

```
const now = new Date();
```


Example

- When the comment is added this is what is stored

```
{
  "comments": [
    {
      "id": "e4c2ed2d-f7d4-4785-bb5f-7f1c99689718",
      "username": "Mary Lyng",
      "comment": "Nice app!",
      "date": "2019-04-05T09:19:31.885Z"
    }
  ]
}
```

Example – without the helper

- The form to add a comment and the comments listed
- Note the date displayed

We welcome your feedback on the app

Feedback



Mary Lyng Fri Apr 05 2019 09:19:31 GMT+0000 (UTC)
Nice app!

Example – with the helper

- The form to add a comment and the comments listed

We welcome your feedback on the app

|Type your comments here

Add Comment

Feedback



Mary Lyng April 5, 2019
Nice app!



homer simpson April 5, 2019
Nice site

Exercise

- Add a helper to capitalise each name in a personal name, such as joe bloggs