

## Introduction to JavaScript

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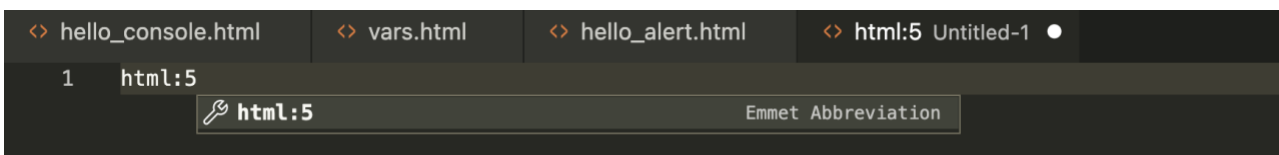
### Introduction

“JavaScript is a programming language that makes websites interactive. HTML & CSS will let you make nice looking webpages, but they'll be static. JavaScript allows you to ask your user to input information, move elements around on the page, and for to make your website more modern and functional.” (Codecademy, 2013)

In this tutorial you will create some *very simple* programs in JavaScript and explore how JavaScript is incorporated into web pages.

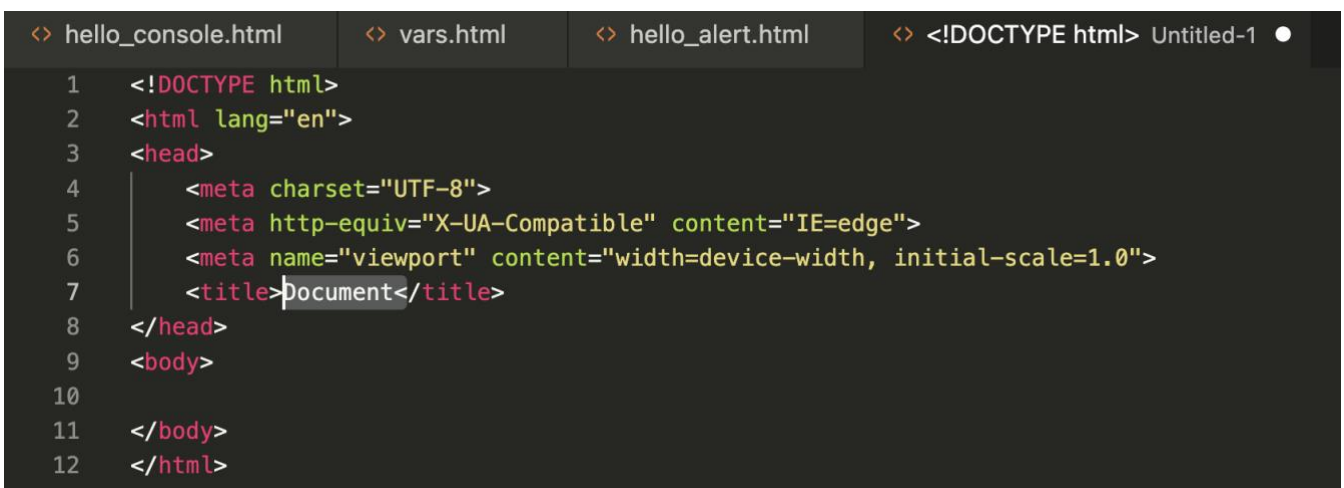
### Recap: Creating a basic HTML file

You will be using VS Code (or another editor if you prefer) to create your JavaScript programs, the same editor that you used last week to create HTML5 webpages and CSS files. Open VS Code and create a new blank HTML file. Remember we can create our basic HTML 5 boiler plate by typing `html:5` and hitting enter.



The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with four tabs: `hello_console.html`, `vars.html`, `hello_alert.html`, and `html:5 Untitled-1`. The active tab is `html:5 Untitled-1`. In the editor, line 1 contains the text `html:5`. A tooltip is visible below the text, showing a magnifying glass icon, the text `html:5`, and the label `Emmet Abbreviation`.

Once we have our basic boiler plate, change the title tag on line 7 to something meaningful like ‘week 6 task 1’ for example.



The screenshot shows the VS Code interface with four tabs: `hello_console.html`, `vars.html`, `hello_alert.html`, and `<!DOCTYPE html> Untitled-1`. The active tab is `<!DOCTYPE html> Untitled-1`. The editor displays the following HTML code:

```
1 <!DOCTYPE html>
2 <html lang="en">
3 <head>
4   <meta charset="UTF-8">
5   <meta http-equiv="X-UA-Compatible" content="IE=edge">
6   <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1.0">
7   <title>document</title>
8 </head>
9 <body>
10
11 </body>
12 </html>
```

Remember that it is always good practice to save files regularly so before you type anything else save the file using an appropriate name such as `week6_task1` for example. Avoid spaces in file names, use underscore, hyphen or camelCase instead. Save this to an appropriately named folder structure in your G: drive - like `COMP1589/Week6`.

## Task 1: Writing your first JavaScript

There are a number of ways of including JavaScript in a webpage. Today we will look at the simplest method, by inserting some JavaScript into the `body` of the webpage.

Following in the tradition of millions of other programmers, you are now going to write your first “Hello World” program ( [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22Hello,\\_World!%22\\_program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%22Hello,_World!%22_program) ).

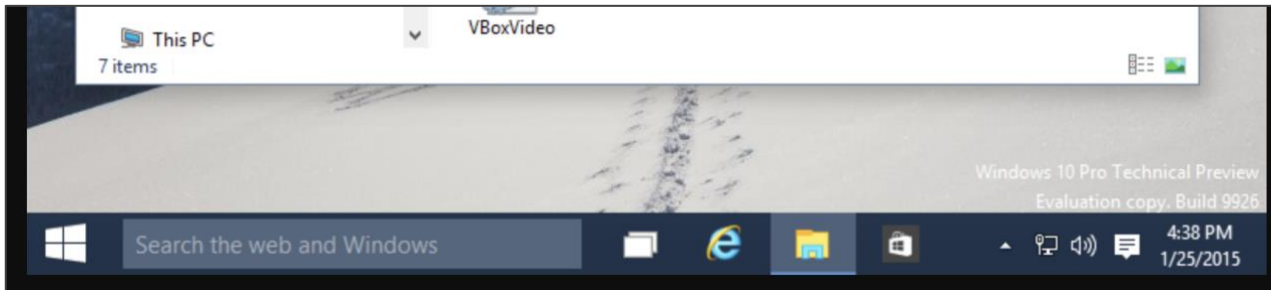
To do this, you will be utilising the `alert()` method, which is particularly useful in JavaScript as a way of outputting the result of code in an alert box on the screen (you may have come across alert boxes when you have forgotten to fill in a required box on a web form).

In the HTML page that you have just created add the following code in between the body tags  
Line 8 opens our script tag, line 10 closes the script tag

Line 9 is our actual JavaScript code.

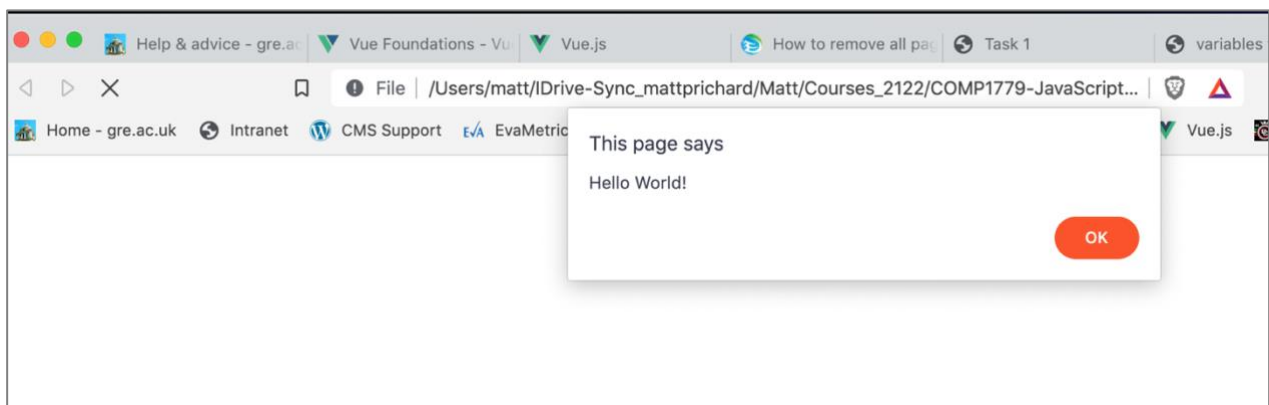
```
6     </head>
7     <body>
8     <script>
9         alert("Hello World!");
10    </script>
11
12    </body>
13    </html>
```

To run your code you now need to load the webpage in a browser. Therefore, it is important that you get into the habit of saving your webpage in VS Code and then opening the file in a browser. For this course we will be using Google Chrome but Firefox is fine too (avoid Edge or IE) to view our pages go to File Explorer/This PC and navigate to your file and open it with Google Chrome.



Depending on how your computer is setup you might have to right click on the file and choose “Open with ...” instead of double clicking on the file, which might open the file in Internet Explorer. *Please ask your tutor if you don’t know how to do this, as you will need to do this from now on.*

Once opened, you should see a browser window and an alert box saying “Hello World” like the following:



If you click on “OK”, or press return, the alert will disappear and you are left with a blank page.

**Question to consider:** How would you make the alert box say “*Hello Matt*” instead of “*Hello World*” ?

If you install the VS Code “open in browser” extension [I have linked to on Moodle](#) you can also open the code in your browser from within VS Code like I do in the lecture. This is a little easier but remember where your actual files are on your G drive and remember you can run them even if VS Code is closed by using the above instructions.

## Task 2: Using `console.log`

Instead of using the `alert()` method, a more contemporary technique for outputting the results of a JavaScript program as you are creating it, is to use the JavaScript console that is included in the Developer Tools of browsers such as Google Chrome. In order to output something to the JavaScript console you use the `console.log()` method.

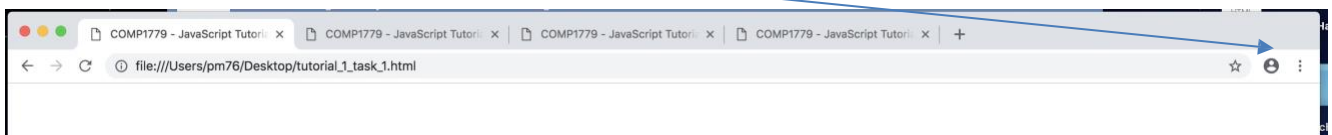
Save the file that you created for Task 1 as a new file (“File > Save As ...”) with an appropriate name such as `week6_task1.html`. Then, replace the line that contains:

```
alert("Hello World");
```

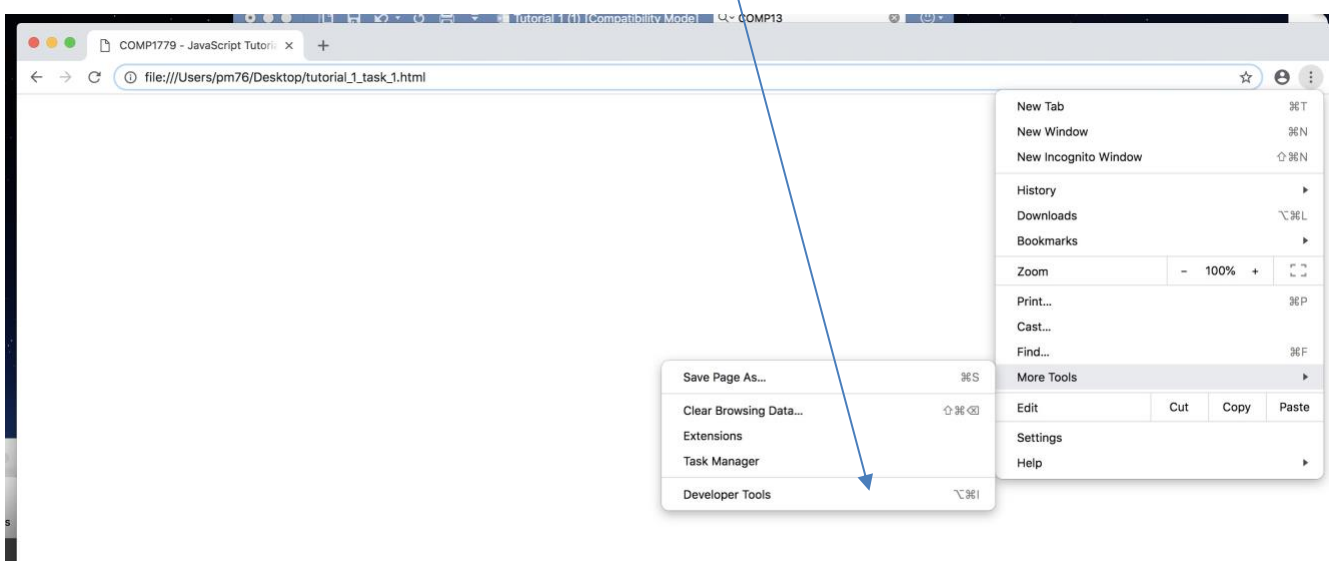
with the following:

```
console.log("Hello World")
```

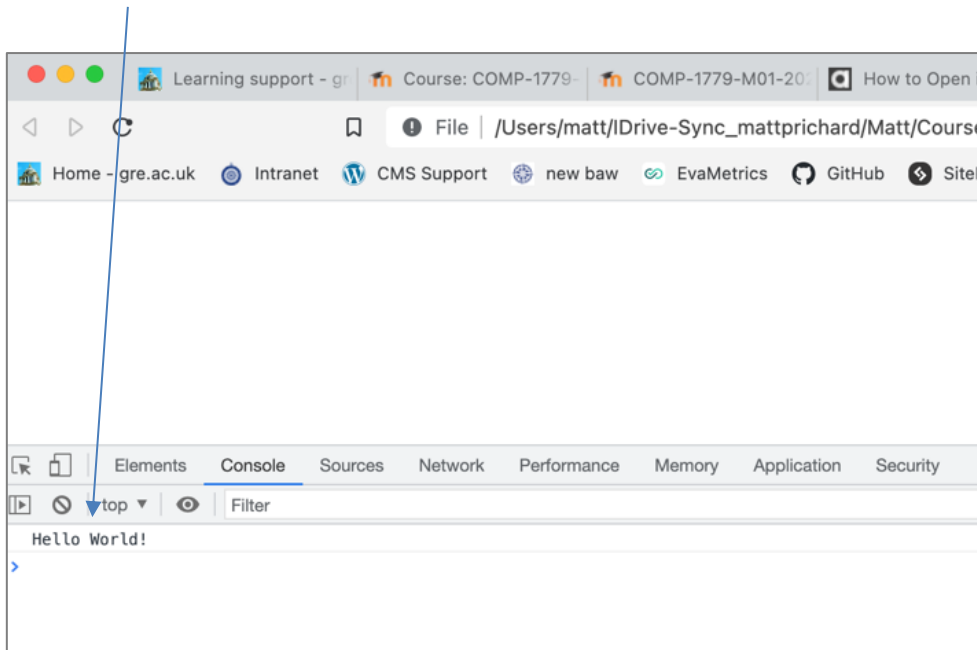
If you now try and open this using Google Chrome you should notice that the alert box does not appear, only the blank webpage. So where does the `console.log()` command appear? To view the JavaScript Console in Google Chrome on Windows 10, click the icon to the right of the URL bar that looks like 3 little dots:



- and then choose “More Tools > Developer Tools” or press **Ctrl + Shift + J**
- **(Cmd + Option + J on Mac)**
- <https://appuals.com/open-browser-console/> options for other browsers



You should then see the JavaScript console at the bottom of the window with the words “hello world” being shown (if you don’t, refresh the page).



From now on, **always make sure that the JavaScript console is open** when you run your webpages that contain JavaScript code.

### Task 3: using InnerHTML

Save the file that you created for Task 2 as a new file (“File > Save As ...”) with an appropriate name such as `week6_task3.html`. Then, replace the line that contains:

```
console.log("Hello World")
```

With the following:

```
document.getElementById("text").innerHTML = "Hello World";
```

Remember to put this line

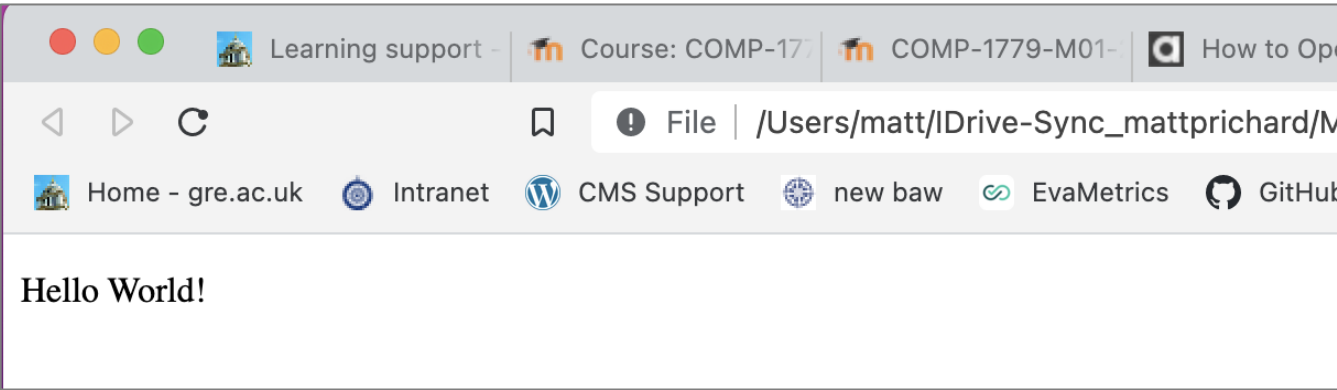
```
<p id="text"></p>
```

Just after your opening `<body>` tag **but before** the `<script>` tag.

```
</head>
<body>
  <p id="text"></p>
  <script>
    document.getElementById("text").innerHTML="Hello World!";
  </script>
</body>
</html>
```

We must provide somewhere for the script to output to before we run it. If we put the `<p>` tags **after** the script we will get an error.

You should see this in your browser.



## Task 4: Creating Functions

Below is some code that will calculate the area of a rectangle. If we needed to calculate the area of another rectangle we would have to repeat parts of the code:

```
// Calculate the area of a rectangle
var aWidth = 10.5;
var aHeight = 3;
var message = "Area of this rectangle is ";
var area = aWidth * aHeight;
console.log(message + area);
```

This is an appropriate opportunity to create a function that can be reused calculate the area of any rectangle, dependent on values that we send to it. In a new file `week6_task4.html` add the following code into the body of your HTML page:

```
8  <body>
9      <script>
10         function calcRectangleArea(aWidth, aHeight){
11             var area = aWidth * aHeight;
12             return area;
13         }
14     var message = "Area of this rectangle is ";
15     var rectangleArea = calcRectangleArea(10.5,3);
16     console.log(message + rectangleArea);
17     rectangleArea = calcRectangleArea(4,10.2);
18     console.log(message + rectangleArea);
19
20     </script>
```

In this program, the function `calcRectangleArea()` accepts 2 parameters, `aWidth` and `aHeight`. It then multiplies the 2 numbers (`aWidth * aHeight`), storing the result in the `area` variable, and then returns the value of `area` to where the function was called from. In this case the result is returned and stored in the variable `rectangleArea`. The `calcRectangleArea()` function can be called a number of times, and sent different parameters each time, performing the same function.

As you were shown in the lecture, there are different types of function. The following code has the same output as the code above but achieves this in a slightly different way. It does not return a result to where it was called from but simply outputs the answer within the function itself. Type the following code into a new file and load the page in Google Chrome.

```
21 // Calculate the area of a rectangle
22 function calcRectangleArea(aWidth,aHeight,message){
23     var area = aWidth * aHeight;
24     console.log(message + area);
25 }
26 calcRectangleArea(10.5,3,"Area of the first rectangle is ");
27 calcRectangleArea(4,10.2,"Area of the second rectangle is ");
28
29
30 </script>
```

There are a number of ways of achieving the same result when programming. Either of these solutions is correct in this particular instance. As you gain more experience you will start to understand when to use these different types of function. For now, concentrate on trying to understand how each function works.

## Task 5: Creating your own Functions

In order to demonstrate the use of functions you are now going to create a simple programme that converts Fahrenheit to Centigrade.

The maths for this calculation can be found at

<http://www.mathsisfun.com/temperature-conversion.html>

You will need to look through the interactive area calculator program on Moodle for the basic structure for this program.

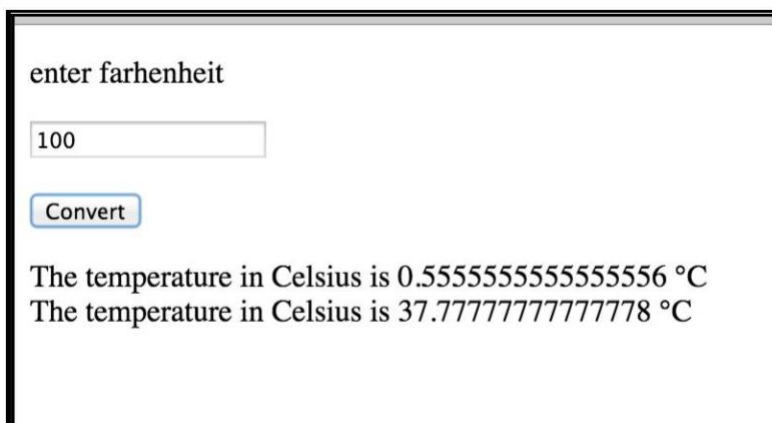
There are a few stipulations you must follow.

1. The user must be able to enter a numeric value for Fahrenheit into a text box
2. There needs to be a submit button.
3. There will be 2 functions
  - a. One will do the temperature conversion and return the result.
  - b. The second will be called when the button is clicked, it will get the value from the text box, pass it to the first function and output the result using innerHTML.

Make sure the user knows what the result means by use of string concatenation.

Make use of the += assignment operator so the user can display multiple results

You may have something that looks like this in the end – or better if you use some CSS.



The screenshot shows a web form with a title "enter farhenheit" (note the typo). Below the title is a text input field containing the number "100". Underneath the input field is a button labeled "Convert". Below the button, there are two lines of text output: "The temperature in Celsius is 0.555555555555556 °C" and "The temperature in Celsius is 37.7777777777778 °C".

**For the keen.**

Notice how my output has too many numbers after the decimal place.

Using the toFixed() method [http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref\\_tofixed.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/jsref/jsref_tofixed.asp)



I have set my result to 2 decimal places, see if you can apply the toFixed method too.

enter farhenheit

The temperature in Celsius is 0.56 °C

The temperature in Celsius is 60.00 °C

The temperature in Celsius is 37.78 °C



## Conditions (If's) in JavaScript

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### Introduction

In this week's lecture you were told about conditions in JavaScript. In this tutorial you will explore these concepts by creating some simple programs.

### Task 1: A simple IF statement

Create a new HTML file and between two `<script> ... </script>` tags, type the following code:

```
// Calculate mark classification
var mark = 55;

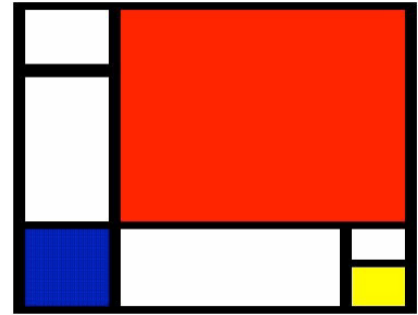
if (mark >= 70){
    console.log("This is a First");
}
else if (mark >= 60 && mark <= 69){
    console.log("This is a 2:1");
}
else if (mark >= 50 && mark <= 59){
    console.log("This is a 2:2");
}
else if (mark >= 40 && mark <= 49){
    console.log("This is a Third");
}
```

Run your code by loading the webpage in Google Chrome with the JavaScript console visible. This program using a set of conditions to test what classification a mark is and outputs this using the `console.log()` method.

Change the value for the mark variable to test whether each condition works as expected.

## Task 2: Mondrian Generator

*“Piet Mondrian was a Dutch painter and an important contributor to the De Stijl art movement, which was founded by Theo van Doesburg. Despite being well-known, often-parodied, and even trivialized, Mondrian's paintings exhibit a complexity that belie their apparent simplicity. The non-representational paintings for which he is best known, consisting of rectangular forms of red, yellow, blue, or black, separated by thick, black, rectilinear lines, are actually the result of a stylistic evolution that occurred over the course of nearly thirty years, and which continued beyond that point to the end of his life.”*



[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet\\_Mondrian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piet_Mondrian)

Until now, you have been outputting the results of your programs to the JavaScript console. However, the console is restricted to showing unformatted text so the next step is to start to output the results of our code in the HTML pages itself. One method of doing this is to use the HTML5 `canvas` element, which “is used to draw graphics, on the fly, on a web page”:

[http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5\\_canvas.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/html/html5_canvas.asp)

The `canvas` element is simply an area on a webpage where you can draw graphics using JavaScript. In a new HTML page type the following “skeleton” code in the `body` of the page that will generate a very simple version of a Mondrian painting using a combination of functions and conditions. You were shown the completed code during the lecture.

Copy this code into a new HTML document taking care to think about what each line is doing.

```
<> mondrian_scaffold.html > html > body > script > draw
1  <!DOCTYPE html>
2  <html lang="en">
3  <head>
4    <meta charset="UTF-8">
5    <title>Document</title>
6  </head>
7  <body>
8    <canvas id="sCanvas" width="550" height="400"></canvas>
9
10  <script>
11    // Variables
12    // Colours
13    const blue = "#0000FF";
14    const green = "#006600";
15    const brown = "#543725";
16    const red = "#FF0000";
17    const yellow = "#FFFF00";
18    const grey = "#666666";
19    const white = "#FFFFFF";
20    const black = "#000000";
21    let colour; // global variable for use in functions
```

```

22
23 // Get the Canvas element with ID sCanvas that will be drawn on
24 const c = document.getElementById("sCanvas");
25 const ctx = c.getContext("2d");
26
27 // Draw a square with a specified size, position and colour
28 function drawFilledShape(sWidth,sHeight, x,y,colour){
29     ctx.beginPath();
30     ctx.rect(x,y,sWidth,sHeight);
31     ctx.fillStyle = colour;
32     ctx.fill();
33     ctx.strokeStyle = black;
34     ctx.lineWidth = 5;
35     ctx.stroke();
36 }
37
38 function turnfNameIntoColour(fName){
39     if(fName.length > 6){
40         colour = white;
41     }
42     else{
43         colour = grey;
44     }
45     return colour;
46 }
47
48 function turnAgeIntoColour(age){
49
50     return colour;
51 }
52
53 function turnEyeColourIntoColour(eyeColour){
54
55     return colour;
56 }
57
58 function draw(){
59     let age = 53; //using let as will be taking user input later
60     let eyeColour = "blue"; // choose from: blue, green, brown
61     let fName = "Matt";
62
63     // Turn details into colours
64     const sColourTopLeft = turnAgeIntoColour(age);
65     const sColourBottomLeft = turnfNameIntoColour(fName);
66     const sColourRight = turnEyeColourIntoColour(eyeColour);
67
68     // Draw the coloured shapes
69     drawFilledShape(150, 150, 0, 0, sColourTopLeft);
70     drawFilledShape(150, 250, 0, 150, sColourBottomLeft);
71     drawFilledShape(400, 400, 150, 0, sColourRight);
72 }
73
74 draw(); //call the main draw function
75 </script>
76 </body>
77 </html>

```

At the moment this code will run but you will notice that two of the squares (`sColourBottomLeft` and `sColourRight`) are grey and one is black (`sColourTopLeft`).

Your task is to create a set of conditions in the functions `turnEyeColourIntoColour()` and `turnAgeIntoColour()` to change the colour of those squares depending on a value that is sent to the function.

To help you, you have been given the code (line 38) for the `turnfNameIntoColour()` function which has a String parameter, `fName`, and then checks to see whether the length of `fName` i.e. how many letters, is greater than 6 (`fName.length > 6`). If it is, then the function returns the colour as `white`, otherwise it returns the colour as `black`.

Once you have typed in the code, try and understand what each section does.

### **turnEyeColourIntoColour**

For the `turnEyeColourIntoColour` function create a set of conditions that simply takes the `eyeColour` parameter and sets the colour variable to be the same as the value of the `eyeColour` parameter e.g.

```
if(eyeColour == "green"){  
    colour = green;  
}
```

do this for the colours green, blue and brown.

### **turnAgeIntoColour**

For the `turnAgeIntoColour` function, create a set of conditions that takes the `age` parameter and if `age` is less than 30, the colour is `yellow`, otherwise the colour is `red`.

Once you have created these sets of conditions, change the values of the `age`, `eyeColour` and `fName` variables to your own details and see what your personalised Mondrian looks like.

## **Task 3: Mondrian Generator with user input**

In the lecture you were shown an improved version of the Mondrian generator that allowed the user to enter their age, name and select eye colour from a drop-down menu.

Re-save your code from task 2 *as* `task3.html`.

For task 4 you are to create a text box for the user to enter their name into and a button that when clicked will take their name and use it as a value for the variable `fName` in the code.

## Steps you will need to carry out.

1. Comment out the function call `draw()` on line 74, we want to use a button to call the function, not have it run automatically.

```
72   }  
73  
74   //draw(); //call the main draw function  
75   </script>
```

2. In the html create a text box with id 'fName' and a button that calls function `draw()` when clicked (you were given the code for this in the interactive area calculator in the previous lab session). These elements should be within the body of your HTML doc but before the `<script>` tags.
3. Remove the hard coded value assigned to variable `fName` (see line 61 below) and add the code necessary to get the value from the text box you created above in step 1. (This technique was explained again in today's lecture and given to you in the previous lab session).

```
58   function draw(){  
59       let age = 53; //using let as will be taking user input later  
60       let eyeColour = "blue"; // choose from: blue, green, brown  
61       let fName =
```

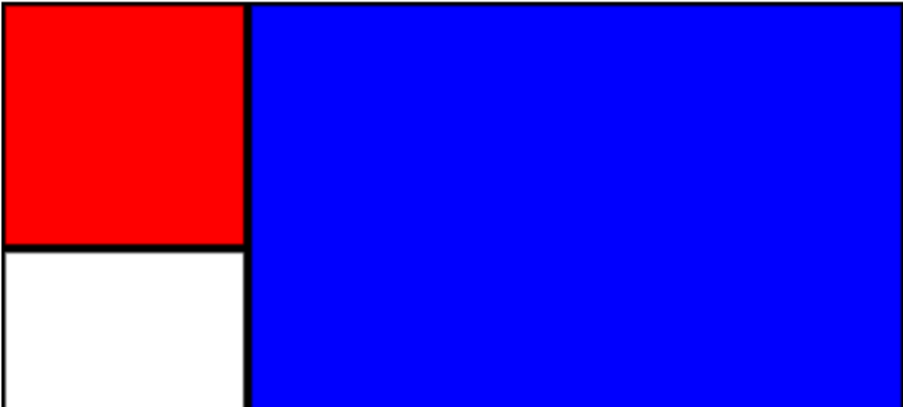
When you load the page you should see something like this:

Name:

Nothing is being drawn yet because the button click will call the draw function.

Enter your name and click the button, you should see something like this:

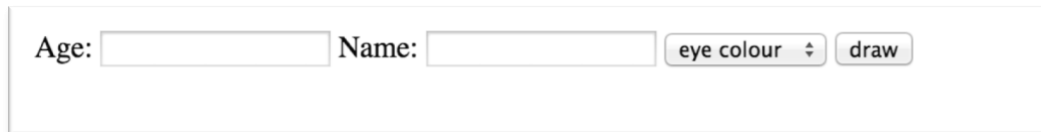
Name:



The canvas displays a red square on the left side and a blue rectangle on the right side. The red square is positioned in the top-left corner, and the blue rectangle is positioned to its right, extending further to the right edge of the canvas.

The example I showed in the lecture had a text box for age and a drop down menu for eye colour.

If you have got the code for the user's name and the button working see if you can implement age and eye colour too.



Age:  Name:  eye colour

## Questions to consider

1. Why have I used a drop-down list for eye colour and not just provided another text box?
2. In the example I showed in the lecture I had alert boxes popping up if I did not enter anything into the text boxes before clicking the button. This technique is known as *form validation* or *data input validation*. In the code I am asking questions, using if statements, such as “is this text box empty” or “is this data a number or not”. If not display an alert box message and require the user to go back and try again.



## Loops in JavaScript

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### Introduction

In this week's lecture you were told about loops in JavaScript. In this tutorial you will explore these concepts by creating some simple programs that use the HTML Canvas

### Task 1: "Art Balling" Generator

"Former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan has found a new use for that pull shot: whacking paint-daubed balls at canvas to produce highly collectable works of art. Watch out, abstract expressionism - here comes 'artballing'" –

The following code is the "skeleton" for a program that will generate a very simple version of a Michael Vaughan painting using a combination of functions and loops. You were shown the completed code during the lecture.



```
10 <canvas id="sCanvas" width="550" height="400"></canvas>
11 <script>
12 // Art Balling Generator 550px x 400px // Using Loops
13 // Variables
14 var randomColour;
15 var randomSize;
16 var xPos;
17 var yPos;
18 var i; // counter
19 var j; // counter
20 // Get the Canvas element with ID sCanvas that will be drawn on
21 c = document.getElementById("sCanvas");
22 ctx = c.getContext("2d");
23
24 function drawFilledCircle(size,xPos,yPos,colour){
25     ctx.beginPath();
26     ctx.arc(xPos,yPos,size,0,2*Math.PI);
27     ctx.fillStyle = colour;
28     ctx.fill();
29 }
30
31 function drawSplatter(size,xPos,yPos,colour){
32     for(j=0;j<10;j++){
33         var splatSize = size / Math.round(Math.random()*30);
34         drawFilledCircle(splatSize,xPos + Math.round(Math.random()*50),yPos + Math.round(Math.random()*50),colour);
35     }
36 }
37
38 </script>
39
```

This will not currently run as it requires code that utilises the given functions. Spend time first of all trying to understand what the 2 functions will do. You will notice that the `drawFilledCircle` function is very similar to the function you used in the last tutorial to create coloured squares. The `drawSplatter` function utilises a loop to draw 10 circles of random shapes and positions dependent on 4 parameters (`size,xPos,yPos,colour`) passed to the function.

## Calling the functions in a loop

The following code can be used to create one “normal circle” and one “circle splatter”. Insert it around line 37 before the closing script tag.

```
randomSize = Math.round(Math.random()*50);
xPos = Math.round(Math.random()*550);
yPos = Math.round(Math.random()*400);
randomColour = '#' + Math.random().toString(16).substring(2, 8);
drawFilledCircle(randomSize, xPos, yPos, randomColour);
drawSplatter(randomSize, xPos, yPos, randomColour);
```

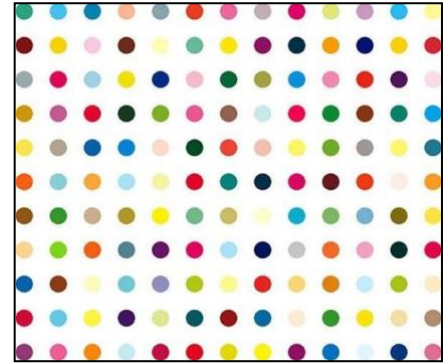
Your task is to take the above code and using either a for loop or a while loop, draw 10 “normal circles” and “circle splatters”. Once you have done this modify your code so that it produces a random number of “normal circles” and “circle splatters” between 1 and 20.

Random colour optional method

```
randomColour = "hsl(" + 360*Math.random() + ",50%,50%)";
```

## Task 2: “Spot” Generator

*“Damien Steven Hirst is an English artist and the most prominent member of the group known as “Young British Artists” (or YBAs), who dominated the art scene in Britain during the 1990s” ... “Hirst's best known works are his paintings, medicine cabinet sculptures, and glass tank installations. For the most part, his paintings have taken on two styles. One is an arrangement of color spots with titles that refer to pharmaceutical chemicals, known as Spot paintings.”*



```
9      <body>
10      <canvas id="sCanvas" width="550" height="550"></canvas>
11      <script type="text/javascript">
12
13      // Spot Painting Generator 550px x 550px
14      // Variables
15      var randomColour;
16      var xPos;
17      var yPos;
18      var i; // counter
19      var j; // counter
20      var c; // canvas element
21      var ctx;
22
23      // draw a circle with a specified size, position and colour
24      function drawCircle(size,x,y,colour){
25          ctx.beginPath();
26          ctx.arc(x,y,size/2,0,Math.PI*2,true);
27          ctx.fillStyle = colour;
28          ctx.fill();
29      }
30
31      // Get the Canvas element with ID sCanvas that will be drawn on
32      c = document.getElementById("sCanvas");
33      ctx = c.getContext("2d");
34
35      // Starting y position
36      yPos = 30;
37
38      // Starting x position
39      xPos = 30;
40
41      // Inner loop for 9 columns
42      for(j=0;j<9;j++){
43          // Generate random colour
44          randomColour = '#' + Math.random().toString(16).substring(2, 8);
45          drawCircle(30, xPos, yPos, randomColour);
46          xPos += 50;
47      }
48      yPos += 50;
49
50      </script>
51
52
```

The above code is the “skeleton” for a program that will generate a very simple version of a Damien Hirst Spot painting using a combination of functions and loops. You were shown the completed code during the lecture.

When you run this code you will notice that only one line of 9 horizontal “spots” appears. Your task is to use a nested loop to produce the full painting, which is comprised of 9 horizontal “spots” and 9 vertical “spots”.

You can do this by creating another for loop, which surrounds the current for loop (and xPos = 30 assignment) and uses a counter called i.