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Specification

The current version is _2020-12_! The previous version was 2019-09.

Specification documents

See also the release notes / change log (Work in progress).

The specification is split into two parts, Core and Validation. We also
publish the Relative JSON Pointers spec although it's not currently used by
Core or Validation in any significant way.

|
---|---
[JSON Schema Core](../../draft/2020-12/json-schema-core.html) | defines the basic foundation of JSON Schema
[JSON Schema Validation](../../draft/2020-12/json-schema-validation.html) | defines the validation keywords of JSON Schema
[Relative JSON Pointers](https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-bhutton-relative-json-pointer-00) | extends the JSON Pointer syntax for relative pointers

Meta-schemas

The meta-schemas are schemas against which other schemas can be validated. It
is self-descriptive: the JSON Schema meta-schema validates itself.

The latest meta-schema is **2020-12**. For an explanation of the change to
date-based identifiers, see the [Specification Links](../specification-links)
page.

_If you are accessing these JSON document links**from a web browser** , you
will need to **save the file** then open it as a JSON document. This is due to

limitations with GitHub Pages._

General-purpose meta-schema

Please note, additional vocabulary specific schema files are needed to fully
construct and use the Core/Validation Dialect meta-schema.

|
---|---
[Core/Validation Dialect meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/schema) | Used for schemas written for pure validation.
[Hyper-Schema Dialect meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/hyper-schema) | Used for schemas written for validation (2020-12) and hyper-linking (2019-09).
[Recommended Output meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/output/schema) | Recommended output structure of the application process.

Single-vocabulary meta-schemas

These are relevant primarily to people who want to write their own meta-
schemas that build on specific parts of the existing specification.

* [Core Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/core)
* [Applicator Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/applicator)
* [Validation Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/validation)
* [Unevaluated Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/unevaluated)
* [Format Annotation Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/format-annotation)
* [Format Assertion Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/format-assertion)

  * [Content Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/content)
  * [Meta-Data Vocabulary meta-schema](../../draft/2020-12/meta/meta-data)

Output schemas and examples

  * [JSON Schema recommended output schema](../../draft/2020-12/output/schema)
  * [JSON Schema verbose output example](../../draft/2020-12/output/verbose-example)

Migrating from older drafts

The release notes discuss the changes impacting users and implementers:

  * JSON Schema Core and Validation
    * [Draft 2019-09 to Draft 2020-12](../../draft/2020-12/release-notes)
    * [Draft-07 to Draft 2019-09](../../draft/2019-09/release-notes)
    * [Draft-06 to Draft-07](../../draft-07/json-schema-release-notes)
    * [Draft-04 to Draft-06](../../draft-06/json-schema-release-notes)
  * JSON Hyper-Schema
    * There was no JSON Hyper-Schema draft for 2020-12 releases.
    * [Draft-07 to 2019-09](../../draft/2019-09/release-notes#hyper-schema-vocabulary)
    * [Draft-04 to Draft-07](../../draft-07/json-hyper-schema-release-notes)
    * [Draft-04 to Draft-06](../../draft-06/json-hyper-schema-release-notes)

Older drafts

Please see [Specification Links](../../specification-links) for older drafts

and the latest unreleased version of the specification.

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At JSON Schema, we value docs contributions as much as every other type of contribution!

[Edit this page on Github](https://github.com/json-schema-org/website/blob/main/pages/specification.md)

[Learn how to contribute](https://github.com/json-schema-org/website/blob/main/CONTRIBUTING.md)

Still Need Help?

Learning JSON Schema is often confusing, but don't worry, we are here to help!.

[Ask the community on GitHub](https://github.com/orgs/json-schema-org/discussions/new?category=q-a)

[Ask the community on Slack](https://json-schema.org/slack)

[Open Collective](https://opencollective.com/json-schema)

[Code of Conduct](/overview/code-of-conduct)

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