



## ReferenceError: describe is not defined NodeJs

I am trying to define some endpoints  
and do a test using nodejs . In  
server.js I have:

```
var express = require('express');
var func1 = require('./func1.js');
var port = 8080;
var server = express();

server.configure(function(){
  server.use(express.bodyParser());
});

server.post('/testend/', func1.testend);
```

and in func1.js :

```
var testend = function(req, res) {
  serialPort.write("1", function(err, results) {
    serialPort.write("2" + "\n", function(err, results) {
    });
  });
};
exports.testend = testend;
```

Now in test.js I am trying to use  
this endpoint:

```
var should = require('should');
var assert = require('assert');
var request = require('supertest');
var http = require('http');
var app = require('../server.js');
var port = 8080;

describe('Account', function() {
  var url = "http://localhost:" + port.toString();
  it('test starts', function(done) {
    request(url).post('/testend/')
    // end handles the response
    .end(function(err, res) {
      if (err) {
        throw err;
      }
      res.body.error.should.type('string');
      done();
    });
  });
});
```

But when I run node test.js I am  
getting this error:

```
describe('Account', function() {
^
```

```
ReferenceError: describe is not defined
    at Object. (/test/test.js:9:1)
    at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
    at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
    at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
    at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
```

```
at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
at startup (node.js:119:16)
at node.js:906:3
```

How can I fix the issue?

[node.js](#) [rest](#) [testing](#)

edited Mar 2 '15 at 17:10

asked Feb 8 '15 at 23:08



N34

508 1 4 7

1 What do you expect `describe()` to be and where is it defined? In looking at your `test.js` file, there is no symbol `describe` that is being defined there. – [jfriend00](#) Feb 8 '15 at 23:13

1 `describe()` is part of Jasmine. – [Keith Tyler](#) Jun 30 '16 at 23:24

The documentation gap that led to this question was fixed in [November 2016](#), but probably only made it to the website recently with the release of version 4.1.0. – [devius](#) Jan 21 at 18:58

## 4 Answers

Não encontrou uma resposta? [Pergunte em Stack Overflow em Português.](#) ✕

Assuming you are testing via [mocha](#) , you have to run your tests using the `mocha` command instead of the `node` executable.

So if you haven't already, make sure you do `npm install mocha -g` . Then just run `mocha` in your project's root directory.

answered Feb 8 '15 at 23:15



mscdex

68.1k 12 95 88

13 What if I want to make the mocha functions available to node? –

[abhisekp](#) Sep 8 '15 at 12:20

8 The mocha docs at [mochajs.org](#)

singularly fail to mention this... –

[Richard Everett](#) Aug 31 '16 at 15:39

3 no need for global mocha install, just use "test":  
`"/node_modules/.bin/mocha -V"`  
 in scripts section of package.json and install mocha as one more dependency – [Lukas](#) Sep 20 '16 at 6:40

2 @LukasLiesis no need for `./node_modules/.bin`, this path is already loaded when you use `npm run` or `yarn`, so just "test":  
`"mocha -V"` will suffice – [Felipe Sabino](#) Mar 9 '17 at 22:32

@FelipeSabino thanks for pointing this but when you have just `mocha -V` it's not clear if it was loaded from global or local that's why i still prefer to show the path even if it's not required by the system – [Lukas](#) Mar 10 '17 at 11:13

To run tests with node/npm without installing Mocha globally, you can do this:

- Install Mocha locally to your project  
`( npm install mocha --save-dev )`
- Optionally install an assertion library  
`( npm install chai --save-dev )`
- In your `package.json`, add a section for `scripts` and target the mocha binary

```
"scripts": {
  "test": "node ./node_modules/mocha/t
}
```

- Put your spec files in a directory named `/test` in your root directory
- In your spec files, import the assertion library

```
var expect = require('chai').expect;
```

- You **don't** need to import mocha, run `mocha.setup`, or call `mocha.run()`
- Then run the script from your project root:

```
npm test
```

answered Oct 19 '15 at 19:51



[cantera](#)

10.4k 16 76 119

- 4 In your test line, you no longer have to point to the mocha bin folder, just put `mocha`, it'll work. –

[Adrian Lynch](#) Nov 30 '15 at 14:58

If you'd like this command to run all tests in the `/test` directory, including sub-directories, then put `mocha --recursive` – [Luke Gallione](#) Mar 3 '17 at 22:56

@AdrianLynch: It's been two years, but something's different or changed. No biggie, but maybe it'll help someone. I'm on Windows 10 with Mocha 4.01 installed globally. I have to point to `mocha\bin\mocha`, like cantera's note says. –

[BaldEagle](#) Nov 28 '17 at 21:16

You can also do like this:

```
var mocha = require('mocha')
var describe = mocha.describe
var it = mocha.it
var assert = require('chai').assert

describe('#indexOf()', function() {
  it('should return -1 when not present', function() {
    assert.equal([1,2,3].indexOf(4), -1)
  })
})
```

Reference:

<http://mochajs.org/#require>

edited Apr 4 '17 at 5:59

answered Feb 27 '17 at 6:43



[subhojit777](#)

297 2 8 24

From the ref > The require interface cannot be run via the node executable, and must be run via mocha. The question is asking about running via node. – [eighteyes](#) Jul 24 '17 at 16:32

- 1 I'm writing later and having different experience. In case it helps someone ... I'm on Windows 10 with mocha 4.01 and chai 4.1.2 installed globally. I don't need the first three variables here; I need the fourth. @eighteyes: I haven't found how to run Mocha directly. I'm running via `"node <full path to mocha\bin\mocha> <relative path to test file>".` – [BaldEagle](#) Nov 28 '17 at 21:35

OP asked about running from `node`

not from `mocha`. This is a very common use case, see [Using Mocha Programatically](#)

This is what injected describe and it into my tests.

```
mocha.ui('bdd').run(function (failure:
  process.on('exit', function () {
    process.exit(failure);
  });
});
```

I tried `tdd` like in the docs, but that didn't work, `bdd` worked though.

answered Jul 24 '17 at 16:58



[eighteyes](#)

879 1 7 18