

String.prototype.split()

Summary: in this tutorial, you'll learn how to use the JavaScript `split()` method to split a string into an array of substrings.

Introduction to the JavaScript String `split()` method

The `String.prototype.split()` splits a [string](#) into an [array](#) of substrings:

```
split([separator, [,limit]]);
```

J a v a S c r i p t

```
.split('a') → ['J', 'v', 'Script']
```

The `split()` accepts two optional parameters: `separator` and `limit`.

1) separator

The `separator` determines where each split should occur in the original string. The separator can be a string. Or it can be a [regular expression](#).

If you omit the `separator` or the `split()` cannot find the separator in the string, the `split()` returns the entire string.

2) limit

The `limit` is zero or positive integer that specifies the number of substrings. The `split()` method will stop when the number of substrings equals the `limit`.

If the `limit` is zero, the `split()` method returns an empty array. If the `limit` is 1, the `split()` returns an array that contains the string.

Note that the result array may have fewer entries than the limit in case the `split()` reaches the end of the string before the limit.

JavaScript String split() method examples

Let's take some examples of using the `split()` method.

1) Splitting the strings into words

The following example uses the `split()` method to split the string into words:

```
let str = 'JavaScript String';
let substrings = str.split(' ');

console.log(substrings);
```

Output:

```
["JavaScript", "String"]
```

Note that space (' ') has been removed in substrings.

2) Returning a limited number of substrings

The following example uses the `split()` method to split a string into substrings using the space separator. It also uses the second parameter to limit the number of substrings to two:

```
let str = 'JavaScript String';
let substrings = str.split(' ',2);

console.log(substrings);
```

Output:

```
["JavaScript", "String"]
```

3) Splitting a string using a regular expression example

The following example uses the `split()` method to split sentences in a paragraph into sentences:

```
let paragraph = 'Good Morning! How are you? This is John. John is my friend.';
let sentences = paragraph.split(/[,?,.]/);
console.log(sentences);
```

Output:

```
["Good Morning", " How are you", " This is John", " John is my friend", ""]
```

If the [regular expression](#) contains capturing parentheses `()`, the `split()` method also includes the matched results in the array:

```
let paragraph = 'Good Morning! How are you? This is John. John is my friend.';
let sentences = paragraph.split(/([!?,.])/);
console.log(sentences);
```

Output:

```
["Good Morning", "!", " How are you", "?", " This is John", ".", " John is my friend", ".", ""]
```

Notice that the `!`, `?`, `.` characters are included in the returned array.

Summary

- Use the JavaScript String `split()` method to split a string into an array of substrings by a separator.
- Use the second parameter (`limit`) to return a limited number of splits.