

String.prototype.startsWith()

Summary: in this tutorial, you will learn how to use the JavaScript String `startsWith()` method to perform a case-sensitive search and determine if a string starts with a substring.

Introduction to the JavaScript String `startsWith()` method

The `startsWith()` returns `true` if a `string` starts with a substring or `false` otherwise.

Here's the syntax of the `startsWith()` method:

```
String.prototype.startsWith(searchString [,position])
```

In this syntax:

- `searchString` is a substring to search for within the string.
- `position` is an optional parameter that determines the starting position to search for the `searchString`.

The `position` defaults to 0. This means that the method starts searching for the `searchString` from the beginning of the string.

Like other `string methods`, the `startsWith()` method always performs a *case-sensitive search*.

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```
.startsWith('Java') → true
```

The `startsWith()` method throws a `TypeError` if the `searchString` is a `regular expression`.

JavaScript String `startsWith()` method examples

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

Basic JavaScript String `startsWith()` method

The following example uses the `startsWith()` method to check if the string `"Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill"` starts with the substring `'Jack'` :

```
const title = "Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill";
const result = title.startsWith("Jack");

console.log({ result });
```

Output:

```
{ result: true }
```

Case-sensitive search example

The `startsWith()` method always performs a case-sensitive search, so the following statement returns `false` :

```
const title = "Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill";
const result = title.startsWith("jack");

console.log({ result });
```

Output:

```
{ result: false }
```

Using the position parameter

This example uses the `startsWith()` method with the second parameter that specifies the beginning position to start searching:

```
const title = "Jack and Jill Went Up the Hill";
const result = title.startsWith("Jill", 9);

console.log({ result });
```

Output:

```
{ result: true }
```

Throwing a TypeError

The following example throws a `TypeError` because the `searchString` is a regular expression:

```
const str = "JavaScript";
const result = str.startsWith(/J/);

console.log({ result });
```

Output:

```
TypeError: First argument to String.prototype.startsWith must not be a regular expression
```

Summary

- Use JavaScript String `startsWith()` method to perform a case-sensitive search and check if a string starts with a substring.