The Unit Data Type

This lesson will highlight the features and uses of the unit data type.

WE'LL COVER THE FOLLOWING

What is Unit?

Until now, we've seen that every data type creates an instance containing some **value**. An `int` has numbers, whereas a `string` has characters.

However, there is a special type in Reason used to represent an *empty* value. This is the **unit** data type. As the name suggests, it is just a single unit without any value. The unit type is represented by parentheses, `()`.

The Purpose of Using Unit

So, where would the unit type be useful? The answer lies in functions. There exist functions in which we do not need to pass any arguments. Such a function could simply be printing something to the console or making computations not dependent on specific arguments.

In such a case, the parameter type of the function is `unit`.

Example

Let's take a look at the `simplePrint()` function which prints "Hello World":

```
let simplePrint = () => Js.log("Hello World");
simplePrint();
```

Here, we can see that the `()` argument is of the unit type.

Such functions are also known as **zero-arity functions** since they have *zero* parameter.

Zero-arity functions can also be used to make computations on explicit global variables.

```
let x = 20;
let y = 10;

let checkMax = () => {
  if (x > y) {
    x;
  }
  else {
    y;
  }
};

Js.log(checkMax()); /* Function called without any arguments */
```

In the next lesson, we'll learn about **labeled parameters** in functions.