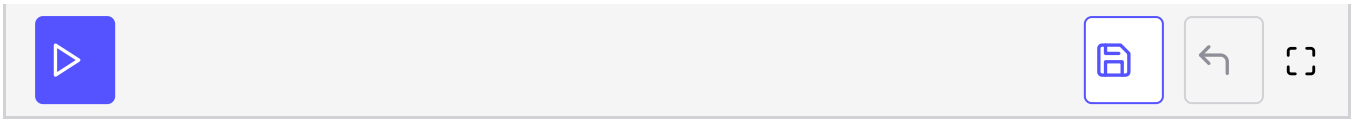
Finding the Index of a Substring inside a String

An introduction to the indexOf and lastIndexOf methods which help us to find the index of a specified substring in a string

The `indexOf` and the `lastIndexOf` string methods return the first and last index of a substring inside a string.

```
let print;
let sequence = '1,2,3,4,5';
print = sequence.indexOf( ',' )
console.log(print);
//1
print = sequence.lastIndexOf( ',' )
console.log(print);
//7
print = sequence.indexOf( ',3' )
console.log(print);
//3
print = sequence[3]
console.log(print);
//","
```



When the argument of `indexOf` is a string of length higher than `1`, the return value is the position of the first character.

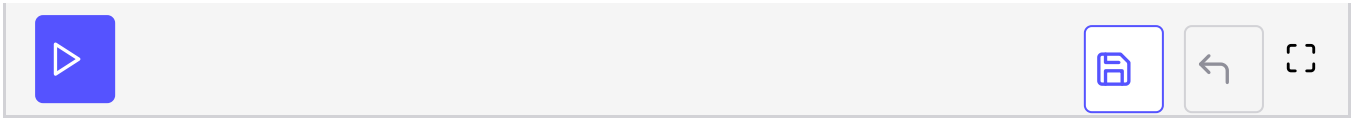
At this point, we assume that you don't use *long unicode characters*. As soon as you know you will use these characters, check out my article Strings and Template Literals in ES6 to know how to deal with them.

What if the string does not contain the specified substring?

When string `s` does not contain a specific substring `s0`, then `s.indexOf( s0 )` returns `-1`:

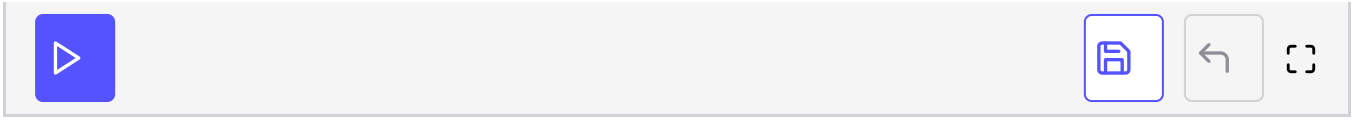
```
let print;
let sequence = '1,2,3,4,5';
print = sequence.indexOf( 'abc' )
```

```
console.log(print)
//-1
```



Assuming you want to enumerate the indices of all matches, you can specify a second argument, indicating the first index of the string from where we start searching:

```
let print;
let sequence = '1,2,3,4,5';
print = sequence.indexOf( ',' )
console.log(print)
//1
print = sequence.indexOf( ',', 1 + 1 )
console.log(print)
//3
print = sequence.indexOf( ',', 3 + 1 )
console.log(print)
//5
print = sequence.indexOf( ',', 5 + 1 )
console.log(print)
//7
print = sequence.indexOf( ',', 7 + 1 )
console.log(print)
//-1
```



The question “Does string `s` include the substring `s0`?” is commonly asked during programming problems. We could use `indexOf` to implement the answer:

```
let print;
let sequence = '1,2,3,4,5';
let s0 = '8,9'
print = sequence.indexOf(s0) >= 0
console.log(print)
```