

How does the 'this' keyword work?

Built in keyword in object oriented languages

Will it work the same in Javascript?

A blurry, low-angle shot of a person sitting at a desk, looking at a laptop. The person is wearing a dark jacket. The background is out of focus, showing a desk and some papers. The text "No, it's quirky" is overlaid in the center in a white, serif font.

No, it's quirky

In theory it's a keyword
that's automatically
'bound' (points to) the
relevant object when a
method is called

'this' inside an object's function (method)

```
var rabbit = {  
  heightAboveGround: 0,  
  jump: function(howHigh){  
    this.heightAboveGround += howHigh;  
  }  
}
```

```
rabbit.jump();
```

```
rabbit.heightAboveGround
```

But `this` is always available

I can console log `this` in the first line of my code

```
console.log("hello world");  
console.log(this);
```

The global object

- Wherever JS runs (in the browser, or on the server with Node.js) there's a special object called the global object
 - its properties include built in objects like Math and String
 - in the browser it's called the Window object

'this' inside a regular function

```
function multiplyBy2 (num) {  
    console.log(this);  
}  
multiplyBy2(3);
```

What is logged?

'this' in a Constructor function

```
function User (name, score){  
    this.name = name;  
    this.score = score;  
}  
  
var user1 = new User("Will", 3);  
var user2 = new User("Max", 5);
```

'this' is only assigned
(bound) when we run our
code

this always points to what Javascript thinks is the relevant object

Useless

```
console.log(this) <- Global object (Window)
```

```
function multiplyBy2 (num) {  
    console.log(this);  
}
```

```
multiplyBy2(3); <- logs Global object (Window)
```

Completely Vital!

```
rabbit.jump() ` <- 'this' is rabbit
```

```
var user1 = new User("Will", 3); ` <- 'this' is the new user we created
```