

Common JavaScript Data Types

- Objects (which include arrays and functions).
- Numbers (no integers). Arithmetic based on 64-bit IEEE-754 standard.
- Strings.
- undefined and null.
- Booleans: `true` and `false`.

Objects are non-primitive. All other types are primitive types.

Numbers

No integers in early JS; problematic for financial calculations.

```
$ nodejs
```

```
> 1/0
```

```
Infinity
```

```
> 0/0
```

```
NaN
```

```
> NaN === NaN //IEEE behavior; in other languages too  
false
```

```
> 2**53 //** is exponentiation operator  
9007199254740992
```

```
> 2**53 + 1  
9007199254740992 //IEEE 64 bit floats have a 53-bit mantissa.
```

```
> (2**53 + 1) === 2**53  
true
```

```
> BigInt(2**53) + 1n //exact big integers  
9007199254740993n
```

Normal Arithmetic and Bitwise Operators

- Usual *arithmetic operators* + (both infix and prefix), - (both infix and prefix), *, / and % (remainder, **has sign of dividend**), ** (power).
- *Bitwise operators* &, |, ^, ~, <<, >> (arith), >>> (logical).
- Bitwise operators always work with 32-bit 2's-complement integers.
- Previous property used in [asm.js](#) to obtain access to more efficient machine integer operations.

Arithmetic Operators Examples

```
> 123_456*2
```

// '_' allowed for readability

```
246912
```

```
> -77%13
```

// % has sign of dividend

```
-12
```

```
> 77%-13
```

```
12
```

```
> 2**2**3
```

*// ** is right associative*

```
256
```

```
> (2**2)**3
```

```
64
```

```
> 18*2 + 77%13 / 2 //other binary operators left associative
```

```
42
```

Bitwise Operators Examples

```
> 1 | 2      //bitwise-or
3
> 0x99 & 0x3 //bitwise-and; hex notation
1
> 5 ^ 7      //bitwise-xor
2
> ~0         //bitwise-complement
-1           //0xffffffff is -1
> 3 << 4      //left-shift
48           //x << n === x * 2**n
> 100 >> 3    //arithmetic right-shift
12          // x>> n === x / 2**n
>
```

More on Shift Operators

- Shift operators can be used to multiply (left-shift) and divide (right-shift) by powers-of-2.
- Distinguish between `>>` (sign-propagating or arithmetic right-shift) and `>>>` (zero-fill or logical right-shift). No difference for non-negative numbers, but different results for negative numbers:

```
> -9 >> 1
```

```
-5
```

```
> -9 >>> 1
```

```
2147483643
```

```
> (-9 >>> 1).toString(16)
```

```
'7fffffff'
```

```
>
```

Strings

- **Strings** are immutable.
- Classically, string literals are delimited using either double quotes " or single quotes '. Prefer ' delimiters since easier to type on normal keyboards. Backslashes interpreted as usual. Cannot span multiple lines.

```
> 'a' + 'b'           //string concatenation
'ab'
> 'abc'[1]            //indexing: results in string of length 1
'b'
> 'hello world'.indexOf('o')
4
> 'hello world'.lastIndexOf('o')
7
> 'hello world'.substr(3, 4) //args: (startIndex, length)
'lo w'                  //treat as legacy function
```

Strings Continued

```
> 'hello world'.substring(3, 4) //args: (startIndex,  
endIndex)  
'l'  
> 'hello world'.slice(6)  
'world'  
> 'hello world'.slice(1, 4) //args: (startIndex, endIndex)  
'ell'  
> 'hello world'.slice(-3) //index from right; -1 is rightmost  
'rld'  
> 'hello world'.slice(-3, -1)  
'rl'
```


Template String Literals

Enclosed within back-quotes ```. Relatively new addition. Can contain direct newlines. All popular scripting languages have similar concepts (though introduced relatively recently to Python).

```
> const x = 22
undefined
> `The answer is ${x + 20}`
'The answer is 42'
> `Betty bought a bit of butter
... `
'Betty bought a bit of butter\n'
> `Twas brillig and the slithy toves
... Did gyre and gimble in the wabe:`
'Twas brillig and the slithy toves\nDid gyre and
gimble in the wabe:'
>
```

`undefined` Means lack of a value.

- Uninitialized variables are undefined.
- Missing parameters are undefined.
- Non-existent properties are undefined.
- Functions return `undefined` if no explicit return value.
- Use `x === undefined` to check if `x` is undefined.

undefined Continued

```
> let x //statement
undefined //statement has no value
> x //expression
undefined //value of expression
> x = {} //assignment expr; empty object
{}
> x.a
undefined
> undefined
undefined
> undefined = 1 //not a reserved word
1
> undefined //immutable in global scope
undefined
```

`null` is a special value used to denote *no object*.

Can be used wherever an object is expected to indicate absence of an object. Examples:

- Parameters.
- Last object in a object chain.
- Use `x === null` to check if `x` is null.

Problems with null

Programmers are really sloppy with **null**:

- Tony Hoare has called **null** his "billion dollar mistake".
- Oracle does not distinguish between **null** and an empty string!
- *Wired story* on living with a last name **Null**.
- **NULL** license plate problems.

Operator `typeof` used for categorizing primitives:

```
> typeof null
```

```
'object'
```

```
> typeof undefined
```

```
'undefined'
```

```
> typeof ""
```

```
'string'
```

```
> typeof 1
```

```
'number'
```

```
> typeof 1.2
```

```
'number'
```

```
> typeof true
```

```
'boolean'
```

typeof Continued

```
> typeof {} //empty object literal  
'object'  
> typeof [] //empty array literal  
'object'  
> typeof (new Date())  
'object'  
>
```

instanceof

The `typeof` operator does not distinguish between different object types. Use `instanceof` operator for categorizing objects. The expression `v instanceof Type` returns true iff `v` is an instance of `Type`.

```
> ({} instanceof Object)
```

```
true
```

```
> [] instanceof Array
```

```
true
```

```
> [] instanceof Object
```

```
true
```

```
> (new Date()) instanceof Date
```

```
true
```

```
> (new Date()) instanceof Array
```

```
false
```

```
> (new Date()) instanceof Object
```

```
true
```


What is Truth

Many languages, particularly scripting languages, treat some set of values as *false* and **all other values** as *true*.

The *falsy* values in js are the following:

- 1 undefined.
- 2 null.
- 3 false.
- 4 0.
- 5 "" (empty string).
- 6 NaN (Not-a-Number).

All other values are *truthy* and considered equivalent to true when used in a boolean context.

Comparison Operators

- Equality checking operators `==`, `!=`, `===`, `!==`. **Only use the last two.**
- `>`, `<`, `>=`, `<=` can be used with both numbers and strings.
- Objects compared by identity.

```
> 12.2 < 12.1
```

```
false
```

```
> 1 == true //surprise: DO NOT USE!!
```

```
true
```

```
> 1 === true //less surprising
```

```
false
```

```
> 'abc' < 'ab'
```

```
false
```

```
> 'abc' < 'abcd'
```

```
true
```

```
> {} === {}
```

```
false
```

Logical Operators

- Logical operators `!` returns a strict boolean value (true or false).
- short-circuit `&&` and short-circuit `||` return falsy/truthy values (last value evaluated).

```
> !true
```

```
false
```

```
> !1
```

```
false
```

```
> !!1 //common idiom used to convert to proper boolean
```

```
true
```

```
> !!0
```

```
false
```

Logical Operators Continued

```
> 'hello' || 'world'  
'hello'  
> 'hello' && 'world'  
'world'
```

Default Values

Common idiom for default initialization:

```
> let x
undefined
> let y = x || 42
undefined
> y
42
```

But problematic because reasonable values like 0, '' and false are falsy values:

```
> x = 0
undefined
> y = x || 42
42 //y assigned 42 even tho' x has a reasonable value
```

Logical Operators Continued

Default initialization idiom should only be used if a valid value is not one of the falsy values.

```
> x = 0 //0 is falsy
```

```
0
```

```
> let z = x || defaultValue  
undefined
```

```
> z
```

```
42 //z assigned defaultValue despite x having a value
```

Nullish Coalescing Operator

nullish coalescing operator ?? returns right operand when left operand is **nullish**, i.e. **null** or **undefined**, otherwise it returns its left operand (relatively new addition to JavaScript):

```
> x = 0
```

```
0
```

```
> y = x ?? 42
```

```
0
```

```
> x = undefined  
undefined
```

```
> y = x ?? 42
```

```
42
```

Modern way to do default initialization.

Optional Object Chaining

When chaining accesses, we often need to check that intermediate values are not **nullish** (i.e. **null** or **undefined**).

```
const c = obj && obj.a && obj.a.b && obj.a.b.c;
```

Can be done more compactly using new feature *optional chaining* `?.` operator:

```
const c = obj?.a?.b?.c;  //undefined if any accessor nullish
```

Syntax also allows:

```
a?.[expr]           //dynamic property name  
f?.(arg1, arg2)     //returns undefined if f nullish
```


Control Constructs

- *Condition-based selection* using **if** and **if-else** statements. No surprises except truthy interpretation of condition.
- *Multiway selection* on a value (including string values) using **switch-case-default**. Value compared with **case**-values using `===`. Control will fall-through from one **case** to the next, unless there is a **break** statement.
- Looping using **while**. Body may not execute at all if condition is initially falsy.
- Looping using **do-while** statement executes its body at least once, irrespective of the value of the condition.

For Loops

- *Traditional for* loop with initialization expression, condition expression and increment expression. Any of the three expressions can be omitted.
- Looping through *object properties* using **for-in**.
- Looping over *iterable objects* like arrays using **for-of**.

For Loop Examples

Summing positive elements of array `a` (better to use `filter` and `reduce`):

Using traditional **for**:

```
let sum = 0;
for (let i = 0; i < a.length; i++) {
  if (a[i] > 0) sum += a[i];
}
```

Using **for-of**:

```
let sum = 0;
for (const v of a) {
  if (v > 0) sum += v;
}
```

Loop Choice

Always use loop which moves as much of loop control into loop header; do so at the highest level of abstraction. In descending order of preference:

- Looping through array: use **for-of**. Looping through object properties: use **for-in**.
- Looping through integer range: use traditional **for**.
- Body executed at least once: use **do-while**.
- Plain **while** loop is most general; lowest preference since loop update hidden within loop body.

Functions

- Functions are **first-class**: need not have a name ("anonymous"), can be passed as parameters, returned as results, stored in data structure.
- Functions can be nested within one another.
- **Closures** preserve the referencing environment of a function.
- During execution of a function, there is always an implicit object, referred to using `this`. The word `this` will be pronounced `self` when speaking.

Function Definitions

- Traditional function definitions

```
function max1(a, b) { return a > b ? a : b }
```

- Anonymous function using **function** keyword

```
max2 = function(a, b) { return a > b ? a : b }
```

- Anonymous fat-arrow function

```
> x = max4 = (a, b) => a > b ? a : b
```

```
> (a => { const v = max4(a, 42);
```

```
    return v * 2;
```

```
  }
```

```
)(5) //IIFE
```

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- Subtle differences in semantics.

Arrays (AKA lists) are like objects except:

- It has an auto-maintained `length` property (always set to 1 greater than the largest array index).
- Arrays have their prototype set to `Array.prototype` (`Array.prototype` has its prototype set to `Object.prototype`, hence arrays inherit object methods).

Array Examples

```
> a = []  
[]  
> a[999] = 22  
22  
> a  
[ <999 empty items>, 22 ]  
> a[999]  
22  
> a.length = 1    //truncates  
1  
> a[999]  
undefined
```


Array Examples Continued

```
> a[2] = 22
```

```
22
```

```
> a.length
```

```
3
```

```
> a.join('|')
```

```
'||22'
```

```
> a.x = 99 //arrays are objects: can have properties
```

```
99
```

```
> a
```

```
[ <2 empty items>, 22, x: 99 ]
```

```
> a.constructor
```

```
[Function: Array]
```

```
>
```

Spreading Arrays

Arrays can be spread into array literals or function calls using the **... spread** operator:

```
> a = [3, 4, 5]
[ 3, 4, 5 ]
> [33, 44, ...a, 66]
[ 33, 44, 3, 4, 5, 66 ]
> ((a, b) => a * b)(a)
NaN
> ((a, b) => a * b)(...a)
12
> ((a, b) => a * b)(5, ...a)
15
```

Mapping Arrays

The `map()` function returns a new array which is the result of calling its argument function on each element of the calling array.

```
> function times3(x) { return 3*x; }  
undefined  
> [1, 2, 3].map(times3)  
[ 3, 6, 9 ]  
> [1, 2, 3].map(x => 7*x);  
[ 7, 14, 21 ]  
> [7, 3, 2, 4].map(x => x % 2 === 0)  
[ false, false, true, true ]  
>
```

Reducing Arrays

The `reduce()` function using a function `f(accumulator, element)` to reduce an array to a single value.

```
> [1,2,3,4,5].reduce((acc, value) => acc + value)  
15
```

```
> [1,2,3,4,5].reduce ((acc, value) => acc + value, 7 )  
22
```

```
> [12].reduce((acc, value) => acc + value)  
12
```

```
> > [].reduce((acc, value) => acc + value, 15)  
15
```

```
> [].reduce((acc, value) => acc + value)  
TypeError: Reduce of empty array with no initial value  
...
```

Applying a Function to Each Array Element

`forEach()` applies function to each element. Like many other functions callback takes 3 arguments: `elementValue`, `elementIndex` plus full array.

```
indexes = []  
[]  
> [1, 2, 3, 4].forEach(( v, i ) => {  
    if (v%2 === 0) indexes.push (i);  
})  
undefined  
> indexes  
[ 1, 3 ]  
>
```

Other Higher-Order Array Functions

Includes `every()`, `find()`, `findIndex()`, `filter()`, `reduceRight()`, `some()`.

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].find(x => x%2 === 0)
```

```
2
```

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].findIndex(x => x%2 === 0)
```

```
1
```

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].every(x => x%2 === 0)
```

```
false
```

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].some(x => x%2 === 0)
```

```
true
```

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].reduce((acc, v) => acc - v)
```

```
-8 //((1-2)-3)-4
```

```
> [1, 2, 3, 4].reduceRight((acc, v) => acc - v)
```

```
-2 //1-(2-(3-4))
```

```
>
```

Other Higher-Order Array Functions

Summing positive elements of array:

```
> [1, -2, 3, -4].filter((e) => e > 0).  
  reduce((acc, e) => acc + e, 0)  
4
```

Function Arguments

- No requirement that number of actual arguments agree with the number of declared formal parameters.
- If the number of actual arguments is greater than the number of formal parameters, then the extra arguments are ignored:

```
> ((a, b) => a + b)(3, 4, 5)
```

```
7
```

- If the number of actual arguments is less than the number of formal parameters, then the extra formal parameters are **undefined**. Dangerous!!

```
> ((a, b) => a > b)(3)
```

```
false
```

- The `length` of a function is its number of declared formal parameters:

```
> ((a, b) => a > b).length
```

```
2
```


Accessing Actual Arguments

- The actual arguments to a function defined using the **function** keyword are accessible using a pseudo variable **arguments**:

```
> (function() { return arguments.length ; })(3, 7)
2
```

- The arguments pseudo-variable is **array-like**; it supports **length** and indexing operations but is not a real array.

```
> (function() { return -arguments[0] ; })(3, 7)
-3
> ( function() {
    return arguments.map(x => x + 1);
  }
)(3, 7)
```

Uncaught TypeError: arguments.map is not a **function**

Accessing Actual Arguments Continued

- arguments can be converted to a real array by being **spread** into a real array:

```
> ( function() {  
    return [...arguments].map(x => x + 1);  
  })  
  (3, 7)  
  [ 4, 8 ]
```

- Modern JS needs to use arguments less; instead, if the last argument is preceded by `...`, then all **rest** arguments are collected into that parameter as a **real array**. Works with fat-arrow functions too!

```
> ((a, ...args) => args.map(x => x*2))  
  (3, 4, 5, 6)  
  [ 8, 10, 12 ]
```