
[JSR] – How to learn JavaScript with 🚀 speed

1 message

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To: Anibal <anibalsantosgo@gmail.com>

Hey Anibal,

Have you tried learning frameworks like React and Angular, or any JavaScript related topic/framework, and found you understand almost nothing? Every article out there contains stuff that goes over your head. You can't help but feel helpless and stupid.

There's a very simple reason why you feel this way — you skipped steps. You tried to learn something advanced without having the fundamentals to back it up. It's like trying to drive an F1 without a driver's license. Can you imagine how badly you'll crash?

You need to know how to crawl before you learn to walk. You need to be able to walk before you learn to run, sprint or even hop. If you skip a step, you'll get bruised. In the case of JavaScript, you get bruised intellectually and emotionally. Not physically.

You know you've been bruised emotionally if you're afraid of JavaScript; you don't feel confident.

You've know you've been hurt intellectually if you don't believe you can ever master JavaScript; you feel stupid and incapable.

These negative feelings are there to protect you from skipping steps and hurting yourself again.

So, to begin learning JavaScript again, you have to let go of the emotional and mental baggage you've brought along with you. Drop them.

You can learn JavaScript quickly. Believe in this statement, because you'll learn exactly how to learn JavaScript today.

The fastest way to learn JavaScript

To learn JavaScript quickly, you need to know three things:

1. Where are you with regards to JavaScript?

Are you a complete beginner at JavaScript? Do you only know how to copy-paste code? Or are you comfortable with writing JavaScript components from scratch?

Where you're at determines what "level" of stuff you try to learn. If you learn something too simple, you'll get bored. If you learn something too advanced, you'll get overwhelmed.

But, just knowing where you are isn't enough. You don't have a map of what to learn, which is why you're stuck in the first place.

This brings us to the next thing:

2. Where do you want to get to?

People learn JavaScript for different outcomes. Are you trying to make your website more interactive? If so, what you need to learn is completely different from another person who's trying to develop a web application.

Your motivation must be something you want for yourself. It's a place you want to get to. You must be able to visualize something concrete at the end of the path (like building a chat application for example).

Once you know the end goal, you can work backward to list the things you possibly need to learn to get there. This list is your learning map. Use this map. Learn one thing at a time, until you've completed what you set out to build. Then, repeat the process and learn something new.

Note: your end goal needs to be concrete. It cannot be an abstract target like “learn enough to get hired”. If you use that as a target, you’ll remain lost since everyone hires differently. Don’t sabotage yourself by using a target set by someone else.

Now, for the last thing:

3. What's the shortest path between these two points?

The learning map you’ve created will consist of winding paths. You won’t know what winding paths you’ve created. Worse, you won’t know if any hidden straight paths get you from where you are to where you want to be even faster.

This is expected. You’re charting your way into unknown territory. You won’t know if paths are straight or winding because you don’t know what you don’t know. There can be a shorter path between your two points, but you can’t see it.

This is where a mentor can come in and help. The mentor went through the path you’re trying to take. He/she knows the landscape better than you. If you have a mentor, consult them. Ask them how to get to where you want to be.

If you lack a mentor, it’s okay too. Here’s where this roadmap course comes in the help.

The JavaScript roadmap (in brief)

Learning JavaScript is very much like growing up. There are different phases of growth. You can view it in the following four phases:

1. The Baby Phase
2. The Child Phase
3. The Teenage Phase
4. The Adult Phase

Let’s walk through each phase briefly so you understand where you are and where you should focus your energy.

The Baby Phase

If you’re starting out with JavaScript, you’re in the Baby Phase. You’re clueless about JavaScript. The syntax looks foreign.

What you should focus on in this phase is to thoroughly learn the JavaScript syntax so you know what others are talking about when they say things like objects, arrays, functions, etc.

(You’ll learn what each of these terms mean in the next lesson).

The Child Phase

You’re in the Child Phase if you’re already comfortable with basic JavaScript syntax. At this stage, you don’t know how to build things from scratch yet.

You often need help. Maybe you can copy-paste and modify something after hours of googling, but you’re still not confident in your JavaScript skills. You don’t know how the DOM works. You don’t know how to build things from scratch.

In this phase, focus on learning methods provided to you by the DOM. Learn about selecting elements, traversing the DOM, adding and removing things from the DOM, adding and removing event listeners, changing styles and classes.

Try building simple things like accordions. Maybe even showing a menu when a button gets clicked. It’s okay to copy-paste at first, but make sure write your component from scratch afterward so you understand the underlying mechanics.

The Teenage Phase

You’re in the Teenage Phase if you already know how to build stuff from scratch. You’re somewhat confident you’ll be able to build anything DOM related, but you still can’t do them with a snap of your fingers.

Your code may be messy and unorganized. It may lack best practices, but at least you got things working.

The next step is to learn best practices from books and experts all around. Absorb what you can, then, rebuild what you've built. Use the new practices you've learned to internalize them.

This is also where you'll want to begin looking at object oriented programming (OOP) and functional programming (FP). You'd also want to start learning about querying APIs from places like Github and Twitter.

The Adult Phase

Finally, in the Adult Phase, you know enough JavaScript to be dangerous. You can build almost anything you want. You're confident with your code. It's clean. You know the best practices and you've used them all. Now it's time to leave the nest and look for something new, something related.

Here, you have a few options:

1. You can learn a frontend framework (like Angular, Vue or React).
2. You can learn Node to build a backend.
3. You can dive even deeper into JavaScript.

Choose any option you want here. What you choose depends on where you want to get to. (Remember, your motivation is the deciding factor. Don't let anyone else decide for you).

If you choose to learn a frontend framework, you'll be able to build complicated web applications that can take a ton of work if you tried building the same thing with pure JavaScript.

If you choose to learn Node, you'll start your journey towards a full-stack developer. Here, you have to learn about databases and server configuration at the same time.

If you choose to dive deeper into JavaScript, you'll learn how to write better, cleaner code. Eventually, it will help you better at both Node or any JavaScript framework you intend to pick up.

I'll share more about each of these options in the adult phase in a few emails to come.

After you've decided to embark on your new learning journey, be aware that you're going to start all the way from the Baby Phase for this new thing. You have to work your way through their Child and Teenage stages.


Is there a shortcut?

This roadmap is the shortest path there is. You have to learn the fundamentals of JavaScript before going into advanced stuff like React, Angular or even Node.

Without your fundamentals, you'd just remain confused and overwhelmed. This is especially true if you don't have a mentor with you.

So, stop looking for any shortcuts. Get to work. Learn JavaScript if you want to learn JavaScript. Otherwise, you might as well be doing something else.

Wrapping up

Today, you learned how to learn JavaScript with  speed. The #1 thing you need to do right now is to drop your negative thoughts about JavaScript. Realize they're just there to protect you from hurting yourself emotionally and intellectually.

Then, go figure out these two things:

1. Where are you with JavaScript right now?
2. Where do you want to get to?

Hit reply and tell me these two answers. I'll be waiting to help you refine them if you need help.

Then, ask your mentor what to do (if you have one). Otherwise, follow the roadmap you learned today.

In the next few lessons, I'll share even more details about each phase of this roadmap. You'll learn specifically what to focus on in each phase.

Talk soon,
Zell

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- Need 1-1 help? [Let me know](#)
 - If you no longer wish to receive emails from me, you can [unsubscribe](#) anytime.
 - If you want to change your name or email address, you can use [this link](#).
 - Here's my address if you want to send something over: [Blk 427 Serangoon Central #05-310](#), Singapore, Singapore 550427