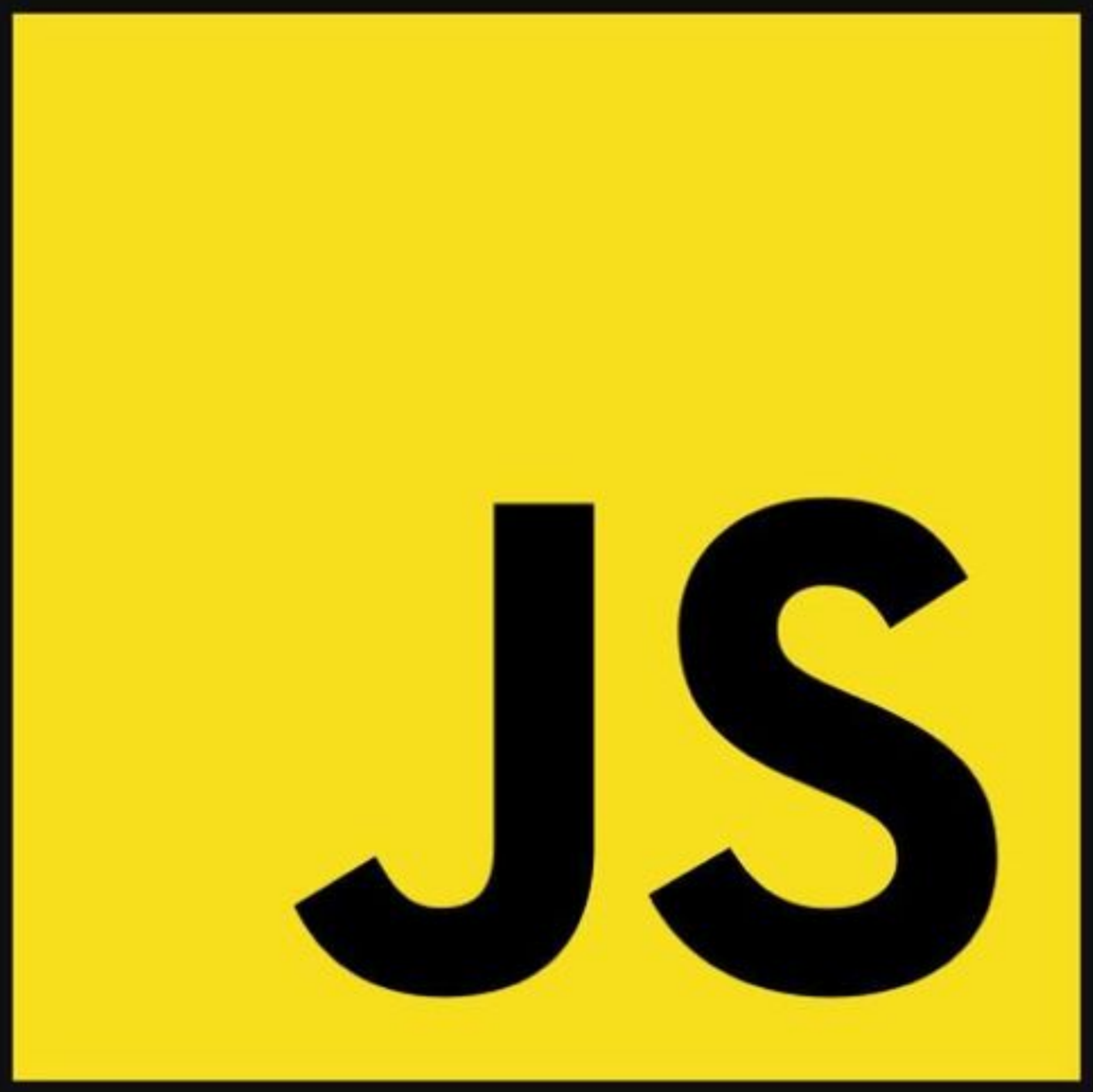
JS

Write Better JS Code

← Swipe



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Readable Names

Although single letter variable names can have a use case, I'd avoid using them in this naming context.

```
const n = "Jeff"
const l = "Sheldon"
const a = 27
```

```
const name = "Jeff"
const location = "Sheldon"
const age = 27
```

I use single letter variable names all the time in React when working with redux and styled-components.

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Avoid Unneeded Contexts

Don't add redundant context to variable names when already provided by it's containing object.

```
const user = {
  userName: "Jeff",
  userLocation: "Sheldon",
  userAge: 27,
}
```

```
const user = {
  name: "Jeff",
  location: "Sheldon",
  age: 27,
}
```

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Avoid Hardcoding DRY

If the timeout value changes then you only have to change it in one place. Don't Repeat Yourself.

```
setTimeout(clearUserData, 500)
setTimeout(clearCache, 500)
```

```
const CLEAR_DURATION = 500

setTimeout(clearUserData, CLEAR_DURATION)
setTimeout(clearCache, CLEAR_DURATION)
```

Variables that are considered constants should be written in Screaming Snake Case.

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Verbose Function Names

Lengthy function names are cool, as long as they describe what the function actually does.

```
const toggle = () => console.log("toggle")
const click = () => console.log("click")
```

```
const toggleDarkMode =
  () => console.log("toggleDarkMode")

const handleButtonClicked =
  () => console.log("handleButtonClicked")
```

handle and **toggle** are words I frequently use to prefix my function names – consistency improves readability.

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Single Arguments

It's a controversial rule, but functions should have 0, 1, or 2 arguments. Destructuring a config object solves this.

```
const sendNotification(name, content, image) =>
  /* send logic */

sendNotification("Warning", "...", "warn.png"
)
```

```
const sendNotification({ name, content, image })
  /* send logic */

const notificationConfig = {
  name: "Warning",
  content: "...",
  image: "warn.png"
}

sendNotification(notificationConfig)
```

I love the readability of doing things this way 👌

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Literals Over Switches

This will improve code readability and even overall performance.

```
const getColorByStatus = status =>
  switch (status) {
    case "success":
      return "green";
    case "warning":
      return "red";
    default:
      return "blue";
  }
```

```
const statusColors = {
  warning: "red",
  success: "green",
};

const getColorByStatus = status =>
  statusColors[status] || "blue"
```

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Don’t Overcomment

Too many comments in your code can devalue their meaning. On the next example you will see how we can write more functions to help document our code.

```
const handleUserCreated = user => {
  // create user id
  const id =
    `id${Math.random().toString(16).slice(2)}`

  // apply new user id
  user.id = id

  // create user in database
  createUser(user)
}
```

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Avoid Complex Functions

By writing an extra function there is no need to add a comment describing what it does. Making function names more verbose also contributes to better readability in your code.

```
const createUserId = () =>
  `id${Math.random().toString(16).slice(2)}`

const handleCreateUserClicked = user => {
  user.id = createUserId()
  createUserInDatabase(user)
}
```

Seeing many functions, each with a single use case, will make your code flow much better and be a lot easier to come back to in future.

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Was It Useful?

Let me know in the comments