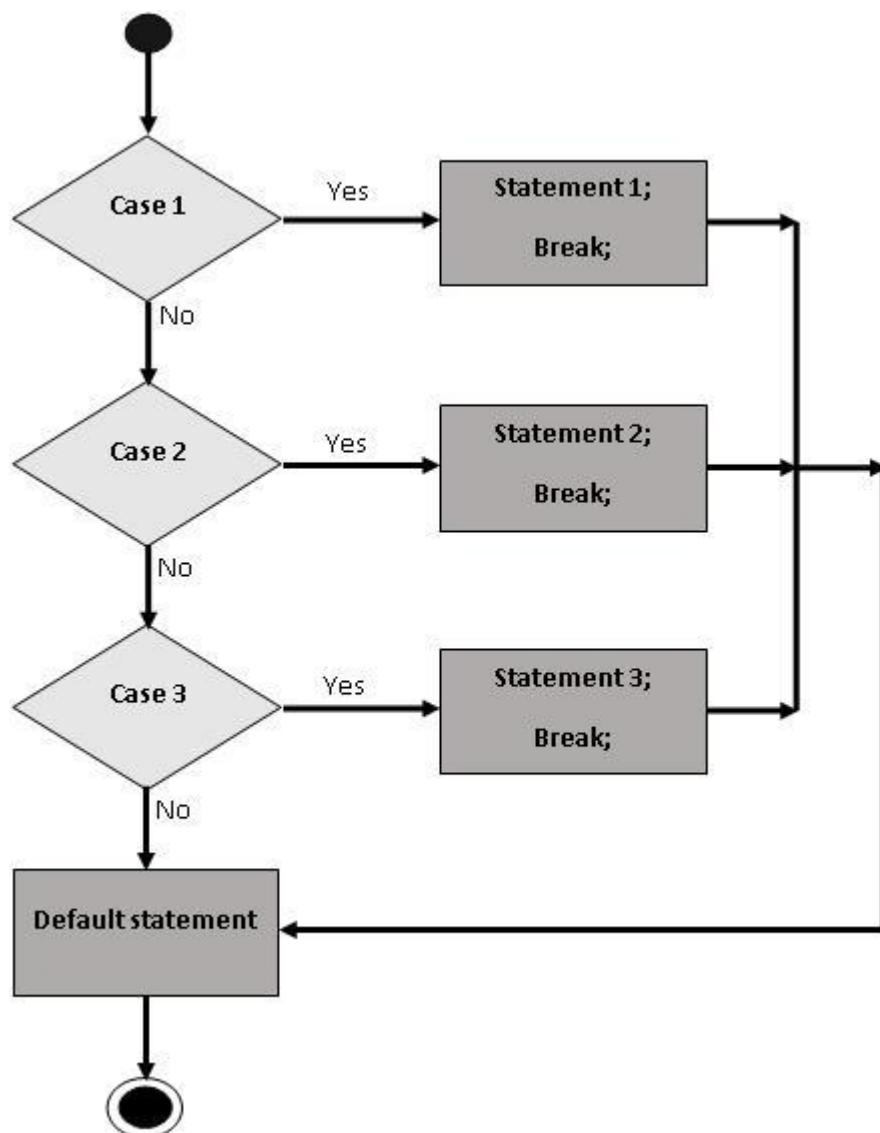# 8. SWITCH-CASE

You can use multiple **if...else...if** statements, as in the previous chapter, to perform a multiway branch. However, this is not always the best solution, especially when all of the branches depend on the value of a single variable.

Starting with JavaScript 1.2, you can use a **switch** statement which handles exactly this situation, and it does so more efficiently than repeated **if...else if** statements.

Flow Chart

The following flow chart explains a switch-case statement works.

Syntax

The objective of a **switch** statement is to give an expression to evaluate and several different statements to execute based on the value of the expression. The interpreter checks each **case** against the value of the expression until a match is found. If nothing matches, a **default** condition will be used.

```
switch (expression)
{
   case condition 1: statement(s)
                     break;
   case condition 2: statement(s)
                     break;
    ...
   case condition n: statement(s)
                     break;
   default: statement(s)
}
```

The **break** statements indicate the end of a particular case. If they were omitted, the interpreter would continue executing each statement in each of the following cases.

We will explain **break** statement in **Loop Control** chapter.

Example

Try the following example to implement switch-case statement.

```
<html>
<body>

<script
type="text/javascript"> <!--
var grade='A';
document.write("Entering switch block<br
/>"); switch (grade)
{
   case 'A': document.write("Good job<br />");
```

```
            break;
    case 'B': document.write("Pretty good<br
              />"); break;
    case 'C': document.write("Passed<br
              />"); break;
    case 'D': document.write("Not so good<br
              />"); break;
    case 'F': document.write("Failed<br
              />"); break;
    default:  document.write("Unknown grade<br />")
}
document.write("Exiting switch block");
//-->
</script>


<p>Set the variable to different value and then try...</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Output

```
Entering switch block
Good job
Exiting switch block

Set the variable to different value and then try...
```

Break statements play a major role in switch-case statements. Try the following code that uses switch-case statement without any break statement.

```
<html>
<body>


<script
type="text/javascript"> <!--
var grade='A';
document.write("Entering switch block<br />");
```

```
switch (grade)
{
  case 'A': document.write("Good job<br />");
  case 'B': document.write("Pretty good<br />");
  case 'C': document.write("Passed<br />");
  case 'D': document.write("Not so good<br />");
  case 'F': document.write("Failed<br />");
  default:  document.write("Unknown grade<br />")
}
document.write("Exiting switch block");
//-->
</script>

<p>Set the variable to different value and then try...</p>
</body>
</html>
```

Output

```
Entering switch block
Good job
Pretty good
Passed
Not so good
Failed
Unknown grade
Exiting switch block

Set the variable to different value and then try...
```