

instanceof and isPrototypeOf

Let's explore two important operators used in JavaScript to check inheritance and prototype relationships: `instanceof` and `isPrototypeOf`.

1. `instanceof` Operator

Purpose:

Checks whether an object is an **instance of a constructor or class**, including inheritance in the prototype chain.

Syntax:

```
object instanceof Constructor
```

Example:

```
function Animal() {}  
function Dog() {}  
  
Dog.prototype = Object.create(Animal.prototype);  
const myDog = new Dog();  
  
console.log(myDog instanceof Dog); // true  
console.log(myDog instanceof Animal); // true  
console.log(myDog instanceof Object); // true
```

Notes:

- It checks if **Constructor.prototype** exists somewhere in the object's **prototype chain**.
- Works with **custom constructors**, **built-ins**, and **ES6 classes**.

2. `isPrototypeOf()` Method

✓ Purpose:

Checks whether an **object exists in another object's prototype chain**.

🧠 Syntax:

```
prototypeObj.isPrototypeOf(object)
```

🔧 Example:

```
function Animal() {}  
function Dog() {}  
  
Dog.prototype = Object.create(Animal.prototype);  
const myDog = new Dog();  
  
console.log(Animal.prototype.isPrototypeOf(myDog)); // true  
console.log(Dog.prototype.isPrototypeOf(myDog));    // true  
console.log(Object.prototype.isPrototypeOf(myDog)); // true
```

💡 Notes:

- Useful when **working with raw prototypes**, especially in **manual inheritance setups**.
- Returns `true` if the calling object is found in the prototype chain of the given object.

Difference Between `instanceof` and `isPrototypeOf`

Feature	<code>instanceof</code>	<code>isPrototypeOf</code>
Checks against	Constructor function	Prototype object
Returns	<code>true</code> or <code>false</code>	<code>true</code> or <code>false</code>

Typical usage	<code>obj instanceof Constructor</code>	<code>Constructor.prototype.isPrototypeOf(obj)</code>
Use-case	Checking class instances	Inspecting prototype chain

👁️ Bonus: Edge Case

`instanceof` can fail if an object is created across different realms (e.g., iframes), because the constructor won't match.

```
// cross-realm instanceof can be tricky and fail
```

For strict prototype inspection, `isPrototypeOf()` is **more reliable** in those edge cases.

Let me know if you want examples using ES6 classes, `Object.create`, or prototypes in complex chains.