Comp 324/424 - Client-side Web Design

Spring Semester 2020 - Week 6 Dr Nick Hayward

intro

- helps solve many issues that have continued to plague layout and positioning
- used with HTML elements and components
- both client-side and cross-platform apps
- a few issues it tries to solve
 - vertical and horizontal alignment
- defining a centred position for child elements relative to their parent
- equal spacing and proportions for child nodes regardless of available space
- equal heights and widths for varied content
- & lots more...

basic usage

- for any app layout, we need to define specific elements as flexible boxes
- i.e. those allowed to use flexbox in a given app
 - *e.g.*

```
section {
  display: flex;
}
```

- ruleset will define a section element as a parent flex container
- child elements may now accept flex declarations
- initial declaration, display: flex
- also includes default values for flexbox layout of child elements
- e.g. <div> elements in a section
- by default now arranged as equal sized columns with the same initial height

axes

- elements arranged using flexbox are laid out on two axes
- main axis
- axis running in the direction of the currently laid out flex items
- e.g. rows or columns
- start and end of axis = main start & main end
- cross axis
- axis running perpendicular to the current main axis
- start and end of axis = cross start & cross end
- each child element laid out inside flex container called a flex item

flex direction

- set a property for the flex direction
- defines direction of flex items relative to main axis
- i.e. layout direction for child elements
- default setting is row
- direction will be relative to current browser language setting
- e.g. for English language browsers = left to right

```
section {
  flex-direction: column;
}
```

- override the default row setting
- arrange child items in a column

```
section {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: column;
}
```

- ensures child flex items were 1aid out in a single column
- then override specific section elements
- allow child flex items in a row direction

```
#tabs {
  flex-direction: row;
}
```

flex direction

spire and the signpost Lorem Ipsum Dolor
Get Distance
footer tab 1 footer tab 2 footer tab 3
CSS Flexbox - flex direction

flex item wrapping

- ensure child items do not overlap their parent flex container
- add a declaration for flex-wrap to a required ruleset
- *e.g.*

```
#tabs {
  flex-direction: row;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
}
```

without wrap

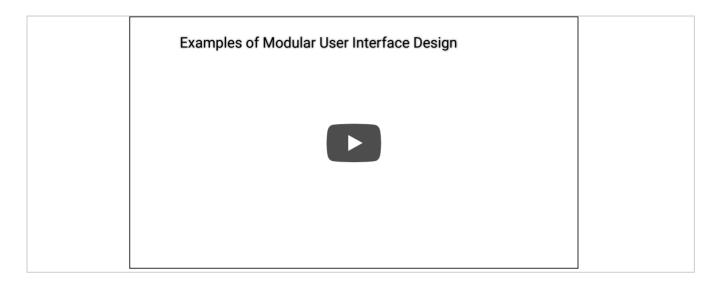
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footer tab 6 footer tab 8 footer	footer tab 9	footer tab 10	footer tab 11	footer tab 12	footer tab 13	footer tab 14	footer tab 15
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with wrap

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footer tab 7	footer tab 8 footer tab 9 footer tab 10 footer tab 11
footer tab 12	footer tab 13 footer tab 14 footer tab 15

Video - Flexbox

flexible design



Examples of Modular UI Design

Source - Modular UI Design - YouTube

flex direction reverse

- also set flex direction to reverse
- starts flex items from the right on an English language browser

```
#tabs {
  flex-direction: row-reverse;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
}
```

flex direction reverse

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	footer tab 11	footer tab 10	footer tab 9	footer tab 8	footer tab 7
	foo	oter tab 15 fo	oter tab 14	footer tab 13	footer tab 12
	CSS Fle	exbox - flex di	rection rever	se_	

flex-flow shorthand

- also combine direction and wrap into a single declaration
- flex-flow
- now contain values for both row and wrap
- *e.g.*

```
#tabs {
  flex-flow: row wrap;
}
```

sizing of flex items

- for each flex item, we may need to specify apportioned space in the layout
- e.g. set space as an equal proportion for each flex item
- we may add the following to a child item ruleset

```
div.fTab {
  flex: 1;
}
```

- defines each child flex item <div class="fTab">
- occupy an equal amount of space within the given row
- · after considering margin and padding
- n.b. this value is proportional
- doesn't matter if the value is 1 or 100 &c.
- define additional flex proportions for specific child items
- *e.g.*

```
div.fTab:nth-child(odd) {
  flex: 2;
}
```

- each odd flex-item will now occupy twice available space
- space in the current direction

flex item sizing

spire and the signpost Lorem Ipsum Dolor	
Get Distance	
footer tab 1 footer tab 3 footer tab 5 footer tab 5 footer tab 6	r tab 7
CSS Flexbox - flex item sizing	

minimum size

- then set a minimum size for a flex item
- *e.g.*

```
div.fTab {
  flex: 1 100px;
}
```

or a relative unit for the size

```
div.fTab {
  flex: 1 20%;
}
```

- each flex item will initially be given a minimum
- e.g. 20% of the available space
- the remaining space will be defined relative to proportion units

flex item sizing

spire and the signpost	
Lorem Ipsum Dolor	
Get Dista	nce
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footer tab 6	oter tab 7
CSS Flexbox - flex item siz	<u>iing - minimum size</u>

flex item alignment

- Flexbox allows us to define alignment for flex items in each flex container
- relative to the main and cross axes
- e.g. we might want to specify a centred alignment for flex items

```
#tabs {
  flex-direction: row;
  flex-wrap: wrap;
  align-items: center;
}
```

- align-items: center
- causes flex item in flex container to be centred along the cross axis
- however, they'll still maintain their basic dimensions
- also modify value for align-items to either flex-start or flexend
- such values will align flex items to either start or end of cross axis

override align per flex item

- as with flex
- also override alignment per flex item
- using align-self property add a value for positioning
- e.g. a sample declaration might be as follows

```
div.fTab:nth-child(even) {
  flex: 2;
  align-self: flex-end;
}
```

justify content for flex item

- also specify justify-content for flex items in a flex container
- property allows us to define position of a flex item relative to main axis
- default value is flex-start
- then modify it relative to one of the following
- flex-end
- center
- space-around
- o distributes each flex item evenly along main axis with space at either end
- space-between
- o same as space-around without space at either end...

alignment and order - part 1

- define alignment relative to each axis using a specific declaration
- e.g. for the main we may use justify-content
- for the cross axis we use align-items
- also modify layout order of flex items
- without directly changing underlying source order
- use the following pattern to specify order

```
div.fTab:first-child {
  order: 1;
}
```

first flex item will now move to the end of the tab list

flex item order

spire and the signpost Lorem Ipsum Dolor	
Get Distance	
footer tab 2 footer tab 4 footer tab 5 footer tab 6 footer tab 7 footer tab 1	
CSS Flexbox - flex item order 1	

alignment and order - part 2

- due to default order for flex items
- by default, all flex items have an order value set to 0
- higher the order value, later the item will appear in the list &c.
- items with the same order will revert to the order in the source code
- also possible to ensure certain items will always appear first
- or at least before default order values
- by using a negative value for the order declaration
- e.g.

```
div.fTab:last-child {
  order: -1;
}
```

nesting flex containers and items - part 1

- Flexbox can also be used to create nested patterns and structures
 - e.g. we may set a flex item as a flex container for its child nodes
- we might add a banner to the top of a page

nesting flex containers and items - part 2

- set #banner, #page-header, and #search as flex containers
- e.g.

```
#search {
  display: flex;
}
```

- then specify various declarations for #search
 - e.g.

```
#search {
  display: flex;
  flex-direction: row;
  flex: 2;
  align-self: flex-start;
}
```

- includes values for itself and any child elements
- if we then add some rulesets for the nested flex items
- e.g.

```
#searchBox {
   flex: 4;
}

#searchBtn {
   flex: 1;
}
```

we get a simple proportional split of 4:1 for the input field to the button

nested flex containers

spire and the signpost	t			Search
point to the stars				
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	footer tab 3 footer tab 4	footer tab	footer tab 6	footer tab
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Video - Flexible Design

fun designs



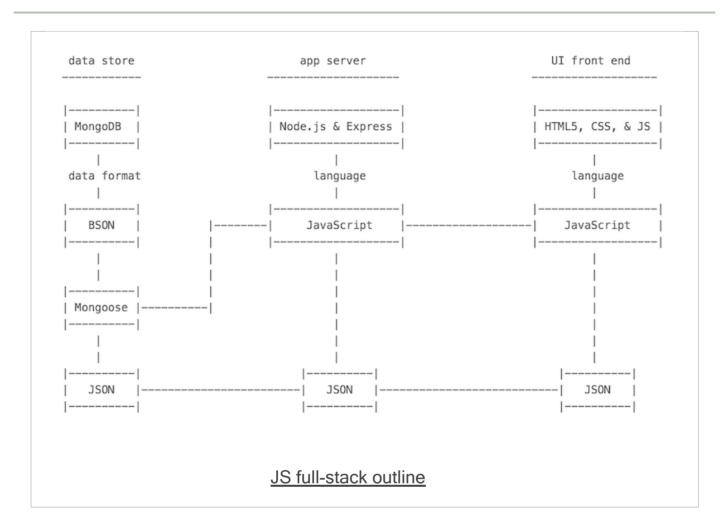
Fun examples of responsive design - UP TO 0:51

Source - Example Responsive UI Designs - YouTube

building a web app - sample outline of underlying structure

- apps developed using a full JavaScript stack
- using and incorporating JS into each part of app's development
- UI front-end
- app server and management
- data store and management
- Technologies will include
- front-end: HTML5, CSS, JS...
- app server: Node.js, Express...
- data store: MongoDB, Redis, Mongoose...
- Data format is JSON

Image - building a web app - sample outline



n.b. I've explicitly omitted any arrows for flow within this diagram. This is something we'll return to as we start to work with Node.js, Mongoose, and MongoDB.

JS Intro

- JavaScript (JS) a core technology for client-side design and development
- now being used as a powerful technology to help us
- rapidly prototype and develop web, mobile, and desktop apps
- libraries such as jQuery, React, AngularJS, and Node.js
- helps develop cross-platform apps
 - Apache Cordova
 - Electron
- Embedded systems
- Espruino http://www.espruino.com/
- Tessel https://tessel.io/

JS Basics - operators

- operators allow us to perform
- mathematical calculations
- assign one thing to another
- compare and contrast...
- simple * operator, we can perform multiplication

```
2 * 4
```

- we can add, subtract, and divide numbers as required
- mix mathematical with simple assignment

```
a = 4;
b = a + 2;
```

JS Basics - some common operators - part 1

Assignment

= =

■ eg: a = 4

Comparison

• <, > <=, >=

■ eg: a <= b

Compound assignment

■ +=, -=, *=, /=

compound operators are used to combine a mathematical operation with assignment

■ same as result = result + expression

■ eg: a += 4

Equality

operator	description
==	loose equals
===	strict equals
!=	loose not equals
!==	strict not equals

■ eg: a != b

JS Basics - some common operators - part 2

Increment/Decrement

- increment or decrement an existing value by 1
 - ++, --
 - eg: a++ is equal to a = a + 1

Logical

- used to express compound conditionals and, or
- &&, ||
- eg: a || b

Mathematical

- **+**, -, *, /
- eg: a * 4 or a / 4

Object property access

- properties in objects are specific named locations for holding values and data
- effectively, values within values
 - ,
 - eg: a.b means object a with a property of b

JS Basics - values and types

- able to express different representations of values
- often based upon need or intention
- known as types
- JS has built-in types
- allow us to represent primitive values
- eg: numbers, strings, booleans
- such values in the source code are simply known as literals
- literals can be represented as follows,
 - string literals use double or single quotes eg: "some text" or 'some more text'
- numbers and booleans are represented without being escaped eg: 49, true;
- also consider arrays, objects, functions...

JS Basics - type conversion

- option and ability to convert types in JS
- in effect, coerce our values and types from one type to another
- convert a number, or coerce it, to a string
- built-in JS function, Number(), is an explicit coercion
- explicit coercion, convert any type to a number type
- implicit coercion, JS will often perform as part of a comparison

"49" == 49

- JS implicitly coerces left string to a matching number
- then performs the comparison
- often considered bad practice
- · convert first, and then compare
- implicit coercion still follows rules
 - can be very useful

JS Basics - variables - part 1

- symbolic container for values and data
- applications use containers to keep track and update values
- use a variable as a container for such values and data
- allow values to vary over time
- JS can emphasize types for values, does not enforce on the variable
 - weak typing or dynamic typing
 - JS permits a variable to hold a value of any type
- often a benefit of the language
- a quick way to maintain flexibility in design and development

JS Basics - variables - part 2

- declare a variable using the keyword var
- declaration does not include type information

```
var a = 49;
//double var a value
var a = a * 2;
//coerce var a to string
var a = String(a);
//output string value to console
console.log(a);
```

- var a maintains a running total of the value of a
- keeps record of changes, effectively state of the value
- state is keeping track of changes to any values in the application

JS Basics - variables - part 3

- use variables in JS to enable central, common references to our values and data
- better known in most languages simply as constants
- JS is similar
- creates a read-only reference to a value
- value itself is not immutable, e.g. an object...
- it's simply the identifier that cannot be reassigned
- JS constants are also bound by scoping rules
- allow us to define and declare a variable with a value
- not intended to change throughout the application
- constants are often declared together
- uppercase is standard practice although not a rule...
- form a store for values abstracted for use throughout an app
- JS normally defines constants using uppercase letters,

```
var NAME = "Philae";
```

- ECMAScript 6, ES6, introduces additional variable keywords
 - e.g. const

```
const TEMPLE_NAME = "Philae";
```

- benefits of abstraction, ensuring value is not accidentally changed
- change rejected for a running app
- in strict mode, app will fail with an error for any change

JS Basics - comments

- JS permits comments in the code
- two different implementations

single line

```
//single line comment
var a = 49;
```

multi-line

```
/* this comment has more to say...
we'll need a second line */
var b = "forty nine";
```

JS Basics - logic - blocks

- simple act of grouping contiguous and related code statements together
- known as blocks
- block defined by wrapping statements together
- within a pair of curly braces, {}
- blocks commonly attached to other forms of control statement

```
if (a > b) {
...do something useful...
}
```

JS Basics - logic - conditionals - part 1

- conditionals, conditional statements require a decision to be made
- code statement, application, consults state
- answer will predominantly be a simple yes or no
- JS includes many different ways we can express conditionals
- most common example is the if statement
- if this given condition is true, do the following...

```
if (a > b) {
console.log("a is greater than b...");
}
```

- if statement requires an expression between the parentheses
- evaluates as either true or false

JS Basics - logic - conditionals - part 2

- additional option if this expression returns false
- using an else clause

```
if (a > b) {
console.log("a is greater than b...");
} else {
console.log("no, b is greater...");
}
```

- for an if statement, JS expects a boolean
- JS defines a list of values that it considers false
 - eg: 0...
- any value not on this list of false values will be considered true
- coerced to true when defined as a boolean
- conditionals in JS also exist in another form
- the switch statement
- more to come...

JS Basics - logic - loops

- loops allow repetition of sets of actions until a condition fails
- repetition continues whilst the requested condition holds
- loops take many different forms and follow this basic behaviour
- a loop includes the test condition as well as a block
- normally within curly braces
- block executes, an iteration of the loop has occurred
- good examples of this behaviour include while and do...while loops
- basic difference between these loops, while and do...while
 - conditional tested is before the first iteration (while loop)
 - after the first iteration (do...while) loop
- if the condition is initially false
- a while loop will never run
- a do...while will run through for the first time
- also stop a JS loop using the common break statement
- for loop has three clauses, including
- initialisation clause
- conditional test clause
- update clause

JS Basics - logic - functions - part 1

- functions are a type of object
 - may also have their own properties
 - define once, then re-use as needed throughout our application
- function is a named grouping of code
 - name can be called, and code will be run each time
- JS functions can be designed with optional arguments
- known as parameters
- allow us to pass values to the function
- functions can also optionally return a value

```
function outputTotal(total) {
  console.log(total);
}
var a = 49;
a = a * 3; // or use a *= 3;
outputTotal(a);
```

JS Basics - logic - functions - part 2

```
function outputTotal(total) {
  console.log(total);
}

function calculateTotal(amount, times) {
  amount = amount * times;
  return amount;
}

var a = 49;
a = calculateTotal(a, 3);
outputTotal(a);
```

JSFiddle Demo

JS Basics - logic - scope

- scope or lexical scope
- · collection of variables, and associated access rules by name
- in JS each function gets its own scope
- variables within a function's given scope
- can only be accessed by code inside that function
- variable name has to be unique within a function's scope
- same variable name could appear in different scopes
- nest one scope within another
 - code in inner scope can access variables from either inner or outer scope
 - · code in outer scope cannot, by default, access code in the inner scope

JS Basics - logic - scope example

```
function outerScope() {
  var a = 49;
  //scope includes outer and inner
  function innerScope() {
    var b = 59;
    //output a and b
    console.log(a + b); //returns 108
  }
  innerScope();
  //scope limited to outer
  console.log(a); //returns 49
}
//run outerScope function
outerScope();
```

JSFiddle Demo

JS Basics - strict mode

- intro of ES5 JS now includes option for strict mode
 - ensures tighter code and better compliance...
 - often helps ensure greater compatibility, safer use of language...
 - can also help optimise code for rendering engines
- add strict at different levels within our JS code
 - · eg: single function level or enforce for whole file

```
function outerScope() {
   "use strict";
   //code is strict

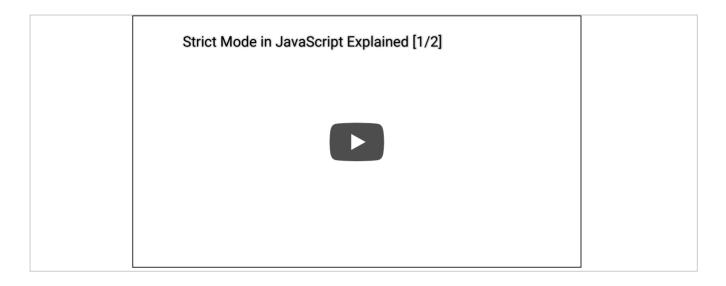
function innerScope() {
   //code is strict
}
}
```

- if we set strict mode for complete file set at top of file
- all functions and code will be checked against strict mode
- o eg: check against auto-create for global variables
- or missing var keyword for variables...

```
function outerScope() {
   "use strict";
   a = 49; // `var` missing - ReferenceError
}
```

Video - JavaScript

strict mode



JavaScript Strict Mode - UP TO 4:32

Source - JavaScript - Overview of Strict Mode

JS Core - values and types

- JS has typed values, not typed variables
- JS provides the following built-in types
- boolean
- null
- number
- object
- string
- symbol (new in ES6)
- undefined
- more help provided by JS's typeof operator
- examine a value and return its type

```
var a = 49;
console.log(typeof a); //result is a number
```

- as of ES6, there are 7 possible return types in JS
- NB: JS variables do not have types, mere containers for values
- values specify the type

```
var a = null;
console.log(typeof a); //result is object - known bug in JS...
```

JS Core - objects - part 1

Objects

- object type includes a compound value
- JS can use to set properties, or named locations
- each of these properties holds its own value
- can be defined as any type

```
var objectA = {
    a: 49,
    b: 59,
    c: "Philae"
};
```

access these values using either dot or bracket notation

```
//dot notation
objectA.a;
//bracket notation
objectA["a"];
```

JS Core - objects - example

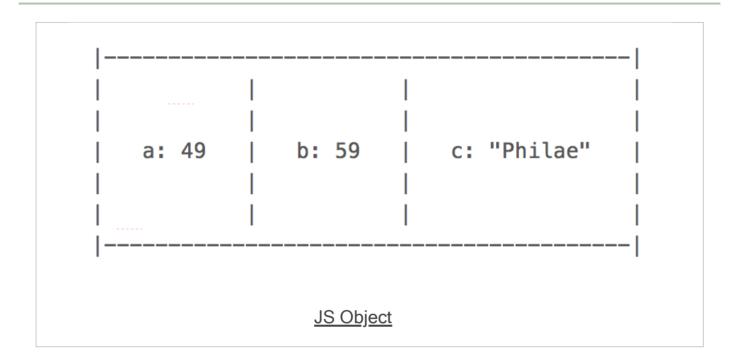
```
// create object
var object = {
    archive: 'waldzell',
    access: 'castalia',
    purpose: 'gaming'
};

// log output with dot notation
console.log(`archive is ${object.archive}`);

// log output with bracket notation - returns undefined
console.log(`access is restricted to ${object[1]}`);

// log output with bracket notation
console.log(`purpose is ${object['purpose']}`);
```

Image - JS Object



ES6 - template literals

```
// create object
var object = {
 archive: 'waldzell',
 access: 'castalia',
 purpose: 'gaming'
};
// log output with template literals
console.log(`archive is ${object.archive}`);
// Log output
console.log('archive is ' + object.archive);
// log output all object properties with template literals
console.log(`archive = ${object.archive}, access = ${object.access}, purpose =
         ${object.purpose}`);
// log output all object properties
console.log('archive = ' + object.archive + ', access = ' + object.access + ' purpose = ' +
         object.purpose);
```

JS Core - objects - part 2

Arrays

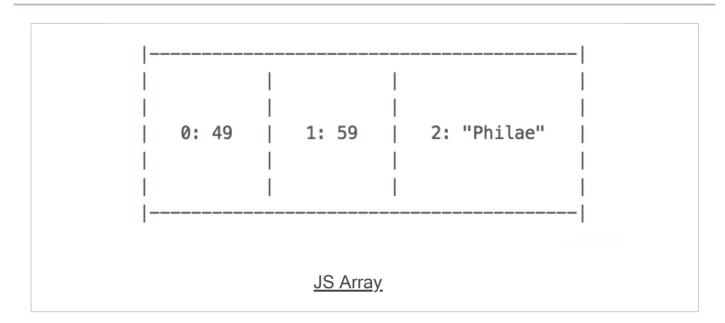
- JS array an object that contains values, of any type, in numerically indexed positions
 - store a number, a string...
 - array will start at index position 0
 - increments by 1 for each new value
- arrays can also have properties
- eg: automatically updated length property

```
var arrayA = [
    49,
    59,
    "Philae"
];
arrayA.length; //returns 3
```

each value can be retrieved from its applicable index position,

```
arrayA[2]; //returns the string "Philae"
```

Image - JS Array



JS Core - objects - Arrays

examples

Random Greeting Generator - Basic

JS Core - checking equality - part 1

- JS has four equality operators, including two not equal
- ==, ===, !=, !==
- = == checks for value equality, whilst allowing coercion
- ==== checks for value equality but without coercion

```
var a = 49;
var b = "49";
console.log(a == b); //returns true
console.log(a === b); //returns false
```

- first comparison checks values
- if necessary, try to coerce one or both values until a match occurs
- allows JS to perform a simple equality check
- results in true
- second check is simpler
 - coercion is not permitted, and a simple equality check is performed
 - results in false

JS Core - checking equality - part 2

- which comparison operator should we use
- useful suggestions for usage of comparison operators
- use === if either side of the comparison could be true or false
- use === if either value could be one of the following specific values,
 0, "", []
- otherwise, it's safe to use ==
- simplify code in a JS application due to the implicit coercion.
- not equal counterparts, ! and !== work in a similar manner

JS Core - checking inequality - part 1

- known as relational comparison, we can use the inequality operators,
- <, >, <=, >=
- inequality operators often used to check comparable values like numbers
 - inherent ordinal check
- can be used to compare strings

```
"hello" < "world"
```

- coercion also occurs with inequality operators
 - no concept of strict inequality

```
var a = 49;
var b = "59";
var c = "69";

a < b; //returns true
b < c; //returns true</pre>
```

JS Core - checking inequality - part 2

 we can encounter an issue when either value cannot be coerced into a number

```
var a = 49;
var b = "nice";

a < b; //returns false
a > b; //returns false
a == b; //returns false
```

- issue for < and > is string is being coerced into invalid number value, NaN
- == coerces string to NaN and we get comparison between 49 == NaN

JS Core - more variables - part 1

- a few rules and best practices for naming valid identifiers
- using typical ASCII alphanumeric characters
- an identifier must begin with a-z, A-Z, \$, _
- may contain any of those characters, plus 0-9
- property names follow this same basic pattern
- careful not to use certain keywords, or reserved words
- reserved words can include such examples as,
- break, byte, delete, do, else, if, for, this, while and so on
- further details are available at the W3 Schools site
- in JS, we can use different declaration keywords relative to intended scope
- var for local, qLobal for global...
- such declarations will influence scope of usage for a given variable
- concept of hoisting
- defines the declaration of a variable as belonging to the entire scope
- by association accessible throughout that scope as well
- also works with JS functions hoisted to the top of the scope

JS Core - more variables - part 2

- concept of nesting, and scope specific variables
- ES6 enables us to restrict variables to a block of code
- use keyword let to declare a block-level variable

```
if (a > 5) {
let b = a + 4;

console.log(b);
}
```

- let restricts variable's scope to if statement
- variable b is not available to the whole function

ES6 - 1et variable

```
// function
var archiveCheck = function (level) {
 // add variable for archive
 var archive = 'waldzell';
 // specify purpose - default return
 var purpose = 'restricted';
 // check access level
 if (level === 'castalia') {
   let purpose = 'gaming';
   return purpose;
 return purpose;
}
// log output - pass correct parameter value
console.log(`archive purpose is ${archiveCheck('castalia')}`);
// log output - pass incorrect parameter value
console.log(`archive purpose is ${archiveCheck('mariafels')}`);
```

JS Core - let

example

Random Greeting Generator - A bit better

Video - Variables

let and const



JavaScript scope and variable usage - UP TO 2:30

Source - JavaScript scope and variables

JS Core - more variables - part 3

- add strict mode to our code
- without we get a variable that will be hoisted to the top either
- set as a globally available variable, although it could be deleted
- or it will set a value for a variable with the matching name
- bubbled up through the available layers of scope
- becomes similar in essence to a declared global variable
- can create some strange behaviour in our applications
- tricky and difficult to debug
- remember to declare your variables correctly and at the top

JS Core - more variables - example

```
var a;
function myScope() {
    "use strict";
    a = 49;
}
myScope()
a = 59;
console.log(a);
```

Demos

- ES6 (ES2015)
- Let usage Random Greeting Generator v0.2
- JS Arrays
 - Random Greeting Generator v0.1
- JSFiddle
- Basic logic functions
- Basic logic scope

Resources

- Example Responsive UI Designs YouTube
- JavaScript Overview of Strict Mode
- JavaScript Scope and variables
- MDN CSS Flexbox
- MDN JS
- MDN JS Data Types and Data Structures
- MDN JS Grammar and Types
- MDN JS Objects
- Modular UI Design YouTube
- W3 Schools CSS Flexbox
- W3 Schools JS