

Vanilla JS:

11 ways of assigning the same value to multiple variables in a single statement

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What

Assigning the same value...

```
const val = Symbol();  
const x = val;  
const y = val;  
const z = val;  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...but in a single outermost statement.

```
const ??? = ???;
```

Why

1. JS lets you do weird things
 2. Doing weird things is fun
 3. Maybe learn some language features?
- Note that this is not an endorsement of using these in production code 🤓

Let's dive in 🤿

1. The old school way

The most succinct way I can think of:

```
const x = y = z = Symbol();  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

But this only works sometimes. Does anyone know why?

1. The old school way (cont.)

Strict mode (which is enabled by default in modules) doesn't let you assign values to undeclared variables.

```
(function() {  
  'use strict';  
  // Uncaught ReferenceError: z is not defined  
  const x = y = z = Symbol();  
  console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z);  
})();
```

...so how do can do this succinctly and in strict mode?

Note: The rest of the examples will be strict mode friendly.

2. Binding lists

You can declare multiple variables using a binding list, and assign the previously assigned variables to the later variables.

```
const x = Symbol(), y = x, z = y;  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

Neat, eh? How else can we do it?

3. Object destructuring

We can use object destructuring assignment and rename a single property multiple times.

```
const { data: x, data: y, data: z } = { data: Symbol() };  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...but what if we don't want to rename the property?

4. Object destructuring of self-referential static class members

We can lean into self referential static class members to assign the same value to multiple static properties.

```
const { x, y, z } = class Temp {  
  static value = Symbol();  
  static x = Temp.value;  
  static y = Temp.value;  
  static z = Temp.value;  
};  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...can we do it without classes?

5. Object destructuring IIFE

We can use an IIFE (immediately invoked function expression) to build an object with multiple properties that all have the same value.

```
const { x, y, z } = (function() {  
  const value = Symbol();  
  return {  
    x: value,  
    y: value,  
    z: value  
  };  
})();  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

That's kinda weird, can we make weirder?

6. Proxied object

We can use a proxy that returns the same property from the object regardless of what property was being accessed.

```
const { x, y, z } = new Proxy({ data: Symbol() }, {  
  get(target) {  
    return target.data;  
  }  
});  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

Question: Proxied array?

Question: Will the previous implementation work with array destructuring assignment?

```
const [x, y, z] = { /* Same implementation as previous slide */ }
```

Answer: Proxied array?

Nope! While arrays are just objects, array destructuring assignment works on the iterable protocol, which the previous example did not implement.

```
// Uncaught TypeError: Proxy is not a function or its return value is not iterable
const [x, y, z] = new Proxy({ data: Symbol() }, {
  get(target) {
    return target.data;
  }
});
```

...so how can we assign the same value to multiple variables in a single declaration using array destructuring?

7. Array destructuring IIFE

We can once again lean on IIFEs (which are basically cheating 😊).

```
const [x, y, z] = (function() {  
  const value = Symbol();  
  return [value, value, value];  
})();  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...can we do this without repeating the value three times?

8. Destructuring a recursively built array

Still an IIFE, but this time we're using recursion to build the array.

```
const [x, y, z] = (function repeat(times, value, _arr = []){  
  return times === 0  
    ? _arr  
    : repeat(times - 1, value, [..._arr, value]);  
})(3, Symbol());  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

9. Array destructuring IIGFE

Are **IIGFE**s (immediately invoked generator function expression) a thing? They are now!

Func fact, the return value of a generator function is iterable.

```
const [x, y, z] = (function*() {  
  const value = Symbol();  
  while (true) {  
    yield value;  
  }  
})();  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...can we get weird with iterators?

10. Roll your own iterator

If your `*` key is broken, you can always make your own iterator.

```
const [x, y, z] = {  
  value: Symbol(),  
  [Symbol.iterator]() {  
    return this;  
  },  
  next() {  
    return {  
      done: false,  
      value: this.value  
    }  
  }  
};  
  
console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

...but can we make this even weirder?

11. Proxy as iterable

You can recreate the iterator protocol in a proxy.

```
const [x, y, z] = new Proxy({ data: Symbol() }, {
  get(target, prop, receiver) {
    if (prop === Symbol.iterator) {
      return () => receiver;
    }

    if (prop === 'next') {
      return () => ({
        done: false,
        value: target.data
      });
    }
  }
});

console.log(typeof x === 'symbol' && x === y && y === z); // true
```

Thanks for listening!

- Questions?
- Comments?
- Can you think of any other ways to do this?