# Mastering Promises in JavaScript

# What Are Promises?

A **Promise** in JavaScript is an object that represents the eventual **completion or failure** of an asynchronous operation and its resulting value.

Think of it as a ② container for a future value — you don't have it yet, but you'll get it... eventually!

# Code Example (with context)

```
const promise = createOrder(cart);
promise.then(function (orderId) {
   proceedToPayment(orderId);
});
```

We'll assume createOrder(cart) is an async function returning a Promise.

# Step-by-step Breakdown

### \$\mathbb{G}\$ 1. You call an async function

```
const promise = createOrder(cart);
```

- This line **calls** the createOrder function.
- It immediately returns a Promise object in pending state.
- Think of this like placing an online order the system starts processing it.

So at this moment:

```
promise = Promise { <pending> }
```

## 2. Registering a .then() callback

```
promise.then(function (orderId) {
  proceedToPayment(orderId);
});
```

• You are telling JavaScript: " X When the promise resolves, please call this function with the orderId."

• This **does not run immediately** — it **waits** for the promise to be fulfilled.

JavaScript remembers this callback and stores it in the **microtask queue** for later execution.

### 3. Inside createOrder(cart)

Assume this function looks like:

```
function createOrder(cart) {
  return new Promise(function (resolve, reject) {
    // simulate async order creation
    setTimeout(() => {
      const orderId = "ORD1234";
      resolve(orderId); // fulfills the promise
    }, 2000); // runs after 2 seconds
  });
}
```

#### Here:

- The function returns a Promise immediately.
- After 2 seconds, resolve(orderId) is called.
- This tells JS: " Promise is fulfilled! Deliver this value to anyone waiting."

### 4. The callback in .then() gets executed

After resolve(orderId) is called:

```
proceedToPayment(orderId);
```

is finally executed, because you registered it via .then(...).

## Internal Workflow of Promises

- 1. Promise is created (Pending State)
- 2. You attach a .then() listener
- 3. Async work completes → resolve(data) is called
- 4. JS picks up your .then() callback
- 5. Callback is run with the resolved data

### 

```
Time 0s: createOrder(cart) called → returns Promise (Pending)
Time 0s: .then(callback) registered → JS stores it

Time 2s: createOrder resolves → orderId = "ORD1234"
Time 2s: callback(orderId) triggered → proceeds to payment
```

# Important Points

Meaning
Called when the promise is fulfilled
Triggers all attached .then() callbacks with value
It lets JS move on while async work happens in background
JS keeps it in memory, waiting for the data

### Final Working Code:

```
function createOrder(cart) {
   return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
      setTimeout(() => {
        const orderId = "ORD1234";
        resolve(orderId);
      }, 2000);
   });
}

function proceedToPayment(orderId) {
   console.log("Proceeding to payment for:", orderId);
}

const promise = createOrder(["item1", "item2"]);

promise.then(function (orderId) {
   proceedToPayment(orderId);
});
```

#### **Output after 2 seconds:**

```
Proceeding to payment for: ORD1234
```

Awesome! Let's now complete the **full promise workflow** by adding:

- ✓ .then() for success
- X .catch() for handling errors
- finally() for cleanup after either success or failure

We'll use the **same** createOrder(cart) **flow**, now expanded to include error handling and cleanup.

## 1. Full Example with .then(), .catch(), .finally()

```
function createOrder(cart) {
  return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    if (!Array.isArray(cart) || cart.length === 0) {
      reject("Cart is empty!");
    } else {
      setTimeout(() => {
        const orderId = "ORD1234";
        resolve(orderId); // success case
      }, 2000);
 });
}
function proceedToPayment(orderId) {
  console.log("Proceeding to payment for:", orderId);
}
// Triggering the flow
createOrder(["item1", "item2"])
  .then(function (orderId) {
    proceedToPayment(orderId);
  })
  .catch(function (error) {
    console.log("X Error:", error);
  })
  .finally(function () {
    console.log(" 
    Order process finished (success or fail).");
  });
```

## How it Flows Internally

## ✓ If cart is valid:

```
1. createOrder() is called → returns a pending promise.
```

- 2. After 2 seconds → resolve("ORD1234") is called.
- 3. .then() is triggered with orderId → runs proceedToPayment.
- 4. .catch() is skipped.
- 5. .finally() is always called last.

#### **Console Output:**

```
Proceeding to payment for: ORD1234

### Order process finished (success or fail).
```

### X If cart is empty:

```
1. createOrder([]) → reject("Cart is empty!") called immediately.
```

- 2. .then() is skipped.
- 3. .catch() is triggered with error  $\rightarrow$  logs error.
- 4. .finally() still runs.

#### **Console Output:**

```
★ Error: Cart is empty!

    Ø Order process finished (success or fail).
```

# Summary of All Promise Handlers

Method	Purpose	Runs When?
.then()	Runs on <b>successful</b> resolution	After resolve()
.catch()	Runs on <b>failure</b> or <b>rejection</b>	After reject() or error
.finally()	Runs <b>always</b> (success or failure)	After .then() or .catch()

# % Visual Lifecycle Diagram

```
createOrder(cart)

↓
returns Promise (Pending)

↓
Either: resolve(orderId) → .then() → .finally()

or: reject(error) → .catch() → .finally()
```

## Why Use Promises?

They solve two major problems in asynchronous JavaScript:

- 🖾 Inversion of Control
- 👺 Callback Hell (Pyramid of Doom)

# Real-World Analogy: E-Commerce Example

```
const cart = ["shoes", "pants", "kurta"];
```

### ★ Before Promises – Using Callbacks

```
// Asynchronous functions dependent on each other
const orderId = createOrder(cart);
proceedToPayment(orderId); // X Doesn't wait!

// Callback-based solution
createOrder(cart, function () {
   proceedToPayment(orderId);
});
```

Problem: You're passing your function into someone else's code, trusting them to call it — this is called Inversion of Control. You lose control over execution.

## Enter Promises – Cleaner Control

```
const promiseRef = createOrder(cart);

promiseRef.then(function () {
   proceedToPayment(orderId);
});
```

#### Benefits Over Callbacks:

- Vou attach instead of pass
- Promises **quarantee** the callback is called *once*
- Improves maintainability and error handling

## **S** Under the Hood: What Is a Promise?

#### A Promise has:

- [[PromiseState]]  $\rightarrow$  "pending", "fulfilled", or "rejected"
- [[PromiseResult]] → The resolved or rejected value

Initially, it looks like this:

```
Promise { <pending> }
```

#### Once resolved:

```
PromiseState: "fulfilled"
PromiseResult: {your data}
```

Example: GitHub API Call Using fetch

```
const URL = "https://api.github.com/users/alok722";
const user = fetch(URL);

console.log(user); // Logs: Promise { <pending> }

user.then(function (data) {
   console.log(data);
});
```

- Note: Chrome DevTools may show it as "fulfilled" when expanded, even if it initially logs "pending".
- Immutability: Once resolved, a promise's value can't be changed.

# Callback Hell: Pyramid of Doom

```
createOrder(cart, function (orderId) {
  proceedToPayment(orderId, function (paymentInfo) {
    showOrderSummary(paymentInfo, function (balance) {
      updateWalletBalance(balance);
    });
  });
});
```

igoremskip Difficult to read and debug igoremskip Error handling becomes messy igoremskip Not scalable

# Promise Chaining – The Fix

```
createOrder(cart)
   .then(function (orderId) {
    return proceedToPayment(orderId);
})
   .then(function (paymentInfo) {
    return showOrderSummary(paymentInfo);
})
```

```
.then(function (balance) {
   return updateWalletBalance(balance);
});
```

igspace Readable igspace Linear execution igspace Proper error propagation using .catch()

## 

If you forget to return a promise in a .then() chain, the next .then() won't get the expected data.

```
// X Don't do this:
.then(function (orderId) {
   proceedToPayment(orderId); // Not returned!
})

// Do this:
.then(function (orderId) {
   return proceedToPayment(orderId);
})
```

## Recap: What is a Promise?

- A placeholder for a value you don't have yet.
- An **object** representing the result of an async operation.
- States: pending → fulfilled | rejected
- Immutable once resolved

## **&** Callback vs Promise – Quick Comparison

Feature	Callback	Promise
Flow Control	You <b>pass</b> a callback	You attach a handler via .then()
<b>&amp;</b> Execution Guarantee	X No guarantee of invocation	✓ Called exactly once
Readability	X Nested, messy	✓ Chainable, clean
Error Handling	<b>X</b> Scattered	✓ Unified with .catch()
ெ Immutability	<b>X</b> Can be altered	✓ Once resolved, value is fixed

### **SEE** Final Words

"A Promise is like ordering something online. You get a receipt (the promise) and continue your day. When the package (result) arrives, the promise is fulfilled!"

**promise workflow** using async/await, which makes the code cleaner and easier to read—especially when chaining multiple promises.

# ✓ Example using async/await

```
function createOrder(cart) {
    return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
        if (!Array.isArray(cart) || cart.length === 0) {
            reject("Cart is empty!");
        } else {
            setTimeout(() => {
                const orderId = "ORD1234";
                resolve(orderId);
            }, 2000);
        }
    });
}

function proceedToPayment(orderId) {
    console.log(" Proceeding to payment for:", orderId);
}
```

Now the **async function** that calls this:

```
async function placeOrder(cart) {
  try {
    const orderId = await createOrder(cart); // waits for promise
    proceedToPayment(orderId); // runs only if successful
} catch (error) {
    console.log(" X Error:", error); // catches rejection
} finally {
    console.log("  Order process finished (success or fail).");
}

placeOrder(["item1", "item2"]); // Call the async function
```

## How It Works Behind the Scenes

## ✓ If cart is valid:

```
    placeOrder() is called
    await createOrder(cart) waits 2 seconds
    It gets resolved → orderId returned
    proceedToPayment(orderId) is called
    finally runs
```

#### **Console Output:**

### X If cart is empty:

- 1. await createOrder([]) immediately throws an error
- 2. Control jumps to catch block
- 3. finally still runs

#### **Console Output:**

# Comparison Table

Feature	.then/.catch Version	async/await Version
Readability	Can get messy with many .then() chains	Cleaner, reads top-down like sync code
Error Handling	Handled in .catch()	Use try/catch block
Cleanup Logic	<pre>Use .finally()</pre>	Use finally block after try/catch
Async Control	Less natural flow	Feels more like synchronous code

### multiple chained steps

- createOrder(cart)
- proceedToPayment(orderId)
- generateInvoice(paymentInfo)
- sendEmail(invoice)

# ✓ 1. Using .then() Chaining

```
function createOrder(cart) {
  return new Promise((resolve, reject) => {
    setTimeout(() => {
      if (cart.length === 0) return reject("Cart is empty");
      resolve("ORD1234");
    }, 1000);
});
```

```
function proceedToPayment(orderId) {
      return new Promise((resolve) => {
            setTimeout(() => {
                  resolve({ orderId, status: "PAID" });
            }, 1000);
     });
}
function generateInvoice(paymentInfo) {
      return new Promise((resolve) => {
            setTimeout(() => {
                  resolve({ invoiceId: "INV5678", ...paymentInfo });
           }, 1000);
     });
}
function sendEmail(invoice) {
      return new Promise((resolve) => {
            setTimeout(() => {
                  resolve(`Email sent for invoice ${invoice.invoiceId}`);
            }, 1000);
     });
}
// Promise chaining version
const cart = ["item1", "item2"];
createOrder(cart)
       .then((orderId) => {
            console.log("✓ Order Created:", orderId);
            return proceedToPayment(orderId);
      })
       .then((paymentInfo) => {
            console.log(" Payment Done:", paymentInfo);
            return generateInvoice(paymentInfo);
      })
       .then((invoice) => {
            console.log("  Invoice Generated:", invoice);
            return sendEmail(invoice);
       .then((emailStatus) => {
            console.log("\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overlin
       .catch((err) => {
            console.log("X Error:", err);
      })
       .finally(() \Rightarrow {
           console.log(" / Process Complete");
      });
```

# ✓ 2. Using async/await (cleaner version)

```
async function placeFullOrder(cart) {
  try {
    const orderId = await createOrder(cart);
    console.log(" ☑ Order Created:", orderId);

  const paymentInfo = await proceedToPayment(orderId);
  console.log(" ☒ Payment Done:", paymentInfo);

  const invoice = await generateInvoice(paymentInfo);
  console.log(" ☒ Invoice Generated:", invoice);

  const emailStatus = await sendEmail(invoice);
  console.log(" ☒ ", emailStatus);
} catch (error) {
  console.log(" ☒ Error:", error);
} finally {
  console.log(" ☒ Process Complete");
}
}
placeFullOrder(["item1", "item2"]);
```

# Summary of Flow

Step	What Happens
createOrder(cart)	Creates an order and returns an order ID
<pre>proceedToPayment()</pre>	Simulates payment and returns payment info
<pre>generateInvoice()</pre>	Generates an invoice from payment info
sendEmail()	Sends an email and returns confirmation

## Key Concepts

- Each function returns a Promise, allowing chaining or awaiting.
- await pauses execution until the promise is resolved.
- **Error handling** is centralized with catch or try/catch.
- Clean separation of concerns: each function does one job.

## **Scenario**

You're calling the GitHub API like this:

```
const GITHUB_API = "https://api.github.com/users/your-username";
const user = fetch(GITHUB_API);
console.log(user); // Logs: Promise {<pending>}
```

At this point, user is a **Promise**, and its status is:

```
[[PromiseState]]: "pending"
[[PromiseResult]]: undefined
```

What's Happening Behind the Scenes?

Let's break this into steps like a flow:

#### **☑** Step 1: Initiating the Request

```
const user = fetch(GITHUB_API);
```

- The fetch() function immediately returns a Promise.
- It **does not** wait for the network call to complete.
- This is why you see:

```
[[PromiseState]]: "pending"[[PromiseResult]]: undefined
```

#### (L) Step 2: Promise is Asynchronous

- The Promise is **non-blocking** it continues running in the background.
- JavaScript doesn't stop execution; it keeps going to the next line.

#### Step 3: Response Arrives

After a few milliseconds or seconds:

- If successful:
  - o [[PromiseState]] becomes "fulfilled"
  - [[PromiseResult]] becomes the **Response object**
- If failed:
  - o [[PromiseState]] becomes "rejected"

[[PromiseResult]] becomes an Error

#### Step 4: Handling the Response

You use .then() to handle the result:

```
user
.then(response => response.json())
.then(data => {
   console.log(data); // GitHub user data!
})
.catch(err => {
   console.error(err); // If fetch failed
});
```

### Final Flow Recap:

```
    fetch() → returns Promise { pending }
    API call starts in background
    Meanwhile JS continues running
    When fetch resolves:

            if success → then() callback runs
            if failure → catch() callback runs
```

This asynchronous, event-driven model allows JavaScript to remain **fast and responsive**, even when handling I/O like network calls.

## X Callback Hell Example

```
createOrder(cart, function (orderId) {
  proceedToPayment(orderId, function (paymentInfo) {
    showOrderSummary(paymentInfo, function (balance) {
      updateWalletBalance(balance);
    });
  });
});
```

△ **This structure is called the** "*Pyramid of Doom*" because the code grows **horizontally** with every nested callback.

#### 

- Ugly ❖
- Hard to maintain 🖏
- Difficult to debug

### ✓ Promise to the Rescue with Promise Chaining

```
createOrder(cart)
   .then(function (orderId) {
    return proceedToPayment(orderId);
})
   .then(function (paymentInfo) {
    return showOrderSummary(paymentInfo);
})
   .then(function (balance) {
    return updateWalletBalance(balance);
});
```

### Using Arrow Functions for Better Readability

```
createOrder(cart)
   .then(orderId => proceedToPayment(orderId))
   .then(paymentInfo => showOrderSummary(paymentInfo))
   .then(balance => updateWalletBalance(balance));
```

#### 

If you **forget to** return inside .then(), the next .then() gets undefined, breaking the chain!

#### X Wrong:

```
createOrder(cart)
  .then(orderId => {
    proceedToPayment(orderId); // Forgot return
})
  .then(paymentInfo => showOrderSummary(paymentInfo))
  .then(balance => updateWalletBalance(balance));
```

### ✓ Right:

With Arrow Function

```
createOrder(cart)
   .then(orderId => proceedToPayment(orderId)) // Proper return
   .then(paymentInfo => showOrderSummary(paymentInfo))
   .then(balance => updateWalletBalance(balance));
```

### Normal Example

```
createOrder(cart)
  .then(function (orderId) {
    return proceedToPayment(orderId);
})
  .then(function (paymentInfo) {
    return showOrderSummary(paymentInfo);
})
  .then(function (balance) {
    return updateWalletBalance(balance);
});
```

## **☑** Summary

Feature	Callback Hell	Promise Chaining
Readability	Hard to read	✓ Cleaner & structured
Maintenance	Difficult	<b>S</b> Easier to update
Flow control	X Nested logic mess	✓ Straight linear flow
Error handling	<b>⊘</b> Manual	☑ Built-in with .catch()