

EdX and its Members use cookies and other tracking technologies for performance, analytics, and marketing purposes. By using this website, you accept this use. Learn more about these technologies in the [Privacy Policy](#).



[Course](#) > [Expres...](#) > [Imple...](#) > HTTP R...

HTTP Responses

The response object is also accessible via routing handlers in Express because it is the second argument in the handler's callback:

```
app.get('/users/:id', function (request, response) {  
  // 'response' is the enhanced response from http  
})
```

The response object is used to send the response and to modify an HTTP response before sending it out.

Express Response Method

The Express response object has additional methods to the core http's `statusCode()`, `writeHead()`, `end()` and `write()`.

- `response.redirect(url)`: redirect request
- `response.send(data)`: send response
- `response.json(data)`: send JSON and force proper headers
- `response.sendFile(path, options, callback)`: send a file
- `response.render(templateName, locals, callback)`: render a template
- `response.locals`: pass data to template

HTTP Status Codes

To specify a status code, use the response object's **status** function:

```
app.get('/user/:id', function (request, response) {  
  // Logic to check for user  
  if (!exists) {  
    response.status(404)  
  } else if (authorized) {  
    response.status(200)  
  } else {  
    response.status(401)  
  }  
  // ...  
})
```

HTTP Status Codes

- 2XX: for successfully processed requests
- 3XX: for redirections or cache information
- 4XX: for client-side errors
- 5XX: for server-side errors

Note: for 3xx status codes, the client must take additional action following the completion of the current request

Sending a Response

Use the response object's **send** function to send the client a response:

```
app.get('...', function (request, response) {  
  response.send('Hello World!')  
})
```

Sending a Response

The content-type is determined given the type of argument passed:

```
response.send('Hello World!')           // Content-type: text/plain
response.send([ 5, 7, 9 ])               // Content-type: application/json
response.send({ name: 'John Doe' })      // Content-type: application/json
```

Sending a Response

The content-type can also be hardcoded:

```
response.set('Content-Type', 'text/plain')
response.send('Just regular text, no html expected!')
```

Sending an Empty Response

Some status codes like 204 do not support (according to the W3C specs) a body. Express allows you to send an empty body:

```
response.status(204).end()
```

Other status codes can be also used with an empty body:

```
response.status(404).end()
```