About Javascript (JS)

- No relation to Java
 - Was a marketing effort gone bad
 - Vaguely C-style syntax is only similarity
 - True of LOTS of languages
- No reference version
 - Battled out by different vendors
 - Technically most aren't JavaScript(TM)
- ECMA is the source of standards
 - JS is also ES
 - Versions numbered or by year
 - ES6 or ES2015

This is not a JavaScript course

...but we will use a lot of it

- Server
 - our webservers written in it
 - outside course: you may use other languages
- Client
 - "vanilla" JS in browser
 - React framework in browser
 - some form of JS only option for browser!

Going more in-depth this semester

• CSS/HTML was fast and shallow

New to JavaScript? No problem!

No expectation of any experience with Javascript

Or even much experience with coding

Those with experience in other languages

- Expect to learn different ways!
- Don't be tricked by false cognates!

Ask Questions!

Very important to get any confusion clarified

- We build a lot on this foundation
- You can get further behind if you struggle silently

Hello World!

```
console.log('hello world');
```

We'll look at the parts involved soon

Running the Hello World

```
console.log('hello world');
```

- Run in the Browser console
- Run at the command line with NodeJS
 - A version of the Chrome JS engine!

Node JS and the command line

Running Node enters a "REPL":

node

Each line is Read, Evaluated, and Printed

Then it asks for a new line (Loop = REPL)

Ctrl-C to exit

Browser console is also a REPL!

Running for real

A REPL is great to spot-check code or syntax

• Not how we run most code

Create a .js file and run it with node:

```
// hello.js
console.log('hello world');

# at command line
node hello.js
```

Experiment!

Lots of learning through experimentation

- You can copy and change versions of files
- Non-coders wish they had this power
- (insert evil villain laugh)

```
console.log('hello world');
console.log('is this a new line?');

console.log('do spaces collapse like HTML?');

console.log('what about spanning lines?');
```

Variables

```
let message = 'Hello world';
console.log(message);
```

- message is a variable
- 'Hello world' is a value
 - a "string" of characters
- let is the declaration
 - telling JS we want message to be a variable
 - and not a typo
 - allows JS do tweak performance

Strict Mode

What if we omit let?

```
message = 'Hello world';
console.log(message);
```

JS allows a lot of "sloppy" code

- You don't want that
- "Strict mode" disables some sloppy options

```
'use strict';
messsage = 'Hello world';
console.log(message);
```

ALWAYS use strict mode (start of file or function)

• I often skip for space

What's with the semicolons?

A **statement** is a command to JS engine

- statements are either a block in curly braces ({})
 - (more on blocks shortly)
 - or end in a semicolon (;)
- So semicolons separate instructions

```
let message = 'hello world'; console.log(message);
```

VS

```
let message = 'hello world' console.log(message)
```

Are semicolons required?

Can't I just use new lines like Python?

- Yes and No
 - Currently in debate in the community
- JS will "guess" at EOL (end of line)
 - ALMOST ALWAYS correct (not always)

Python (and devs) KNOW statement ends at EOL

• JS (and devs) do NOT know this

```
console
.log('hello world');
```

FOR THIS COURSE: semicolons are required!

Variables and Values

variables hold values

You can change the value held

```
let name = 'Amit';
let otherName = 'Bao';
console.log(name, otherName);

otherName = name;
name = 'Charles';
console.log(name, otherName);
```

Copying sets a variable to the value

- not to the variable
- otherName above didn't become charles

Some more syntax snuck in there!

variables are named in camelCase

- no spaces
- first word lowercase
- later words have first letter capitalized

assignment (the =)

- doesn't REQUIRE spaces (let name='Bao'; works)
- but I do require the spaces!
 - Code is for humans to read

Naming things

Naming things is:

- Really important
 - Programming is communication
- Really hard!
 - Seniors spend a LOT of time changing names

Most common mistake from a new dev is poor naming

- "I'll fix it later"
 - You benefit from fixing it immediately!
 - You suffer from poor names immediately!

Variable names

Variable names should

- convey what the value means
- make sense in context
- NOT be so long they are gibberish
 - Looking at you, Java!
- NOT be too brief
 - Don't use abbreviations that aren't obvious
 - Don't use abbreviations that aren't needed
 - Ex: phone, not ph or phn

Declaring Variables with const

let is not the only way to declare variables

- const declares a variable
 - Unlike let, you CANNOT reassign a const
 - Distinct from "constant" (different concepts)
 - We do this with ~90% of our variables
 - Using const passively provides information
 - But only if you use it where you can
 - Programming is communication

```
const message = 'Hello World';
console.log(message);
message = 'Suckers!'; // Throws error
```

Declaring variables with var

You can also declare variables with var

- But you shouldn't
- Only used for old JS engines (IE 10 and earlier)
- May see it on docs because not everyone cares

var is older and has more "cruft"

- "hoists" variables
 - more later
- Declares to function scope, not block scope
 - more later
- Pollutes global scope when not in another scope

What are Constants

- We said const is not a "constant"
- So what is a constant?

Constants are variables that do not normally change

- Even outside the run of program
- Pi is a constant, Company name is a constant
- If you have two choice for a "location" variable?
 - those are constants
- Often stored to avoid need to search/replace
- Use constant_case (all caps, underscores)
- const COMPANY_NAME = "Jorts Inc";

Function calls

A **function** is a collection of statements

- that can be **passed** values
- and can **return** a value

Functions are called with ()

- any values passed are passed inside the ()
- this is what we do with console.log()

Function demo

```
function hello() {
  console.log('hello world');
  console.log('this was fun');
}
```

But nothing happened!

• We didn't **call** the function

```
function hello() {
  console.log('hello world');
  console.log('this was fun');
}
hello();
hello();
```

• Notice the function definition is a **block**

Function Names

Functions are usually named with **verbs**

- Often with **verbNoun** or similar
 - Ex: setColor, getAge, calculateWeight
- Says what the function does
 - and to what, or why, or when
- JS Functions are camelcase style
 - Same as JS variables
 - Squish words together
 - Capitalized except for first

Passing values to a function

```
function greet( message, target ) {
  console.log(message + " " + target);
}

greet('hello', 'world');

const greeting = 'heyas';
  greet(greeting, 'class');
```

- function definition lists **parameters**
 - during call they are considered arguments
- function gets the value (not the variable)
 - declares its own variables
 - no let/const/var required
- | used to append strings
 - more soon

Function has its own variables

```
const message = 'hello';
const target = 'world';

function greet(message, audience) {
  console.log(message + " " + audience);
  message = "heyas";
  console.log(message);
}

greet(message, target);
console.log(message);
```

- the outer message did NOT change value
- audience got the value of target

Scope

Scope refers to where a variable and value are visible

- JS has "lexical" scoping
- A block (incl function) is a scope (except for var)
- If variable not defined in this scope,
 - check enclosing scope

```
const cat1 = 'Nyancat';
const cat2 = 'Jean';

function butterTheCat() {
  const cat1 = 'Jorts';
  console.log(cat1);
  console.log(cat2);
}

butterTheCat();
```

Scope Best Practices

Sometimes you use outer scope variables in functions

- usually "shared" values
 - when functions only used in that context

Mostly you want to explicitly pass values to functions

- Explicit shows where they came from
- Makes it safer to change values
- Makes function easier to reuse

Functions are values!

JS functions are "first-class citizens"

- meaning they are a value like any other value
- can be stored in a variable
 - already are, just hidden in syntax!
- can be passed to functions
- can be returned by functions

Most of that we won't do YET, but we will

- For now understand a function is a value
- when used without ()

Function as a value

```
function hello(target) {
  console.log( 'hello ' + target );
}

const greet = hello; // Copying function value
  greet('world');
```

- the // is a comment until EOL
 - ignored by computer, only for humans
- greet and hello are variables
 - holding a function value
 - greet() (or hello()) calls the function

Functions can return a value

• using return keyword

```
function grantTitle( name ) {
  return name + ' The Great';
}

const name = 'Jorts';

console.log( grantTitle(name) ); // Jorts The Great
```

return stops function

As soon as the return happens, function stops running

```
function grantTitle( name ) {
  return name + 'The Great';
  console.log('we cannot all be great'); // never happens
}

const name = 'Jorts';

console.log( grantTitle(name) ); // Jorts The Great
```

Types

- A function value is a value
- A string value is a value

What else can a variable hold?

- strings
- functions
- numbers
- booleans
- arrays
- objects
- null
- undefined

Numbers

JS treats all numbers as one type

• Integer OR floating-point (decimal numbers)

```
let score = 90;
const grade = 'A-';

score = score + 1;
console.log(score); // 91
score += 4;
console.log(score); // 95
score += 0.2;
console.log(score); // 95.2
```

Caution about numbers

Computers store numbers in binary

• binary struggles with certain numbers

```
console.log(0.1 + 0.2);
```

- Not a JS problem
 - a computer problem
- If precision is important (banking, rocketry)
 - use special libraries

JS Variables are Dynamically Typed

- Some languages "statically typed" (Java, C)
- Some languages "dynamically typed" (JS, Python)

dynamically-typed: the type comes from the VALUE

Not the variable

```
let score = 90; // Number
console.log(score);
score = 'A-'; // string
console.log(score);
```

JS Variables are Weakly typed

- Some languages "strongly typed" (Java, Python)
- Some languages "weakly typed" (JS, C)

Weak typing means values will be **coerced** to match

```
const score = 90; // Number
console.log(score + 1); // 91, a Number
console.log(score + '-'); // '90-', a String
```

Most of the time coercion is bad/risky!

- You should explicitly convert types
- One exception, coming up soon

When is a number not a number?

Nan is a special value

• A Number that represents "not a number"

```
console.log( 'Jorts' / 9 ); // NaN
```

- Doesn't throw an error (yet)
- results in NaN

Boolean values

"Boolean" is another kind of value

- true Or false
- Not 'true' or 'false', not strings
- Note for Python users: NOT True or False
- is the "negation" operator, it gives the inverse:

```
console.log(true);
console.log(!true);
```

Conditionals: What "If"

A conditional is an essential part of coding

• Make something happen IF some condition is true

```
const check = true;
if (check) {
  console.log('Check passed!');
} else {
  console.log('Check was not valid');
}
```

Or else what?

else is optional

```
const check = true;
if (check) {
  console.log('Check passed');
}
```

Can also chain with else if

```
const check = true;
const extra = false;

if (check) {
  console.log('Check passed!');
} else if (extra) {
  console.log('Check was not valid but extra was');
} else {
  console.log('Nothing was true');
}
```

if is a block

The if and else are each accept a **statement**

- can have a block or just one command
- but you should always have a block

```
// JS allows but you shouldn't do:
const check = true;
if (check)
  console.log('wow!');
```

Why not? See this:

```
// Not working as intended
const check = false;
if (check)
  console.log('wow!');
  console.log('check was true!'); // Not in the `if`
```

The condition is a boolean expression

An **expression** returns a value

- The condition evaluates an expression as a boolean
- Many operators return a boolean value

 - |>, |<, |<=, |>=, |!==

```
const name = 'Jorts';
if ( name === 'Jorts' ) {
  console.log('Hi Jorts!');
} else {
  console.log('Who are you?');
}
```

Loose comparison

- |= is assignment
- |=== is strict comparison
- what is ==?
 - loose comparison
 - allows coercion before comparing

```
if ( '1' === 1 ) {
  console.log('this does not happen');
} else if (1 == '1') {
  console.log('this does happen');
}
```

Coercion is bad! Mostly

Normally we want strict comparison (===)

• Predictable

One big exception

- When the coercion is to a boolean value
- This is known as **truthy/falsy**

Truthy/Falsy

These values are **falsy** (coerce to false when boolean)

- false (no surprise)
- [(empty string, no characters)
- (the number o)
- NaN (a number that is not a number)
- null and undefined (values that aren't values)
 - more to come on these

Anything else is **truthy** (coerce to true when boolean)

When is a value not a value?

Most programming languages have a value to represent "no actual value"

- represents an "empty string"
 - a string with no characters
 - but it is still a string!
- What is a non-value?

JS is twice as good, because it has TWO such values

- this is sarcasm
- null means "set to no value"
- undefined means "never had a value"

Variables are undefined if not assigned a value

```
let message;
console.log(message);
```

Functions with no explicit return will return undefined

```
function charlieOnTheMta() {
  console.log('this function does not return a value');
}
let returned = charlieOnTheMta();
console.log(returned);
```

In fact, that's what console.log() does:

```
console.log(console.log());
```

Other places to see undefined

- Functions may return undefined as a "no match" result
- Will show up in objects/arrays too
 - Foreshadowing!

Functions always return a value

If your function doesn't return an explicit value

- or if it just has return;
- it will return undefined
- that's what console.log() does
 - prints to screen
 - but always returns undefined

Function Parameters

Only one version of a function exists at a time

- regardless of how many values you pass to it
- fewer than expected and other values default
 - normal default is undefined
- more than expected and extras ignored

```
function demo( one, two, three ) {
  console.log( one );
  console.log( two );
  console.log( three );
}

demo( 'one' ); // one undefined undefined
  demo( 'one', 'two', 'three', 'four' ); // one two three
```

Function defaults

You can provide different defaults for parameters

```
function demo( one, two='Jorts', three ) {
  console.log( one );
  console.log( two );
  console.log( three );
}

demo( 'one' ); // one Jorts undefined
  demo( 'one', 'two', 'three', 'four' ); // one two three
```

Using undefined and null

- Never explicitly assign undefined
 - only check for it
 - use null if you need to assign
 - also rare
 - often we use a value already undefined
- "Nullish coalescing operator" when falsy wrong
 - More on that later

Why do we like truthy/falsy?

Compare (| is "or" and & is "and")

```
if (!name) {
  console.log('A name is required');
}

if ( name === '' || name === undefined || name === null ) {
  console.log('A name is required');
}
```

Programming is communication

• which is easier to follow?

Why is this nonsensical?

```
if ( name == '' || name == undefined || name == null ) {
  console.log('name is no good');
}
```

Hint: Try this

```
const name = null;
if ( name == '' || name == undefined ) {
  console.log('That was unexpected');
}
```

Be strict, or use truthy/falsy

• Basically never use ==

More on Strings

We've seen strings, but there is a lot more to them

• and we use it a lot!

Three forms of quoting

- Single quote 'a string';
- Double quote "a string";
- Backtick:

```
`a template literal`
```

Quoting a string

Which quotes you use mostly don't matter

- Some teams prefer double quote (")
- Some teams prefer single quote ()
- Some teams use backticks exclusively ()
- Some teams use them for different purposes
 - HTML works well with to have inside

```
o | '<a href="/cats">upgrade</a>'
```

- English works well with " to have ' inside
 - o "I'd hate this with single quotes"

Template Literals

What is a **template literal**?

- A string
- That can span lines
- And can **interpolate** variables inside \${}
 - nicer than using +

```
const name = "Jorts";
const greeting = `Hello ${name}, got snacks?`;
const longForm = "Hello " + name + " got snacks?";
console.log(greeting);
console.log(longForm)
console.log(` This is
    a multiline string`);
```

Defaulting values

We saw functions can have "default" arguments

```
function greet( message='Hello', target='World' ) {
  console.log(`${message} ${target}`);
}
greet(); // Hello World
greet('Heya'); // Heya World
greet('Heya', 'Class'); // Heya Class
```

But there are other ways to "default" values

• not just as function params

Short Circuiting

We saw [] is "or" and && is "and"

- These operators **short-circuit**
- When boolean result known left-hand argument
 - They don't evaluate the right
- They don't actually return a boolean value
 - They return a truthy/falsy value
 - They return the left or right hand value!

Demonstrating Short-Circuiting

```
function report() {
  console.log('Did Stuff');
  return 5; // a distinct truthy value for demo
}

const one = 0 && report(); // 0 is falsy
console.log(one); // 0 - short-circuited

const two = 7 && report(); // non-0 numbers are truthy
console.log(two); // Did Stuff 5 - checked both

const three = 8 || report();
console.log(three); // 8 - short circuited

const four = 0 || report();
console.log(four); // Did Stuff 5 - checked both
```

Defaulting with short circuiting

```
let name = getName(); // some random function somewhere
name = name || 'Jorts';
console.log(name);
```

- If name was a truthy value, it is unchanged
- If name was a falsy value, it is now Jorts
- This "defaults" name to Jorts

```
let name = getName();
name ||= 'Jorts'; // same thing, newer operator (mid-2020)
console.log(name);
```

Nullish Coalescing

Falsy values include 0, NaN, false, and ''

- Those are still values though
- How to "default" only values that are non-values?
 - null and undefined

Answer: The nullish-coalescing operator (??)

- works like | | EXCEPT
 - returns right side if left is null or undefined
- | ??= similarly like | | |=

Demonstrating Nullish Coalescing

```
const one = '';
const two = null;

console.log( one ?? 'Should not happen' );
console.log( two ?? 'This should happen' );

let three = false;
let four;

three ??= 'Three';
four ??= 'Four';

console.log( three ); // false
console.log( four ); // Four
```

Conditional Operator

- condition ? A : B
- Also called "ternary operator"
 - Only JS operator with 3 parts

```
const test = true;
const result = test ? 'Jorts' : 'Jean';
console.log(result);
```

- Basically "If condition, then A, else B"
 - Expression, not a statement
 - Unlike if, this evalutates to a value (A or B)
- Most languages have this, JS uses a bit more often
 - Assign a value, not as flow-control

Defaulting with Conditional Operator

```
let name = getName(); // some random function somewhere
name = name : 'Jorts';
console.log(name);
```

Not better than the | | = version

• But it has additional flexibility

Setting value with Conditional Operator

Compare:

```
let coat;
if ( name === 'Jorts' ) {
  coat = 'buttered';
} else {
  coat = 'unbuttered';
}
```

To

```
const coat = name === 'Jorts' ? 'buttered' : 'unbuttered';
console.log(coat);
```

Compared to the if version

- Keeps focus on important code
- That's more vital/helpful than "shorter"!

Arrays (Lists)

An **array** is an ordered collection of values

- the **ordered** part is important
- accessed using numerical index (position)
- index starts at 0, not 1
 - Like Western-style ages

Declaring an Array

Arrays are created using [] (square brackets)

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean' ];
```

- array names are usually plural
 - Programming is communication
- values in array do not need to be same type
 - But usually are
- Array can span lines (like most JS)
- Trailing commas are okay (and even common)

```
const names = [
   'Jorts',
   'Jean',
];
```

Accessing Array Element

- An array **element** can be gotten by **index** in
 - no relation to HTML element

```
const names = [
   'Jorts',
   'Jean',
];
console.log( names[1] ); // Jean
```

You can treat an array element like any other value

- Notice we just passed one to a function
 - console.log()

```
const name = names[1];
const cats = [ names[1] ]; // [ 'Jorts' ]
```

Assigning to an element

An indexed element is both read AND write

```
const names = [
   'Jorts',
   'Jean',
];
names[1] = 'Nyan';

console.log( names[1] ); // Nyan
```

Wait, names is a const variable!

Why does this work?

const is not a constant

```
const names = [ 'Jorts' ];
names[0] = 'Jean';
```

Remember that const ONLY says the variable won't reassigned

names is still referring to the SAME array

- an array is a container for ordered elements
 - changing what is in the container doesn't change the container itself
- this change in a collection is known as **mutation**

Mutation in passing

Consider this:

```
let name = 'Jorts';
let color = 'orange';
let names = [ name ];

function change( name, color, names ) {
   name = 'Jean';
   color = 'tabby';
   names[0] = 'Nyan';
   names = ['Jean'];
}

change( name, color, names );
console.log( name, color, names );
```

Why did only the array mutate?

JS functions are passed VALUES

- but arrays are references to collections
 - Changing an element mutates the original collection
 - But replacing the local variable value doesn't alter original

This will come up a lot

- make sure it makes sense
 - or you will struggle with weird bugs later

Nested Arrays

Array elements can be any JS value

• including other arrays

```
const toys = [
  [ 'mousie', 'bed' ],
  [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer' ],
];
console.log( toys[0][1] ); // bed
```

Objects

JS Objects are a huge deal in JS

But very different from many other languages!

Objects are NOT

- Instances of a class (usually
- Defined by a class

Objects ARE

- Collections of elements
- Indexed by a string "key"
- Often used as "dictionaries" or "hashmaps"

Declaring an Object

Objects are declared with **curly braces** ({ })

- values of keys (**properties**) are any JS value
 - including arrays, objects, and functions
 - keys separated from values by a colon (:)
 - keys must be unique (they will overwrite)
- different key/value pairs are comma-separated
 - Trailing commas allowed and common

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  toys: [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer'],
};
```

More about Object Declaration

- { } like a block, but it is not one
- keys are strings
 - do not require quotes unless invalid variables
 - special chars, start with numbers, etc
- keys should usually be camelCase
 - just like variable names
 - except when key is data (such as NEU ID)

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  toys: [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer'],
};
```

Object Shorthand

Objects often built from other variables

```
const name = 'Jorts';
const age = 3;
const toys = [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer'];

const cat = {
  name: name,
  age: age,
  items: toys,
};
```

Shorthand notation highlights when name is different

```
const cat = { // Same result as above
  name,
  age,
  items: toys,
};
```

Accessing an Object Element

A value in an object is called a **property**

• Unless the value is a function, then it is a **method**

Values are accessed by using **dot notation**

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  toys: [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer'],
};
console.log( cat.name );
```

Bracket notation

- When a property name isn't a valid variable name
 - special characters, etc
- Or is coming from a variable

You can use **bracket notation** to get the value

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  'fav toys': [ 'mousie', 'laser pointer'],
};

console.log( cat['fav toys'] ); // cat.fav toys won't work

const property = 'name';
console.log( cat[property] ); // cat.property won't work
```

Computed Property Name

You can assign to a property name by variable using bracket notation:

```
const cat = {};
const someVariable = 'name';
cat[someVariable] = 'Jorts';

console.log(cat.name); // Jorts
```

You can also create the object in similar way:

```
const someVariable = 'name';
const cat = {
   [someVariable]: 'Jorts',
};
console.log(cat.name); // Jorts
```

Object properties default to undefined

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
};
console.log( cat.color ); // undefined
```

Does NOT throw an error

undefined is NOT an object though:

```
const cat = { age: 3 };
console.log( cat.name.first );
```

Error: Cannot read properties of undefined

Methods

An object property that is a function is a **method**

• In JS a function is a value like any other value

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  play: function() { // function name is always optional!
     console.log('Checks to see if gravity still works');
  },
};
cat.play();
```

A JS function is a value that is callable

- Can be assigned to variables
- When declared, function name creates a variable
 - Function name is always optional!
 - You need some way to call the function
 - Can call a method via object key
 - A function declared as a value
 - only creates variable in own scope

```
const hello = function() {
  console.log('hello world');
};
hello();
```

Objects vs Arrays

Many new JS devs overuse Arrays and underuse Objects

- Arrays only make sense if:
 - The specific order matters
 - AND you access elements by order most of the time

Quite often you have items not accessed by order

- Student records
- Recipe names
- Inventory selections

What to use as an object key?

Use some identifying value

• common to repeat value in object

```
const students = {
    '1234': {
      neuId: '1234',
      name: 'Amit',
      grade: 89,
    },
    '2345': {
      neuId: '2345',
      name: 'Bao',
      grade: 94,
    }
};
```

Changing an element

Like arrays, an element is both read AND write

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
};

cat.age = 4;
console.log( cat.age );
```

Notice we mutated the const cat!

- An object is a reference to a collection of values
 - Like arrays

Mutation in passing (object version)

This works just like with arrays:

```
let name = 'Jorts';
let color = 'orange';
let names = [ name ];
let cat = { name, color };
// above same as { name: name, color: color }

function change( name, color, names, cat ) {
   name = 'Jean';
   color = 'tabby';
   names[0] = 'Nyan';
   names = ['Jean'];
   cat.name = 'Maru';
   cat = { name, color };
}

change( name, color, names, cat );
console.log( name, color, names, cat );
```

Adding a property/method

Define a new property by assigning

• even if the property never existed before

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
};

cat.age = 3;

console.log( cat ); // { name: 'Jorts', age: 3 }
```

Notice: Mutating a const collection

Deleting a property

Setting a property to null (or undefined) does NOT delete it

• it is still an existing, enumerable property

Instead, use delete keyword

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jean',
  age: 5,
};
delete cat.age;
console.log( cat ); // { name: 'Jean' }
```

Notice: Mutating a const collection

Weird Secret of JS objects

- Every value in JS is a **primitive** or an **object**
 - Primitives: string, number, boolean, undefined, null
 - Primitives can't mutate (immutable)
 - Can only be replaced by new values
 - BUT all primitives have object versions
 - "autoboxing"
 - allows you to call methods on that type

```
const num = 1/3; // 0.3333333
console.log( num.toFixed(2) ); // 0.33
console.log( (1/3).toFixed(2) ); // Parens so dot is clear
```

All primitives have autoboxed properties/methods

```
const name = 'Jorts';
console.log( name.toUpperCase() ); // JORTS
console.log( name.length ); // 5
```

No primitive method mutates the value

- has to return a new value
- example: .toUpperCase() above

Non-primitives are all objects

- arrays and functions(!) are technically objects
 - "an object" usually means "plain" objects
 - But they are actually objects
 - have properties
 - and methods
 - and can mutated

Chaining

The **dot operator** lets you access properties on the value to the left

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  toy: {
    name: 'mousie',
    texture: 'fuzzy',
    hasCatnip: true,
  },
};

console.log( cat.name );
console.log( cat.toy.texture );
```

chaining is when the value to the left came from another evaluation

Chaining can break

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  toy: {
    name: 'mousie',
    texture: 'fuzzy',
    hasCatnip: true,
  },
};

console.log( cat.age ); // undefined, but no error
  console.log( cat.color.markings ); // Throws error
```

Optional Chaining can help

The **optional chaining** operator can help

• If the value chained from is **nullish**

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  toy: {
    name: 'mousie',
    texture: 'fuzzy',
    hasCatnip: true,
  },
};

console.log( cat?.age ); // undefined
  console.log( cat.color?.markings ); // also undefined
  console.log( cat?.color?.markings ); // also undefined
  console.log( cat?.color?.markings ); // also undefined
  console.log( cat.meow?.() ); // works with functions too
```

Don't overuse optional chaining!

Optional chaining is great to avoid a lot of

```
if( cat && cat.color.markings ) {
   //...
}
```

- But don't use it to silence errors
 - The error is still there!
 - Now just harder find the source
- Use optional chaining only when a nullish value
 - an expected and valid option

Common Array methods

- Arrays methods can mutate array
- Adding an element:
 - .unshift(item); adds item to start of array
 - .push(item); adds item to end of array
- Removing an element:
 - shift(); returns item removed from start
 - lpop(); returns items removed from end
 - splice(...); returns items removed
 - ... here means "there's stuff in there"
- See MDN for more on these and other methods

Loops

Loops are a thing in coding

- Same instruction
- Done multiple times
- Often done a number of times based on data
- Or done for each piece of data in a collection

for loops

for loops are a very common loop style

• but we have a few ways to use them

C-Style for loops

C-style for loops - not that common!

```
for ( let index = 0; index < 10; index++ ) { // ++ is += 1
  console.log(`running with index ${index}`);
}</pre>
```

- for is a statement, **should be a block**
 - just like if
- LOOKS like a function, but isn't
 - 3 statements inside (), between ;
 - initializer, runs at start
 - condition, checks before an iteration
 - accumulator, runs after an iteration

Using C-style for loop

New JS devs may mimic other languages

• use c-style for loops to iterate over array

```
const names = ['Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan'];
for( let index = 0; index < names.length; index++ ) {
  console.log( names[index] );
}</pre>
```

But this isn't the best way

- We rarely care about index here
- We just use it to get the element

for...of loop

The for...of loop iterates over the ELEMENTS

• not the index

```
const names = ['Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan'];
for( let name of names ) {
  console.log( name );
}
```

- less cognitive overhead
- easier to follow
- easier to focus

for...in loop

The name is confusingly similar to for...of

- iterates over object property keys
- not array elements

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  color: 'orange',
};

for ( let key in cat ) {
  console.log( key );
  console.log( cat[key] );
}
```

About for...in

Object properties used to be in unpredictable order

- still weird if you change properties while in loop
- in recent years order became stable

You can also get an array of properties using Object.keys()

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
  color: 'orange',
};

console.log( Object.keys(cat) );// [ name, age, color ]
  console.log( Object.values(cat) );// [ 'Jorts', 3, 'orange' ]
```

Common interview question!

```
for( var i = 0; i < 10; i++ ) {
  console.log(i);
}
console.log(i);</pre>
```

What is the output?

• Also seen with a time-delayed output

```
for( var i = 0; i < 10; i++ ) {
    setTimeout( function() { // Called ~1 second later
        console.log(i);
    }, 1000);
}</pre>
```

Answer

```
for( var i = 0; i < 10; i++ ) {
  console.log(i);
}
console.log(i);</pre>
```

What is the output?

- prints o through 10
- var is function-scoped not block-scoped
 - only one i variable
- var is hoisted
 - Exists before and after for loop
 - Not just inside

Delayed answer

```
for( var i = 0; i < 10; i++ ) {
   setTimeout( function() { // Called ~1 second later
      console.log(i);
   }, 1000);
}</pre>
```

- Prints 10 10 times
- Only one i variable
- i has 10 after loop
 - That is what gets output

Block-scoped loop

```
for( let i = 0; i < 10; i++ ) {
  console.log(i);
}
console.log(i);</pre>
```

- prints 0-9
- Errors at end (i is not defined)
- const would fail (can't reassign (i++;))
 - const would work with for..of loop

Callbacks

A pattern used a lot in JS is the callback

A callback is a function passed to another function

- Not passing the result of calling
- Passing the uncalled function itself

Example callback

```
const students = {
  maru: 87,
  'grumpy cat': 65
};
```

```
const checkGrades = function( students, onStruggle ) {
  for( let name of Object.keys(students) ) {
    if( students[name] < 80 ) {
      onStruggle(name, students[name]);
    }
  }
};

const tellTeacher = function( student, grade ) {
  console.log(`${student} is getting a ${grade}`);
};

checkGrades(students, tellTeacher);</pre>
```

Why is that cool

checkGrades doesn't "know" much

- knows WHEN to call callback
- doesn't know what callback does
- decoupled

tellTeacher doesn't know why it is being called

- knows what to do
- doesn't know when it is called
- doesn't know where info came from

Callbacks are very flexible

Callbacks allow for logic to be used for different things

In another setup, the exact same tellTeacher() could be used to report star students

In another setup, the exact same checkGrade() could be used to email the student a warning

Arrays have even more methods

Many of them use callbacks

forEach array method

Callback will be called for each element

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan' ];o

function sayName( name ) {
  console.log(name);
}

names.forEach( sayName );
```

Callback functions are often defined "inline"

If a function is only used as a callback

• often defined where it is passed:

```
names.forEach( function( name ) {
  console.log(name);
});
```

This is cumbersome, so a shorter format is often used

• "fat arrow functions"

Fat arrow functions

- -> is commonly called "arrow" in coding
 - But isn't used (yet) in JS
 - This format uses =>
 - thus "fat arrow"
 - coding has lots of fun names
 - Shuttle (<=>), Elvis (?:), etc

JS uses the fat arrow to succinctly define a function

- NEVER defines a variable
- HAS to be used as a value

Fat Arrow syntax

- to the left of the => are the parameters
 - in parens (())
 - But if EXACTLY one parameter, parens optional
- to the right of the => is the statement
 - If not a block, will return the expression value

```
names.forEach( name => console.log(name) );
names.forEach( ( name ) => console.log(name) );
names.forEach( name => {
   console.log(name);
});
names.forEach( (name) => {
   console.log(name);
});
```

Dealing with Fat Arrow

Fat Arrow syntax can be a lot to process when you start

- You can go ahead and use function keyword functions
- But fat arrows are very common in web dev
 - So it is good to get familiar with the syntax

Array .sort() method

.sort() on an array sorts it

- IN PLACE (mutation)
- default: "asciibetically" ascending
 - NOT numeric

You can pass a callback that compares two params

to sort in the order you like

```
const nums = [ 100, 5, 2 ];
nums.sort(); // default sorting
console.log( nums ); // [ 100, 2, 5 ]
nums.sort( (a, b) => a - b ); // neg to sort "earlier"
console.log( nums ); // [ 2, 5, 100 ];
```

Array .join() method

Returns a string of the elements joined together

• uses a passed string in between elements

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan' ];
console.log( names.join() ); // 'JortsJeanNyan'
console.log( names.join('-') ); // 'Jorts-Jean-Nyan'
```

We will make use of this method, don't ignore it

Array .filter() method

Returns NEW array with elements that pass test

- test is a callback passed to filter
- callback is called with each element
 - if callback returns truthy value, element passes

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan' ];
const shortNames = names.filter( name => name.length < 5 );
console.log( names ); // [ 'Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan' ]
console.log( shortNames ); // [ 'Jean', 'Nyan' ]</pre>
```

Array .map() method

- Returns a NEW array
- with results of calling callback on each element

We will use this a lot to translate data into HTML strings

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan' ];
const listHtml = names
.map( name => `${name}
.join(''); // joins new array into one string
```

Spread operator

The **spread operator** works on arrays and attributes

• We will use this a lot later

The operator is ... before the variable name

• like the "stuff here" in for...in and for...of

The spread operator "spreads out" the contents

• used to fill up another container

Spreading arrays

```
const names = [ 'Jorts', 'Jean' ];
console.log( [ 'Nyan', names ] ); // array nested in array
console.log( [ 'Nyan', ...names ] ); // only one array
```

Fills array-like value with values from inside an array

• Rather than nesting array

Spreading objects

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  age: 3,
};

console.log({ color: 'orange', ...cat });
console.log({ ...cat, age: 5 }); // overwrites age from cat
```

Provides the key:value pairs from object

• if duplicate property key last value wins

Destructuring

- **destructure** removing structure
- creates variables with values from array/objects

Not something you immediately need

• but used often in web dev

Destructuring Arrays

Creates new variables with values from array

- You don't need all values
- Destructure with [] around variable names

```
const names = [`Jorts', 'Jean', 'Nyan'];
const [ first, second ] = names;
console.log(second); // Jean
```

Why would we do such a thing?

Why Destructure Arrays

Usually, we don't

But sometimes we have an array of different parts

- Such as a function that returns multiple values
 - functions can only return 1 value
 - 1 array is 1 value (containing many)
- You will see this in React

```
const [ studentInfo, semesterInfo ] = lookupStudent('Amit');
// Then do stuff with studentInfo and/or semesterInfo
```

Mentioning now so it won't be a total surprise later

Destructuring Objects

Creates new variables named after keys

- with matching values
- destructure with { } around variable names

```
const cat = {
  name: 'Jorts',
  color: 'orange',
  age: 3,
};

const { name, age } = cat;

console.log( name, age ); // there is no variable "color"
```

Why Destructure Objects

Much more common than destructuring arrays

- Allows you to work with values without object
- Reverse of Object shorthand

Also useful for faking "named function parameters"

- Pass a function an object of parameters
- function destructures object into parameters

Order of params (key/value pairs) doesn't matter!

- Each param is labeled with the name (the key)
- Particularly nice for boolean parameters

Named Function Parameters

```
function demo ({ name, useUpperCase, age }) {
  const useName = useUpperCase ? name.toUpperCase() : name;
  console.log( `${useName} is ${age} years old` );
}

const age = 3;

demo({ name: 'Jorts', age, useUpperCase: true });
```

Compare to:

```
function demo ( name, useUpperCase, age ) {
  const useName = useUpperCase ? name.toUpperCase() : name;
  console.log( `${useName} is ${age} years old` );
}

const age = 3;

demo('Jorts', true, age );
```

Fancier function param defaults

Normal function arguments can have defaults

• But omitting "middle" parameters is ugly

```
function greet( message='Hello', target='World' ) {
  console.log(`${message} ${target}`);
}
greet(); // Hello World
greet('Heya'); // Heya World
greet('Heya', 'Class'); // Heya Class
greet(undefined, 'Class'); // Hello Class (ugly)
```

Function defaults with param object

With named function params this gets nicer

- can omit any params
- usage is more clear

```
function greet({ message='Hello', target='World' }) {
  console.log(`${message} ${target}`);
}
greet({});
greet({ message: 'Heya' });
greet({ message: 'Heya', target: 'Class' });
greet({ target: 'Class' });
```

But greet() fails with an error!

```
• TypeError: Cannot read properties of undefined (reading 'message')
```

Read the Error messages!

The stacktrace may not be helpful after a while

- The first few lines are essential
- The message says what is wrong!

It is trying to destructure the passed object

- We passed no object
 - It is trying to destructure undefined

Don't guess randomly with errors! (not at first)

- You'll make a mess and not learn
- Understanding errors is a skill to learn

Defaulting the destructured object

We can default the object parameter too

```
function greet({ message='Hello', target='World' }={}) {
  console.log(`${message} ${target}`);
}
greet();
greet({target: 'Class'});
```

No more error, defaults even work

Using Named Function Parameters

I personally recommend using named function parameters like this

- Whenever you have 3+ params
- and/or function name has unclear param order
- and/or if you have boolean parameters
- and/or you have assorted defaults

Immediately Invoked Function Expression (IIFE)

IIFEs are used in browser JS code

- all code in an anonymous function
- this function is immediately run (invoked)

Because everything is in a function

- not in global scope
- no accidental global variables

```
(function() {
   // ... code here
})();
```

Some tools removing the need for this

Remember for now!

- Always 'use strict'
- Always use an IIFE in browser JS
 - Not NodeJS server code
- Do these even when my examples don't
- Later tools will do this for you

Javascript is probably not your first language

So you have some habits that may not apply to JS

- A common issue
- I'll highlight some common stumbling blocks

Javascript CAN be Object-Oriented

- But usually isn't
- JS Objects are rarely instances of classes
 - when they are the rules are different
 - inheritance works differently
- Native structures and syntax used a lot
 - Almost never instantiate typed Objects
 - ∘ e.g. new Array(), new Object(), etc
 - just use the native literal syntax []
 - Some concepts Map(), Set() are barely used
 - usually plain objects work fine!

Javascript uses duck-typing

If it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck...

- instanceof and typeof very rare
- usually only used to identify passed params
 - and there are traps there!
 - Example: typeof [] is 'object'
 - o instead Array.isArray([])

Typescript has different type-safety options

- but it too is unlike, say, Java
- not run-time enforced

null is fairly rare

Even though we never explicitly assign undefined

- We end up rarely assign null
- If you aren't initializing to a value, leave it as undefined
- Explicitly assigning null is visually noisy
 - only do it if you're unsetting a value

const is common

- ~80-90% of variables end up being const
 - Reassignment is just not that common
 - Preferring const means using let stands out!
 - let isn't BAD
 - More informative when const preferred
 - We also use a lot of objects
 - const doesn't complain if contents change

this works differently

The this keyword has subtle but important differences from other languages

- Can trip up new devs because it FEELS the same
 - Until it isn't
- Less of an issue as OOP becomes restricted in JS
 - Fat arrow functions also help
 - Can write entire web apps and never use this
- More soon!

Regular Expressions

- Regular Expressions (RegEx/RegExp)
 - Allow for powerful text parsing
 - Easy, once you know it
 - Easy to mess up
- Many Regex jokes: indecipherable and arcane
- Included in all major languages for a reason
 - Have native syntax support in JS!
 - This matters!
 - WebDev involves a lot of text

Try/Catch and handling errors

JS does not have compile-time checking

• no compile time!

Errors are found at run-time

• Often not much to do to "fix" it

Program errors only formally handled

• When you have a useful response

Bad input handled before an error is thrown

• No error trapping involved

Extra Material

What follows are lessons NOT needed for this course

- MAY be useful in this course
 - Depends on your approach
- DEFINITELY good to know for JS work
- LIKELY topics that come up in interviews

Prototypes

JS is NOT a "classical object oriented" language

But it IS "object oriented"

Objects yes, Classes no.

Classes are a blueprint to describe what an object can do.

In JS, Objects are not nearly so restricted.

Inheritance

Objects can have "inheritance" - where an object can use the properties/methods of another object.

If the code tries to access a value on the object, and the object doesn't have it defined for itself, it will check to see if its **prototype** has it.

Because the prototype is an object, when asked for this value, if it doesn't have it, it will check to see if **its** prototype has it.

This continues until an object doesn't have a prototype.

Prototype is a concept

Note that we are discussing a concept.

A prototype is an object.

A prototype can be accessed.

A prototype is NOT a property named prototype

Just like how an Object has properties, but not a property named

properties

Using a prototype

Inheritance from a prototype is automatic when you try to use the property.

Many built-in functions are accessed this way.

```
const name = "amit";
name.newProperty = "someVal";
console.log(name.newProperty); // not inherited
console.log(name.toUpperCase()); // inherited
console.log(name.length); // inherited
```

Accessing

If you need to access the prototype object itself, there are three main ways:

- use yourObject.__proto__ (DON'T DO THIS) Legacy code
- use Object.getPrototypeOf(yourObject) returns the prototype object
- Modify the source of the prototype more on this later, such as with polyfills

Prototype Summary

- Prototypes are *objects*, not plans
 - This means the prototype can be modified after the fact, like any object
- The prototype of an object is not the .prototype property of that object

This is the most confusing topic

this is the hardest part of JS

- Similar, but different than other languages
- Makes English hard to use to talk about "this"

Essential Truth

this is a special variable name

refers to a new value each time you enter a function

The object the this variable refers to is the **context**

• usually a relevant object, but it can get confused.

DO NOT ASSUME this will be what you want

you have to make it happen

Implicit Binding

By default, this is **bound** to a value "implicitly" when you enter a function

Uses the value **BEFORE THE DOT** in the function call

```
const cat = {
  sound: 'meow',
  speak: function() {
    console.log( cat.sound );
  },
  implicit: function() {
    console.log( this.sound );
  }
};

cat.speak(); // 'meow'
  cat.implicit(); // 'meow'
```

When it works

Implicit binding works through copies and inheritance just fine:

```
const cat = {
  sound: 'meow',
  speak: function() {
    console.log( this.sound );
  }
};
const feline = { sound: 'purr' };
feline.speak = cat.speak; // copy assignment, not calling

cat.speak(); // meow
feline.speak(); // What do you expect? Why?
```

When it doesn't work

BUT implicit binding has problems.

99% of the time this is when the function with this is used as a callback.

```
function usesCallback( callback ) {
  callback();
}
usesCallback( cat.speak ); // passing, not calling
```

When the function is called, what is before the dot?

Result is different with/without 'use strict';

And Callbacks happen all the time!

```
const internet = {
  cats: [ 'Jorts', 'Jean' ],
  coolSite: 'tiktok',
  report: function() {
    const html = this.cats.map( function(name) {
      return `${name} uses ${this.coolSite}>`;
    }).join('');
  return html;
  },
};
console.log( internet.report() );
```

Explicit Binding

When your function is used as a callback

- you can **explicitly bind** that function
- to the value of this that you want

If your function doesn't use this, you don't care

• this is becoming increasingly common

Explicit Binding via .bind()

.bind() is a method on the prototype of all functions

- it returns a new function
- returns the function it is called on, but bound

```
usesCallback( cat.speak.bind(cat) );
inside usesCallback()
```

- callback will be the explicitly bound function
- so this will be cat
- even though no dot when callback() called

Explicit Bind via Fat Arrow

Unlike other functions, Fat Arrow functions do not redefine this

Technically this is not explicit binding, so much as not re-binding at all

```
const internet = {
  cats: [ 'Jorts', 'Jean' ],
  coolSite: 'tiktok',
  report: function() { // Need to keep as function keyword!
    const html = this.cats.map( name => { // fat arrow here
      return `${name} uses ${this.coolSite}};
  }).join('');
  return html;
  },
};
console.log( internet.report() );
```

Avoiding this old-school

In ancient times devs would bypass this problem

• by copying the value of this into another variable

Usually called self or that

• Before defining an inline function as a callback.

Entering the new function

- this would be redefined
- self would keep the previous value of this

DON'T DO THIS. It's unnecessary and visually noisy.

Demonstration of old school way

```
const internet = {
  cats: [ 'Jorts', 'Jean' ],
  coolSite: 'tiktok',
  report: function() {
    const self = this; // self unchanged below
    const html = this.cats.map( function(name) {
      return `${name} uses ${self.coolSite}};
    }).join('');
  return html;
  },
};
console.log( internet.report() );
```

Additional notes

Other methods of setting the context (this) for a function exist

- such as .call() or .apply()
- these come up fairly rarely

this Summary

- this is a variable name that gets redefined when entering a function call
- Implicit binding is to "what is before the dot"
 - this can be a problem if the function is used as a callback
- Explicit binding is possible via .bind()
- A fat-arrow function can avoid the redefinition
- If you use a non-OOP programming style you can avoid this entirely
- Don't use work-arounds like that or self

Why Inheritance

Don't overuse Inheritance

 Modern best practices, even for OOP, favor Composition over Inheritance

Inheritance can provide common functionality

Inheritance can be a problem if you have many instances but then need to change half of them

• We change code more than we write new

How to create Inheritance

JS has 4 ways to create inheritance

Really 4 ways to create a prototype

- Constructor Function
- Object.create
- ES6 classes
- Brute Force Prototype Assignment

Constructor Function - Older style, still works

Using new keyword on a function call:

- creates a new object
- calls the function with this set to the new object
- runs the function
- sets the prototype of the returned object to be the prototype property of the function
 - .prototype object, not prototype of the function itself

Such functions are MixedCase, not camelCase

• by convention, not code-enforced

Constructor Function Demo

- jorts.beNice IS inherited
- jorts.name is NOT inherited
 - is property of the object itself

Object.create - for the Functional Programmers

Object.create() gives you a new object

- New object's prototype set to passed object
- No initialization code runs (no constructor)
- Popular among functional programmers (FP)

```
const cat = {
  beNice: function() {
    console.log(`${this.name} maintains eye contact`);
  }
};
const jorts = Object.create(cat);
jorts.name = 'Jorts';
jorts.beNice();
```

ES6 Classes

- Use new on a **class** call
- Was hotly debated, now reaction is meh
- More comfortable for those from other languages
- Can mislead, only defines starting state

```
class Cat {
  constructor(name) {
    this.name = name;
  }
  beNice() {
    console.log(`${this.name} pretends not to hear`);
  }
}

const jorts = new Cat('Jorts');
  jorts.beNice();
```

Brute Force - set the prototype directly

Usually a bad idea (messy/unclear)

- listed for educational purposes!
- use any of the other methods instead

```
const cat = {
  beNice: function() {
    console.log(`${this.name} says 'No'`);
  }
};
const jorts = { name: 'Jorts' };
Object.setPrototypeOf(jorts, cat);
jorts.beNice();
```

Hoisting

"Hoisting"

- var variables
- function keyword functions not as a value
- JS engine treats as declared at top of function
 - not assigned, but declared
 - allows you to make references

Create global variables when run in the global scope

- not inside a function
- only a browser issue
- hoisted values create global variables