# Lesson 4: JavaScript Collections

## PEDAC

### Problem / Examples:

Understanding the problem has three steps.

1. Read the problem description.
2. Check the test cases, if any.
3. If any part of the problem is unclear, ask the interviewer to clarify.

Questions to Ask:

1. Define terms *(e.g. ‘What is a palindrome?’)*
2. What to do with data types which appear to be unaffected?
3. How to deal with edge cases?

* Empty string, negative number, zero, etc.

1. Assumptions *(e.g. Can I assume all inputs are strings?)*
2. Other considerations *(e.g. Should I consider letter case when deciding if a word is a palindrome?)*
3. Do I need to return the same object or an entirely new one?

Inputs:

Outputs:

Describe rules to follow:

* Explicit requirements
* Implicit requirements

### Data Structure / Algorithm:

Should be able to write a plain English solution to the problem. If you can't do that, you won't be able to code it either.

## Selection & Transformation

* **Selection** results in *N* or fewer elements returned.
* **Transformation** always results in *N* elements returned.
* When performing a transformation, it's always important to pay attention to whether the original collection is mutated or if a new collection is returned.
* Even if we don't change any elements because none met our criterion it's still considered a transformation and called an **identity transformation**.
* *Note:* Trying to chain methods on empty collections or undefined is dangerous and results in a lot of broken programs.

## Array Methods

* Array methods take function as argument. Function expressions provided to other functions are **callbacks**.
* **Array destructuring assignment**: let [ key, value ] = keyValue;

| **Method** | **Action** | **Considers the return value of the callback?** | **Returns a new array from the method?** | **Length of the returned array** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| forEach | Iteration | No | No, returns undefined | N/A |
| filter | Selection/Filtering | Yes, its truthiness | Yes | Length of original or less |
| map | Transformation | Yes | Yes | Length of original |

## Arrays

* ‘Elements’ added to array at invalid ‘indices’ are not elements (e.g. arr[-3] = 5;)
  + They do not increase the array length.
  + Can have array with length = 0 while still holding ‘elements’
    - use Object.keys(arr) to check contents.
* Number of elements in array isn’t necessarily the same as its length (can have gaps).
  + Elements shown in arrays as <n empty items> literally do not exist.
  + Empty items accessed by index return undefined though the value is not set.
* When a function doesn't explicitly return something, it implicitly returns undefined.