

# Node.js Core Modules

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# ASSERTION TESTING

## 1.1 Introduction

This module is used for writing unit tests for your applications, you can access it with `require('assert')`.

## 1.2 `assert.fail`

**Syntax:**

```
assert.fail(actual, expected, message, operator)
```

where

- `actual`: the actual value returned by your function
- `expected`: the value you expect your function returns
- `message`: the message you want to display when an exception is thrown
- `operator`: the operator is used to separate the values for `actual` and `expected` when message is falsy.

This function throws an exception that displays the message your provided via parameter `message` or the values for `actual` and `expected` separated by the delimiter you provide via parameter `separator`.

### Three Arguments

Let's start with an example with three arguments: `actual`, `expected` and `message`, which is also used most often in practice. It is shown in *Listing 1.1*.

```

1 | var assert = require('assert');
2 |
3 | assert.fail(1, 2, '1 is not equal to 2');
```

Listing 1.1: An exception is thrown with customized message

Running the code in *Listing 1.1* produces the log as shown in *Listing 1.2*.

```

1 |
2 | assert.js:92
3 |   throw new assert.AssertionError({
4 |     ^
5 | AssertionError: 1 is not equal to 2
6 |     at Object.<anonymous> (/node/src/assert/001_fail_with_message.js:3:8)
7 |     at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
8 |     at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
9 |     at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
10 |    at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
11 |    at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
12 |    at startup (node.js:119:16)
13 |    at node.js:906:3
```

Listing 1.2: The error messages of running script in *Listing 1.1*

A few takeaways from the error messages in *Listing 1.2*.

- the exception thrown by `assert.fail` is an instance of `assert.AssertionError`, which inherits from Javascript's `Error` object.
- the error message "1 is not equal to 2" is the customized message provided by you.

We can also put the function call into a `try...catch` statement as shown in *Listing 1.3*.

```

1 | var assert = require('assert');
2 |
3 | try {
4 |   assert.fail(1, 2, '1 is not equal to 2');
5 | } catch (e) {
6 |   console.log(e.message);
7 | }
```

Listing 1.3: An exception is thrown and caught

## Four Arguments

The fourth argument operator will be used to separate the the actual value and expected value when the third argument message is falsy. We add the fourth argument as shown in *Listing 1.4*.

```

1 | var assert = require('assert');
2 |
3 | assert.fail(1, 2, '1 is not equal to 2', '==');
```

Listing 1.4: An exception is thrown with truthy message

Running the code in *Listing 1.4* produces the error stack trace as shown in *Listing 1.5*.

```

1 |
2 | assert.js:92
3 |   throw new assert.AssertionError({
4 |     ^
5 | AssertionError: 1 is not equal to 2
```

```

6 | at Object.<anonymous> (/node/src/assert/001_fail_truthy_message.js:3:8)
7 | at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
8 | at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
9 | at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
10 | at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
11 | at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
12 | at startup (node.js:119:16)
13 | at node.js:906:3

```

Listing 1.5: *The error messages of running script in Listing 1.4*

An astute reader will notice that the error message in *Listing 1.5* is the same as the one in *Listing 1.2*, which indicates that the fourth argument `operator` is not used when the third argument `message` is truthy. Let's see what will happen if the third argument is falsy. The code snippet in *Listing 1.6* shows the changes.

```

1 | var assert = require('assert');
2 |
3 | assert.fail(1, 2, '', '==');

```

Listing 1.6: *An exception is thrown with falsy message*

The error message in *Listing 1.5* shows that the the operator we provided is used to separate the actual value and the expected value.

```

1 |
2 | assert.js:92
3 |   throw new AssertionError({
4 |     ^
5 | AssertionError: 1 == 2
6 |   at Object.<anonymous> (/node/src/assert/001_fail_empty_message.js:3:8)
7 |   at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
8 |   at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
9 |   at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
10 |   at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
11 |   at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
12 |   at startup (node.js:119:16)
13 |   at node.js:906:3

```

Listing 1.7: *The error messages of running script in Listing 1.6*

## 1.3 assert.ok

### Syntax:

```
assert.ok(value, [message])
```

where

- `value`: check whether the value is truthy
- `message`: the message you want to display when an exception is thrown

This function is equivalent to function `assert.equal(!!value, true, message);` in Section 1.5.

## One Argument

The script in *Listing 1.8* shows two simple examples of using this function. The error message in *Listing 1.11* shows operator "==" is used to separate the actual value and the expected value.

```
1 var assert = require('assert');
2
3 assert.ok(1);
4 assert.ok(0);
```

Listing 1.8: *One is Okay and the other is not Okay*

```
1
2 assert.js:92
3   throw new assert.AssertionError({
4     ^
5 AssertionError: 0 is not truthy
6     at Object.<anonymous> (/node/src/assert/002_ok_with_message.js:4:8)
7     at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
8     at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
9     at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
10    at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
11    at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
12    at startup (node.js:119:16)
13    at node.js:906:3
```

Listing 1.9: *The error messages of running script in Listing 1.8*

## Two Arguments

The script in *Listing 1.10* shows two examples with customized message. The customized message shows up in the error log in *Listing 1.11*.

```
1 var assert = require('assert');
2
3 assert.ok(1, '1 is truthy');
4 assert.ok(0, '0 is not truthy');
```

Listing 1.10: *One is Okay and the other is not Okay: with optional truthy message*

```
1
2 assert.js:92
3   throw new assert.AssertionError({
4     ^
5 AssertionError: 0 is not truthy
6     at Object.<anonymous> (/node/src/assert/002_ok_with_message.js:4:8)
7     at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
8     at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
9     at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
10    at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
11    at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
12    at startup (node.js:119:16)
13    at node.js:906:3
```

Listing 1.11: *The error messages of running script in Listing 1.10*

## 1.4 assert

### Syntax:

```
assert(value, [message])
```

where

- `value`: check whether the value is truthy
- `message`: the message you want to display when an exception is thrown

This function is exactly the same as function `assert.ok`. In fact, in the source code for module `assert`, you can see the line below:

```
var assert = module.exports = ok;
```

## 1.5 `assert.equal`