JavaScript

**JavaScript** is an important language because it is the language of the web browser. Its association with the browser makes it one of the most popular programming languages in the world.

### Despised because:

The API of the browser, the Document Object Model (DOM) is quite awful, and JavaScript is unfairly blamed.

The DOM would be painful to work with in any language.

The DOM is poorly specified and inconsistently implemented.

It is not ANOTHER LANGUAGE.

Douglas Crockford, *JavaScript: The Good Parts: The Good Parts*

It is possible to get started without knowing very much of the language.

### The Good:

functions

loose typing

dynamic objects

expressive object literal notation

The Bad:

programming model based on global variables

JavaScript is the first lambda language to go mainstream. Deep down, JavaScript has more in common with Lisp and Scheme than with Java. It is Lisp in C's clothing. This makes JavaScript a remarkably powerful language.

Douglas Crockford, *JavaScript: The Good Parts: The Good Parts*

JavaScript has a very powerful object literal notation.

Objects can be created simply by listing their components.

This notation was the inspiration for JSON, the popular data interchange format.

The standard that defines JavaScript:

ECMAScript Language Specification

<http://www.ecma-international.org/publications/files/ECMA-ST/Ecma-262.pdf>

JSLint – JavaScript Console