

Chapter 5: Loops

1. Learning Objectives

- Iterate over arrays
- Iterate over object's properties

2. Introduction

- Loops are used to execute the same block of code again and again, as long as a certain condition is met.
- Traditional loops: `for`, `while`, `do...while`
- Loop related techniques:
 - break a loop: stop the loop when a certain condition is met
 - continue the next iteration: skip the current iteration and continue with the next iteration
 - nested loops: a loop inside another loop
- These techniques are left as the reading assignment for you.

In this chapter, we will focus on the new for loops introduced in ES6.

- `for...of` loop: iterates over the values of an iterable object
- `for...in` loop: iterates over the properties of an object

3. Iterating values of an array

Iterating

- Iterating over the values of an array means accessing each element of the array one by one.
- Consider the following array:

```
const fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry'];
```

- How can we access each element of the array?

Old way: for loop

- The old way to iterate over an array is to use a `for` loop.

```
const fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry'];  
for (let i = 0; i < fruits.length; i++) {  
  console.log(fruits[i]);  
}
```

Demerits:

- This is a bit verbose and error-prone.
- Requires an index variable, a loop condition, and an increment statement.

New way: for...of loop

- The new way to iterate over an array is to use a `for...of` loop.

Syntax:

```
for (const element of iterable) {  
  // code block to be executed  
}
```

```
const fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry'];  
for (const fruit of fruits) {  
  console.log(fruit);  
}
```

Merits:

- It is more concise and easier to read.
- It works with any iterable object, not just arrays.

Replace the for body with a function

- The `Array.prototype.forEach()` method can be used to iterate over the elements of an array.
- Instead of writing a `for...of` loop with a code block, we apply a function to each element of the array.

Syntax:

```
array.forEach(function callback(currentValue, index, array) {  
    // code block to be executed  
});
```

[Array.prototype.forEach\(\) - JavaScript | MDN](#)

The above example can be rewritten as follows:

```
const fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'cherry'];  
fruits.forEach(fruit => console.log(fruit));
```

Much more concise!

Iterable objects

- Examples of iterable objects:
 - Arrays
 - Strings
 - DOM collections (e.g., `NodeList`)
 - and more...

Iterating over a string

- A string is an iterable object, so we can use a `for...of` loop to iterate over its characters.

```
const str = 'hello';  
for (const char of str) {  
  console.log(char);  
}
```

or use the `Array.prototype.forEach()` method.

But, we need to convert the string to an array first by using the `Array.from()` method.

```
const str = 'hello';  
Array.from(str).forEach(char => console.log(char));
```

Lab 01

Consider the following html containing a list of four optional car features for a buyer to choose from.

```
<input type="checkbox" id="f1" name="feature" value="el_park_break">Electronic Parking Brake<br>  
<input type="checkbox" id="f2" name="feature" value="auto_headlights">Automatic Headlights<br>  
<input type="checkbox" id="f3" name="feature" value="lane_assist">Lane Assist<br>  
<input type="checkbox" id="f4" name="feature" value="blind_spot_monitor">Blind Spot Monitor<br>
```

Write a JavaScript code to iterate over the checkboxes and log the value of each checked checkbox in the console.

Hint:

- Use the `document.querySelectorAll(input[name="feature"]:checked)` method to select the checked checkboxes.
- The `:checked` CSS pseudo-class selector represents any radio (`<input type="radio">`), checkbox (`<input type="checkbox">`), or option (`<option>` in a `<select>`) element that is checked or toggled to an on state.
 - See <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/CSS/:checked>

4. Iterating properties of an object

Recap: Objects

- An object is a collection of key-[value/function] pairs.
- We access an object's properties using a key.

Example

```
const car = {  
  make: 'Toyota',  
  model: 'Camry',  
  year: 2022  
  start_engine: function() {  
    console.log('Engine started');  
  }  
};  
  
console.log(car.make); // Toyota  
console.log(car['model']); // Camry  
console.log(car.start_engine); // [Function: start_engine]
```


Hint:

- use `object.property` syntax when the property name is known and static.
- use `object['property']` syntax when the property name is dynamic or contains special characters.
 - e.g. Iterating over an object with a `for/in` loop.

Some use cases of iterating over object properties

- **Accessing All Properties:** When you need to access or manipulate all properties of an object in the run time.
- **Debugging:** To log all properties and their values for debugging purposes.
- **Data Transformation:** To transform the data structure, such as converting an object to an array.
- **Validation:** To validate the properties of an object.

Basic idea to iterate over an object

- We need to get all the keys to iterate over the properties of an object.
- Use the key to access the value of the property.

for/in loop

- The `for/in` loop iterates over keys of an object so that we can access the values of the properties.

Syntax:

```
for (const key in object) {  
    // code block to be executed  
}
```

Example:

```
const car = {  
  make: 'Toyota',  
  model: 'Camry',  
  year: 2022,  
  start_engine: function() {  
    console.log('Engine started');  
  }  
};  
  
for (const key in car) {  
  console.log(key, car[key]);  
}
```

```
make Toyota  
model Camry  
year 2022  
start_engine f () {  
  console.log('Engine started');  
}
```

Get keys or values as an array from an object

- The `Object.keys()` method returns an array of a given object's own enumerable property names (keys).
- The `Object.values()` method returns an array of a given object's own enumerable property values.
- We can use `for/of` loop to iterate over the array of keys or values.

Example: Iterate over an object using `Object.keys()`

```
for (const key of Object.keys(car)) {  
  console.log(key, car[key]);  
}
```

Example: Iterate property values using `Object.values()`

```
for (const value of Object.values(car)) {  
    console.log(value);  
}
```

Get the key-value pairs as an array from an object

- The `Object.entries()` method returns an array of a given object's own enumerable string-keyed property [key, value] pairs.
- Use `for/of` loop to iterate over the array of key-value pairs.

Example:

```
for (const [key, value] of Object.entries(car)) {  
    console.log(key, value);  
}
```


Quick Question 1

What is the output of the following code when you use the `for/of` loop to iterate over the `arr` array?

```
const arr = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
arr['extra'] = 6;  
console.log(arr);  
  
for (const v of arr) {  
  console.log(v);  
}
```

The `arr` object has the following structure:

```
> const values = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
   values['extra'] = 6;  
   console.log(values);  
  
▼ (5) [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, extra: 6] i  
  0: 1  
  1: 2  
  2: 3  
  3: 4  
  4: 5  
  extra: 6  
  length: 5  
  ► [[Prototype]]: Array(0)
```

Quick Question 2

What is the output of the following code when you use the `for/in` loop to iterate over the `arr` array?

```
const arr = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
arr['extra'] = 6;  
console.log(arr);  
  
for (const v in arr) {  
  console.log(v);  
}
```

Quick Question 3

What is the output of the following code when you use the `for/in` loop to iterate over the `arr` array?

```
const arr = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
arr['extra'] = 6;  
console.log(arr);  
  
for (const v in arr) {  
  console.log(arr[v]);  
}
```

5. Summary

- Iterate over the values of an array using the `for/of` loop.
 - Use the `Array.prototype.forEach()` method to apply a function to each element of an array.
- Iterate over the properties of an object using the `for/in` loop.
- Get an array of keys, values, or key-value pairs from an object using `Object.keys()`, `Object.values()`, and `Object.entries()` methods.