

Chapter 3 Javascript Multiple Values:

Part 1: Arrays

1 Lesson Objectives

A multiple-value variable is a variable (or the object) that can store more than one value.

This part discusses arrays, which is a type of multiple-value variable in JavaScript.

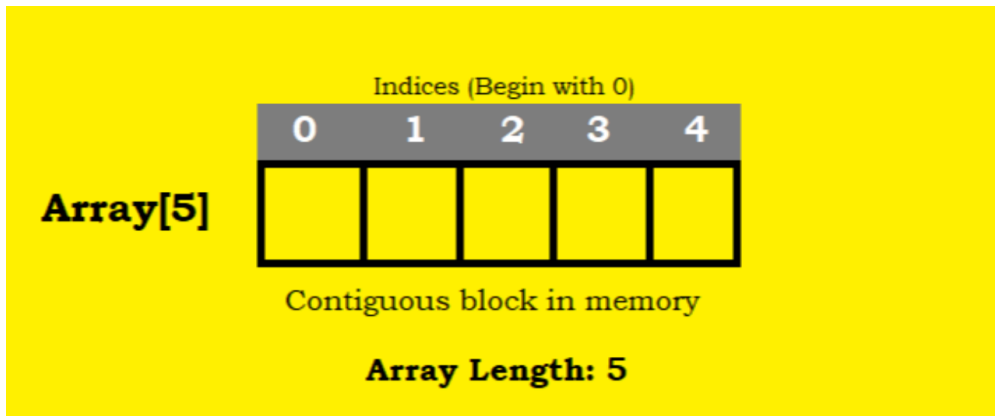
The following topics are covered in this chapter:

- Arrays and their properties
- Basic operations on arrays
 - Creating an array, Accessing array elements, Iterating an array
- Array methods
 - Add and replace elements, Concatenate arrays, Sorting, Find elements

2 Arrays and their properties

An array is an object that saves a list of values in the memory.

- Values are stored in the contiguous memory locations
- The values are indexed; the index starts from 0



Source: [JavaScript Arrays: A Beginner's Guide – TecAdmin](#)

3 Basic operations on arrays

Basic operations on arrays include:

- Creating an array
- Accessing array elements
- Modifying array elements (adding, deleting, and updating)
- Get the length of an array
- Iterating through an array

4 Creating an array

Array Literal, Array Constructor, Array.of(), Array.from()

Array Literal

Use the array literal `[]` to create an array.

- Often used when creating an empty array or an array with a list of values known in advance.

```
let colors = []; // create an empty array
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue']; // create an array with three elements
```

Array constructor

- Limitation of the Array literal
 - Be convenient to create an empty array or an array with a list of values.
- What if we want to create an array dynamically?
 - e.g. create an array of length n with all elements are `undefined`.
- Array constructor `Array(n)` is the right choice in this case.

Example: Create an array of length 5 with empty slots.

```
// let emptyArray = Array(5); // the new keyword is optional
let emptyArray = new Array(5);
console.log(emptyArray); // [ <5 undefined items> ]
```

Initialize an array with the array constructor

Pass a list of arguments to the array constructor to create an array with the elements.

```
let basicColors = new Array('red', 'green', 'blue');  
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', 'green', 'blue']
```


The trap of the array constructor

However, be careful about the trap of the array constructor:

- Cannot create an array containing a single integer value.
- If only one argument is passed and it is an integer, the array constructor creates an array of length `n` with empty slots.

For example, we want to create the array `[5]` and use the following code:

```
let numbers = new Array(5); // create an array of length 5
console.log(numbers); // [ <5 empty items> ]
```

The first statement creates an array of length 5 with empty slots, not `[5]`.

Array.of() method: Create an array from a list of values

If you want to avoid the trap of the array constructor, use the `Array.of()` method when creating an array with a list of values.

- This show your intent clearly.

```
let numbers = Array.of(5); // create an array with one element 5
console.log(numbers); // [5]
let basicColors = Array.of('red', 'green', 'blue');
```

See more about the `Array.of()` method in the MDN web docs: [Array.of\(\) - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Array.from() method: Convert an array-like object or an iterable object to an array

This method creates a new array by iterating an **array-like object** or an **iterable object**.

Example 5: Convert an array-like object to an array.

```
let arrayLike = {0: 'red', 1: 'green', 2: 'blue', length: 3};  
let colors = Array.from(arrayLike);  
console.log(colors); // ['red', 'green', 'blue']
```

See more about the `Array.from()` method in the MDN web docs: [Array.from\(\) - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Concept: Array-like object

An array-like object is an object that has the **length property** and **indexed elements**.

- It behaves like an array but does not have all the array methods.

Example 6: An array-like object `arrayLike` with the `length` property and indexed elements.

```
let arrayLike = {  
  0: 'red',  
  1: 'green',  
  2: 'blue',  
  length: 3  
};
```

Other examples of the array-like object:

- NodeList and HTMLCollection objects in DOM.
- The `arguments` object in a function.

See more in [Array - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Concept: Iterable Object

An iterable object in JavaScript is an object that can be iterated over using a `for...of` loop.

Common Iterable Objects:

- Arrays, Strings, Maps, Sets, NodeLists (from DOM queries)

Example: Iterating over an array using the `for...of` loop.

```
let iterable = "Javascript"

for (let value of iterable) {
  console.log(value);
}
// outputs: J a v a s c r i p t
```

Convert the string to a character array using the `Array.from()` method.

```
let iterable = "Javascript"  
let charArray = Array.from(iterable);  
console.log(charArray); // ['J', 'a', 'v', 'a', 's', 'c', 'r', 'i', 'p', 't']
```

Quick Practice

- Create an array of length 100 with all elements are `undefined` .
- Create an array with the elements: `['apple', 'banana', 'orange', 'grape']`

5 Accessing array elements

Access by index: the square brackets `[]`

Use the square brackets `[n]` where `n` is the index of the element after the array name to access the elements of an array

- `n` is an integer starting from 0
- return undefined if the index is out of the range of the array

Example: Accessing the first element of the `basicColors` array.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
console.log(basicColors[0]); // red  
console.log(basicColors[-1]); // undefined  
console.log(basicColors[4]); // undefined
```

No out-of-bound error

- When you try to query a nonexistent property of any object, you don't get an error;
 - you simply get **undefined**

Indexes other than non-negative integers

- The index of an array must be a non-negative integer.
- The non-negative integer becomes the **property** of the array object.
 - the square brackets `[property_name]` is used to access the property of an object, the same case as assessing an array element.

Example: Accessing the property of an array object.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColor[-1] = 'Negative Value';  
console.log(basicColors[-1]); // Negative Value
```

Quick summary for using the square brackets `[]`

- `array[n]`: access the n-th element of the array when n is a non-negative integer.
- `array[property_name]`: access the property of the array object when the property name is not a non-negative integer.
 - the non-negative integer will be converted to a number string.
 - It is equivalent to `array.property_name` when the property name is a valid identifier.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors[-1] = 'yellow'; // add the property "-1" to the basicColors array  
console.log(basicColors[-1]); // yellow  
console.log(basicColors['-1']); // the same as basicColors[-1]
```

6 Add, delete, and update array elements

Add elements

- Use the assignment operator `=` to add elements to an array with an index that is out of the range of the array.
- Javascript will automatically expand the array to accommodate the new element.
- Empty slots are created between the last element and the new element.

Example: Add an element

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors[5] = 'yellow';    // auto expand the array to accommodate the new element  
console.log(basicColors);    // ['red', 'green', 'blue', <2 empty items>, 'yellow']
```

Note: there are two empty slots between the last element `green` and the new element `yellow`.

Non-negative integer index becomes a property

Recall that using values other than non-negative integers as the index will add the property, not the element, to the array object.

Example: use index values other than non-negative integers.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors[-1] = 'yellow';  
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', 'green', 'blue', '-1': 'yellow']
```


Append elements to the end of the array

Example: Add an element to the end of the array

To append an element to the end of the array, we:

- first get the length of the array and
- then use the length value as the index to add the element.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors[basicColors.length] = 'yellow'; // append 'yellow' to the end of the array  
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', 'green', 'blue', 'yellow']
```

Use the `push()` method to append elements

A more concise way to is to use the `push()` method.

- don't need to know the length of the array.

The above code can be rewritten as follows:

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors.push('yellow'); // append 'yellow' to the end of the array  
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', 'green', 'blue', 'yellow']
```

Syntax of push()

```
push()  
push(element1)  
push(element1, element2)  
push(element1, element2, /* ..., */ elementN)
```

Delete elements

- Use the `delete` operator to delete an element from an array.
- The `delete` operator sets the element's value to `undefined`
 - does not change the length of the array.

Example: Delete the second element from the `basicColors` array.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];
delete basicColors[1]; // delete the second element
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', <1 empty item>, 'blue']
```

The side effect of the `delete` operator

The `delete` operator will make the array sparse because it does not alter its length.

If you want to remove an element, including its slot, use the `splice()` method.

- avoiding the array becoming sparse.

The `splice()` method is a general method to insert, update, and delete elements in an array.

- `splice` means joining or connecting.

See MDN web docs: [Array.prototype.splice\(\) - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Update elements

Assign a new value to an existing element to update it.

Example: Update the second element of the `basicColors` array.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
basicColors[1] = 'yellow'; // update the second element  
console.log(basicColors); // ['red', 'yellow', 'blue']
```

Quick Practice

- Create an empty array of `dc_heroes` .
- Add the following heroes to the array: superman, batman, wonderwoman, aquaman, the flash, king shark
- delete the last two heroes from the array.
- Update the second hero to be `green lantern` .
- Print the array.

► Referenced Answer

7 Iterating array

Ways to iterate an array

Ways to visit each element of an array:

- `for` loop: the old way to iterate an array.
- `for/of` loop: a more concise way to iterate an array.
- `forEach()` method: a functional way to iterate an array.

for loop

Iterating an array means visiting each element of the array one by one.

- A common operation on an array.

The old way to iterate an array is to use the `for` loop with the index.

- Programmers are responsible for managing the index.
- The `for` loop is verbose and error-prone.

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
for (let i = 0; i < colors.length; i++) {  
    console.log(colors[i]);  
}
```

for/of loop

The `for/of` loop (ES6) is a more concise way to iterate an array.

- JavaScript engine manages the iteration.
- The index is hidden and managed by the JavaScript engine.

Rewrite the above code using the `for/of` loop.

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
for (let color of colors) {  
    // Task to do with each element  
    console.log(color);  
}
```

the current index and value while iterating an array using the **for/of** loop

The variable before the **of** keyword is the returned value of each visit.

What if you want to use the index in the **for/of** loop?

- use the **entries()** method of the array object to return each element's index and value in an array.

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
for( let [idx, color] of colors.entries()) {  
    console.log(`${idx}: ${color}`);  
}
```

Sample outputs:

```
0: red  
1: green  
2: blue
```

Quick Practice

Given the following array, log the index and value of each element in the array.

```
let revengers = ['ironman', 'thor', 'hulk', 'black widow', 'hawk eye'];
```

You must use the `for/of` loop to iterate the array.

forEach() method of the array object

Using the view of functional programming can lead to a more concise way to iterate an array.

Think of the `for/of` loop body block as a function that processes each array element.

So, instead of the body block, we can pass a function that is applied to each visited element in the array.

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];

for( let [idx, color] of colors.entries()
{   // body block
    console.log(`${idx}: ${color}`);
}
```

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];

colors.forEach(
// Replace the for/of body block with a function:
(color, idx) => {
    console.log(`${idx}: ${color}`);
});
```

The `forEach()` method of an array object is a method that applies a function to each element of the array.

- It takes a function as an argument.
- The passed function can take three arguments: 1)the current element, 2)the index, and 3)the array itself.
- In most cases, we only need the current element

Example: Rewrite the above code using the `forEach()` method.

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];
colors.forEach((color, idx) => {
  console.log(`${idx}: ${color}`);
});
```

Quick Practice

Given the following arrays, print their elements in uppercase:

```
let colors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
let fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange'];
```

Use the `forEach()` method to complete the task.

Hints:

- First, define a function that takes an element as an argument and prints the element in uppercase.
 - Use the `String` object's `toUpperCase()` method to convert the element to uppercase.
- Then, use the `forEach()` method to apply the function to each element of the arrays.

► Referenced Answer

Review questions for the array iteration

1. When iterating an array, which way may require you to know the array's length?
2. If you already have a function and want to apply it to each array element, which way should you use it?

8 Array methods

Some common methods for operating on arrays include:

- Add and replacing elements: `push()`, `unshift()`, `splice()`
- Remove elements: `pop()`, `shift()`, `splice()`
- Concatenate arrays: `concat()`
- Find elements: `indexOf()`, `find()`
- Sorting: `sort()`, `reverse()`

`push()` and `pop()` methods

Scenario: Insert and remove elements from the end of the array.

- `push(val)` : append an element to the end of the array
 - return the new length of the array.
- `pop()` : remove and return the last element from the array
 - return the removed element.

```
[1,2,3,4,5].push(6); // [1,2,3,4,5,6]  
let val = [1,2,3,4,5].pop(); // [1,2,3,4]  
console.log(val); // 5
```

`shift()` and `unshift()` methods

Scenario: Insert and remove elements from the beginning of the array.

- `shift()` : remove the first element from the array (shift all elements to the left).
 - return the removed element.
- `unshift(val)` : insert an element to the beginning of the array (shift all elements to the right and put the new element at the beginning).
 - return the new length of the array.

```
[1,2,3,4,5].unshift(0); // [0,1,2,3,4,5]
const val = [1,2,3,4,5].shift(); // [2,3,4,5]
console.log(val); // 1
```

`splice()` method

A general array method to add, remove, and replace elements in an array.

What the `splice()` method does on the array:

1. Remove `deleteCount` elements starting from the `start` index.
2. Insert the `item1, item2, ...` elements at the `start` index.
 - Original elements after the `start` index are shifted to the right.
3. Update the element at the `start` index with `deleteCount = 1`

The `splice()` method modifies the original array and returns the removed elements as a new array.

Function signature for the `splice()` method

Function signature: `arrayObject.splice(start, deleteCount, item1, item2, ...)`

- `start` : the index at which to start changing the array (inclusive).
- `deleteCount` : the number of elements to remove from the array from the `start` index (inclusive).
 - Set it to 0 if you want to insert elements.
- `item1, item2, ...` : the elements to add to the array.

Effect:

- Modify the original array.

Return:

- An array containing the deleted elements.

Insert elements

Scenario: Insert multiple elements at the `start` index.

```
// Insert Feb after Jan => Insert an element at index 1
let months = ['Jan', 'March', 'April', 'June'];
months.splice(1,0,'Feb');
console.log(months); // ['Jan', 'Feb', 'March', 'April', 'June']
```


Update elements

- No direct update.
- Delete then insert.

Scenario: Update two elements from the `start` index.

Ex. Update the `Feb` and `Mar` to `February` and `March`.

```
let months = ['Jan', 'Feb', 'Mar', 'Apr'];  
let delElements = months.splice(1, 2, 'February', 'March');  
console.log(months); // ['Jan', 'February', 'March', 'Apr']  
console.log(delElements); // ['Feb', 'Mar']
```

Delete elements

Delete multiple elements:

Scenario: Delete two elements from the `start` index.

```
let months = ['Jan', 'Feb', 'Mar', 'Apr', 'Jun'];  
// Delete the first two months  
delElements = months.splice(0, 2);  
console.log(months); // ['Mar', 'Apr', 'Jun']  
console.log(delElements); // ['Jan', 'Feb']
```

See the full code in the [ex_03_splice.js](#) file.

Quick Practice

Given the following array: ['A', 'B', 'C'], insert values '1', '2' to the array so that you get ['A', '1', '2', 'B', 'C'].

► Referenced Answer

Concatenate arrays: `concat()` method

Concatenate two or more arrays and return a new array.

```
const array1 = [1,2,3].concat([4,5,6]);  
console.log(array1); // [1,2,3,4,5,6]  
array1.concat([7,8,9]);
```

Concatenate arrays: the spread operator `...` (ES6)

Use the spread operator `...` to add elements from an other array in the array literal.

The spread operator `...` can spread the array of elements into a list of elements.

- Convert the array into a list of elements.

Use the spread operator in:

- the array literal to create a new array.
- the function call to pass the array elements as arguments.

Scenario: Use the spread operator in the array literal

- You have an array and want to extend it with other elements from another array.

Example: Extend the `moreColors` array with the `basicColors` array.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
  
// Equivalent to let moreColors = ['yellow', 'purple', 'red', 'green', 'blue'];  
let moreColors = ['yellow', 'purple', ...basicColors];  
  
// ['yellow', 'purple', 'red', 'green', 'blue']  
console.log(moreColors);
```

The Array's `concat()` method can also be used to achieve the same result.

Scenario: Use the spread operator in the function call

- You have an array and want to insert to it with other elements from another array into it.

Example: Insert the `basicColors` array into the `moreColors` array at index 1.

Use the `splice()`:

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];  
let moreColors = ['yellow', 'purple'];  
moreColors.splice(1, 0, ...basicColors);  
console.log(moreColors); // ['yellow', 'red', 'green', 'blue', 'purple']
```

Characteristics of the spread operator ...

- Copy: A Copy the elements of the original array when spreading.
- Shallow copy: Only copy scalar or reference values of the array elements.
 - That means the nested objects are shared between the original and the new array.

Example 2: Shallow copy of the `basicColors` array.

```
let basicColors = ['red', 'green', 'blue'];

// ...basicCopy shallowly copy of the basicColors array
let moreColors = ['yellow', 'purple', ...basicColors];

// Modify the original array
basicColors[0] = 'black';
console.log(basicColors); // ['black', 'green', 'blue']
// The new array is not affected
console.log(moreColors); // ['yellow', 'purple', 'red', 'green', 'blue']
```


Quick Practice

Given the following arrays, use three different ways to concatenate them into a new array:

```
let fruits = ['apple', 'banana'];  
let vegetables = ['carrot', 'potato'];
```

The new array `food` should be: `['apple', 'banana', 'carrot', 'potato']`, which is an independent copy of the two arrays.

► Referenced Answer

Find elements: `find()` method

The `find()` method returns **the first element** in the provided array that satisfies the provided testing function.

- Pass a function returning a boolean value to the `find()` method.

Example: Find the values greater than 5 in the array.

```
const array1 = [5, 12, 8, 130, 44];  
const firstFound = array1.find(element => element > 5);  
console.log(found); // 12
```

See more about the `find()` method in the MDN web docs: [Array.prototype.find\(\) - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Note to the expression: `element => element > 5`

- It is a lambda function that returns a boolean value.
- A lambda function (anonymous function) is a function without a name.
- The syntax of a lambda function
 - Single parameter with one expression: `parameter => expression`
 - the function returns the value of the expression.
 - Multiple parameters with multiple statements: `(parameter1, parameter2, ...) => { statements; return expression; }`
 - The return statement is mandatory when using multiple statements.

See more about the lambda function in the MDN web docs: [Arrow function expressions - JavaScript | MDN](#)

Sorting: `sort()`

The `sort()` method sorts the elements of an array in place and returns the sorted array.

- elements are converted to strings and compared in UTF-16 code unit order.
- the default sort order is ascending.

Ex. Sorting an array of numbers.

what is the result?

```
let numbers = [4, 41, 2, 21, 10];  
numbers.sort();  
console.log(numbers);
```

The result is: [10, 2, 21, 4, 41]

Control the sort order: define a compare function

To control the sort order, you can pass a compare function to the `sort()` method.

The compare function takes two arguments (a and b) and return a value to indicate the order of the two elements:

- a negative value if a should come before b (i.e $a < b$, or $a - b < 0$)
- a positive value if a should come after b (i.e $b < a$, or $a - b > 0$)
- Zero or NaN if a and b are equal (i.e $a - b = 0$)

Order control and test expressions:

- a, b, c in ascending order: $a < b < c$
 - first is less than or equal to second -> `return first(a) - second(b)`
- a, b, c in descending order: $a > b > c$
 - second is less than or equal first -> `return -(first(a) - second(b))`

Ex. Sorting an array of numbers in ascending order.

Ascending order: first is less than or equal to the second.

- $a \leq b$: return $a - b$

```
let numbers = [4, 41, 2, 21, 10];  
numbers.sort((a, b) => a - b);  
console.log(numbers); // [2, 4, 10, 21, 41]
```

Ex. Sorting an array of numbers in descending order.

Descending order: first is greater than or equal to the second.

- $a \geq b$ is equivalent to: `return -(a-b)` or `return b - a`

```
let numbers = [4, 41, 2, 21, 10];  
numbers.sort((a, b) => b - a);  
console.log(numbers); // [41, 21, 10, 4, 2]
```


Quick Practice

Given the following array, sort it in descending order:

```
let numbers = [67, 87, 123, 32, 55]
```

► Referenced Answer

Reverse order `reverse()`

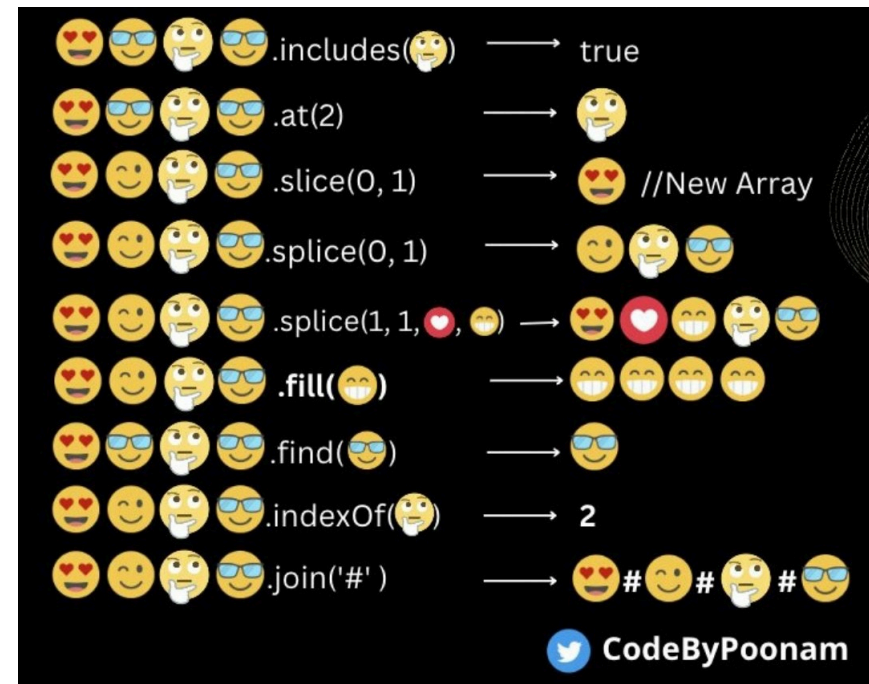
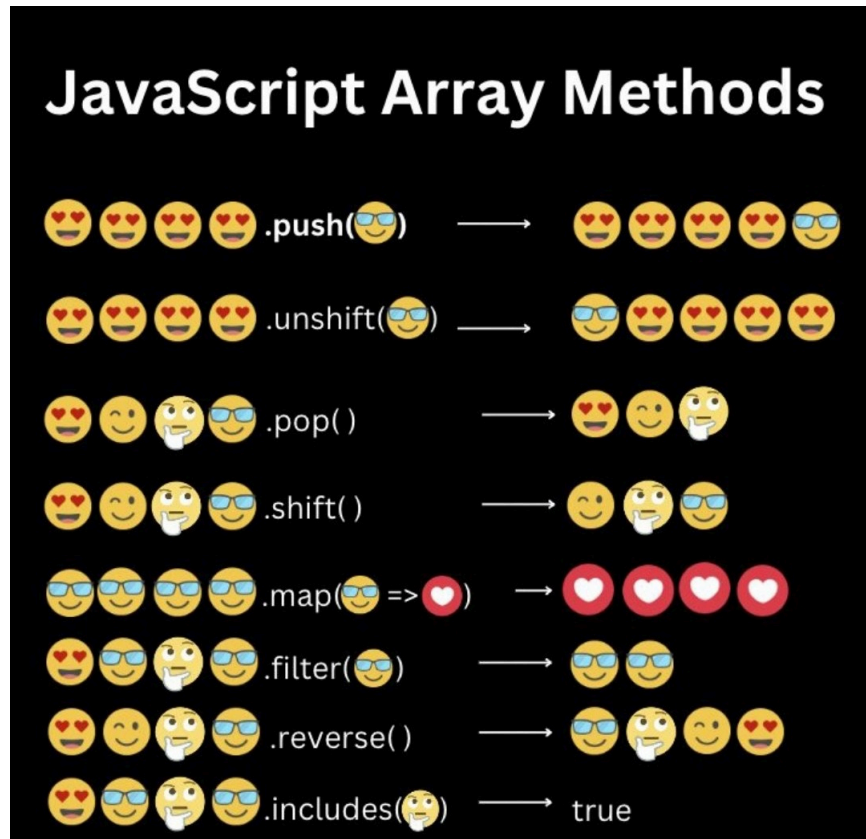
The `reverse()` method reverses the elements of an array in place and returns reference to the reversed array.

- Note: it modifies the original array.

Leave it as the reading assignment.

Cheat Sheet

Use the following cheat sheet to remember the usage of the array methods.



Source: [Poonam Soni@CodeByPoonam](#)

Summary of the array methods

Add and replace elements:

- `push()` : append an element to the end of the array.
- `unshift()` : insert an element to the beginning of the array.
- `splice()` : add, remove, and replace elements in an array.

Remove elements:

- `pop()` : remove and return the last element from the array.
- `shift()` : remove and return the first element from the array.
- `splice()` : add, remove, and replace elements in an array.

Concatenate arrays:

- `concat()` : concatenate two or more arrays and return a new array.

Find elements:

- Find with the test function:
 - `find()` : find the first element in the array that satisfies the provided testing function.
 - `findIndex()` : find the index of the first element in the array that satisfies the provided testing function.
- Find the index:
 - `indexOf()` : find the index of the first occurrence of the element in the array.
 - `lastIndexOf()` : find the index of the last occurrence of the element in the array.
 - `findIndex()`
- Membership test:
 - `includes()` : check if the array contains the element.

Sorting:

- `sort()` : sort the elements of the array.
- `reverse()` : reverse the order of the elements in the array.

9 Summary

We have learned:

- Data types that can store multiple values: Arrays and Objects.
- Ways to create an array: array literal, array constructor, `Array.of()` method, and `Array.from()` method.
- Methods to operate on arrays: `push()`, `pop()`, `shift()`, `unshift()`, `splice()`, `concat()`, `find()`, `sort()`, and `reverse()`.
- Ways to iterate an array: `for/of` loop, `forEach()` method, and `entries()` method.

10 References

[1] Eric T. Freeman and Elisabeth Robson, 2014. Head First JavaScript Programming: A Brain-Friendly Guide, O'Reilly Media