About Arrays

Module1 – JS - Handout 8

An array is an object that can store multiple values at once.

Example –

```
const words = ['hello', 'world', 'welcome'];
```

Here, words is an array. The array has 3 values.

Creating Arrays

1. Using an array literal : The easiest way to create an array is by using an array literal []
   const array1 = ["eat", "sleep"];
2. Using the new keyword: can also create an array using JavaScript's new keyword.
   const array2 = new Array("eat", "sleep");

Note: It is recommended to use array literal to create an array.

Access Elements of an Array

We can access elements of an array using indices (0, 1, 2 …).

```
const myArray = ['h', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o'];

// first element

console.log(myArray[0]);  // "h"

// second element

console.log(myArray[1]); // "e"
```

Add an Element to an Array

We can use the built-in method push() and unshift() to add elements to an array.

The push() method adds an element at the end of the array. For example

```
let todo = ['eat', 'sleep'];

// add an element at the end

todo.push('exercise');

console.log(todo); //  ['eat', 'sleep', 'exercise']
```

The unshift() method adds an element at the beginning of the array. For example,

```
let todo = ['eat', 'sleep'];

//add an element at the start

todo.unshift('work');

console.log(todo); // ['work', 'eat', 'sleep']
```

Change the Elements of an Array

We can also add elements or change the elements by accessing the index value.

```
todo[2] = 'exercise';

console.log(todo); // ['eat', 'sleep', 'exercise']
```

Remove an Element from an Array

We can use the pop() method to remove the last element from an array. The pop() method also returns the returned value. For example,

```
let dailyActivities = ['work', 'eat', 'sleep', 'exercise'];


// remove the last element

dailyActivities.pop();

console.log(dailyActivities); // ['work', 'eat', 'sleep']


// remove the last element from ['work', 'eat', 'sleep']

const removedElement = dailyActivities.pop();


//get removed element

console.log(removedElement); // 'sleep'

console.log(dailyActivities);  // ['work', 'eat']
```

If We need to remove the first element, We can use the shift() method. The shift() method removes the first element and also returns the removed element. For example,

```
let dailyActivities = ['work', 'eat', 'sleep'];

// remove the first element

dailyActivities.shift();

console.log(dailyActivities); // ['eat', 'sleep']
```

Array length

We can find the length of an element (the number of elements in an array) using the length property. For example,

```
const dailyActivities = [ 'eat', 'sleep'];

// this gives the total number of elements in an array

console.log(dailyActivities.length); // 2
```

Array methods

Some of the commonly used JavaScript array methods are:

Method	Description
concat()	joins two or more arrays and returns a result
indexOf()	searches an element of an array and returns its position
find()	returns the first value of an array element that passes a test
findIndex()	returns the first index of an array element that passes a test
forEach()	calls a function for each element
includes()	checks if an array contains a specified element

push()	aads a new element to the end of an array and returns the new length of an array
unshift()	adds a new element to the beginning of an array and returns the new length of an array
pop()	removes the last element of an array and returns the removed element
shift()	removes the first element of an array and returns the removed element
sort()	sorts the elements alphabetically in strings and in ascending order
slice()	selects the part of an array and returns the new array
splice()	removes or replaces existing elements and/or adds new elements

```
let dailyActivities = ['sleep', 'work', 'exercise']
let newRoutine = ['eat'];

// sorting elements in the alphabetical order
dailyActivities.sort();
console.log(dailyActivities); // ['exercise', 'sleep', 'work']

//finding the index position of string
const position = dailyActivities.indexOf('work');
console.log(position); // 2

// slicing the array elements
const newDailyActivities = dailyActivities.slice(1);
console.log(newDailyActivities); // [ 'sleep', 'work']
```

// concatenating two arrays

const routine = dailyActivities.concat(newRoutine);

console.log(routine); // ["exercise", "sleep", "work", "eat"]

Interesting fact about JS Arrays

In JavaScript, an array is an object. And, the indices of arrays are objects keys.

Since arrays are objects, the array elements are stored by reference. Hence, when an array value is copied, any change in the copied array will also reflect in the original array. For example,

let arr = ['h', 'e'];

let arr1 = arr;

arr1.push('l');

console.log(arr); // ["h", "e", "l"]

console.log(arr1); // ["h", "e", "l"]