

Lexical grammar

An overview of JavaScript's lexical grammar including topics such as:

- Spaces
- Line terminators
- Comments
- Identifiers
- Keywords
- Literals

References

- https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Lexical_grammar

Lexical grammar - Spaces

- Valid spaces include horizontal and vertical tabulation and regular spaces

Lexical grammar - Line terminators

- Line terminators are normally a line feed/line break `\n` or a carriage return `\r`
- If no line terminators are used, contiguous statements will result in a syntax error.
 - For example:
 - `let a = "Hello" let b = "world!!!"`
- A semi-colon can be used at the end of each statement to avoid syntax errors from the lack of line terminators, but it will make the code less readable.
 - For example:
 - `let a = "Hello";let b = "world!!!"`;

Lexical grammar - Comments

- Line comments
 - Used to add comments that span a single line
 - The line comment starts with double slash (//)
 - For example:
 - let a = "Hello" // This is a line comment
- Block comments
 - Used to add comments that span one or more lines
 - The comment starts with a slash and star (/*) and ends with a star and slash (*/)
 - For example:
 - let a = "Hello" /* This is a line comment */

Lexical grammar - Identifiers

Identifies link values with a name, for example, a variable, a function, object keys, class names. For example

- `const amount = 1; // Variable declaration (may also be `let` or `var`)`
- `function myFunction() {} // Function declaration`
- `const person = { name: "John Doe" }; // Object keys`
- `// Class declaration`
- `class Person {
 #priv = "value"; // Private property
}`

Lexical grammar - Keywords

- Keywords are special words with specific meaning for JavaScript.
- For example:
 - const, var, let, function, if, else, while, for
- Reference
 - https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Reference/Lexical_grammar#reserved_words

Lexical grammar - Literals

- Individual words that represent values in JavaScript
- For example:
 - "Hello"
 - 'World!!!'
 - 123
 - true
 - false
 - 123.45