

Exercise 16: Making Your Code Readable

In this exercise, we'll take your working code and make it more readable.

Formatting

Go through and make sure that your code is nicely formatted. Follow these rules:

1. Global variables (including constants) and function definitions are not indented.
2. Start a bracket on the same line as the variable declaration
3. As soon as there is any kind of bracket ({, [, etc.), then indent by four spaces.
 - a. Exception: If it is all on one line, you don't need to indent
4. The closing bracket should have the same indentation as the line where the opening bracket is.
 - a. Exception: Arrays sometimes have the end bracket on the last line

You can look at my solutions from the previous section to get an idea of how it should look.

Comments

Go through and add comments to explain everything. Put comments just before each of these:

- Global variables (including constants)
- Function declarations

In addition, put comments inside functions to explain what is going on. Add comments before each of these lines to explain the block of code that follows:

- `var therapistLine;`
- `if (therapistLine == null) {`
- `if (patientLine.toLowerCase().indexOf("you") != -1) {`
- `return null`
- `if (lastChar(patientLine) == ".") {`
- `var modifiedLine = " " + patientLine + " ";`
- `var found = false;`
- `if (found) {`
- `modifiedLine = modifiedLine.substring(0, modifiedLine.length - 1);`
- `return randomElement(questionStarts) + " " + modifiedLine + "?";`
- `return null;`

This is probably more comments than you would really need, but it's great practice in explaining things. These comments are very helpful not only for other team members, but for yourself, when you come

back to code after several months away and can't remember why you wrote that particular block of code.

Take a Look at How I've Done It

There's no one right way to do this, but here's how I would do it:

<http://sdkbridge.com/prog1/Exercise16Answers.pdf>.