

38 visual JavaScript tips, explanations, and algorithm implementations



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JS

The Nullish Coalescing Operator

The logical **OR** reacts to **falsy** values.

This might often not be what you actually want.



```
const value = a || b;
```



The nullish coalescing operator only reacts to **null** and **undefined**.

Falsy values are kept.



```
const value = a ?? b;
```



Better Use The Strict Equality Comparison Operator ===

`==` is the abstract equality comparison operator.

It coerces types and leads to interesting results.

```
● ● ●  
1 == "1"; // true  
  
0 == ""; // true  
  
null == undefined; // true  
  
[] == ""; // true
```



Better use the strict equality comparison operator.

It doesn't coerce types and leads to more predictable results.

```
● ● ●  
1 === "1"; // false  
  
0 === ""; // false  
  
null === undefined; // false  
  
[] === ""; // false
```



Use Numeric Separators To Keep Large Numbers Readable

Large numbers are difficult to read.



```
const largeNumber = 982563162;
```



Numeric separators help to make sense of larger numbers because they create readable groups.



```
const largeNumber = 982_563_162;
```



Quickly Filter Out All Falsy Values From An Array

By using `filter` and passing the Boolean constructor, you can quickly filter out all falsy values from an array.

```
const array = [1, null, undefined, 0, 2, "", 4];  
  
const result = array.filter(Boolean); // => [1, 2, 4]
```

`filter` filters out all values where the function passed returns `false`.

Remember: JavaScript has first-class functions.

This is why you can directly pass the `Boolean` constructor function to `filter`.



Beware Of Automatic Semicolon Insertion

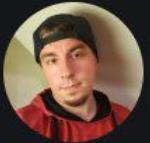
Although JavaScript doesn't require semicolons, it **inserts them** on certain occasions.

A **return** statement is one of those.

```
const myFunction = () => {
  // ...
  return
  {
    propertyOne: 1,
    propertyTwo: '2'
  };
};
```



This is actually evaluated as:
return undefined;



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A **return** statement must be followed by something that **keeps it open**, like a curly brace or a bracket.

Then what follows is also taken into account up to a certain point.

```
const myFunction = () => {
  // ...
  return {
    propertyOne: 1,
    propertyTwo: '2'
  };
};
```



JS

Get All Unique Values From An Array

By creating a **Set** from your array and **spreading** this **Set** into a new array, you get an array only containing the unique values of the original one.

```
const array = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 1, 2, 3, 4, 4];  
  
const uniqueValues = [ ... new Set(array)]; // => [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

Spreading the **Set** extracts its individual values and places them into a new array (because the expression is wrapped with square brackets).

A **Set** does only contain **unique values**.

When you construct the **Set** from the original array, all duplicates are **filtered** out.



The Destructuring Assignment

Extracting properties **one by one** can
bloat your code pretty fast.



```
const twitterResponse = await fetchUserData('@oliverjumpertz');

const name = twitterResponse.data.name;
const following = twitterResponse.data.following;
const followers = twitterResponse.data.followers;
```



Extracting the properties with a
destructuring assignment
removes a lot of repetitive code.



```
const twitterResponse = await fetchUserData('@oliverjumpertz');

const { name, following, followers } = twitterResponse.data;
```



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JS

Array Destructuring

Extracting individual values from an array works but is inflexible.

It can use a lot of space.



```
const array = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
  
const firstValue = array[0];  
const secondValue = array[1];  
const thirdValue = array[2];
```



```
const array = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5];  
  
const [firstValue, , thirdValue, ...rest] = array;
```

Array destructuring is flexible.

It uses less space, and even allows you to ignore values and get the remaining elements not yet extracted as a separate array.



Use Array Destructuring To Swap Two Variables

Swapping two variables using a temporary variable works but takes quite a few lines of code.



```
let a = 1;  
let b = 2;
```

```
let tmp = a;  
a = b;  
b = tmp;
```



You can use **array destructuring** to swap the two variables.

This takes less code, and often has better readability.



```
let a = 1;  
let b = 2;
```

```
[a, b] = [b, a];
```



Destructuring From A Possibly Undefined Property

Optional chaining does **not** work for the last layer of nesting.

```
● ● ●  
const obj = {  
  nested: undefined  
};
```

```
const { one, two } = obj?.nested;
```



TypeError: Cannot read property 'one' of undefined

Defining a fallback with the **nullish coalescing operator** makes this operation safe at runtime.



```
const obj = {  
  nested: undefined  
};
```

```
const { one, two } = obj?.nested ?? {};
```



Get The Last Items Of An Array



```
const array = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9];  
  
const lastElement = array.slice(-1); // => [9]  
const lastTwoElements = array.slice(-2); // => [8, 9]  
const lastThreeElements = array.slice(-3); // => [7, 8, 9]
```

You can use **Array.prototype.slice** with a negative number to get the **last items** of an array.



Swap Elements Within An Array With Destructuring

Destructuring also works for array elements and swaps the position of both elements in the array.



```
const array = [1, 2, 3];  
  
[array[0], array[2]] = [array[2], array[0]]; // => [3, 2, 1]
```



This is the same as swapping two regular variables.



Destructure An Object Into Existing Variables

You **can't** simply destructure an object **into** existing variables.

```
const obj = {  
  a: 1,  
  b: '2'  
};  
  
let a, b;  
  
{ a, b } = obj;
```



If you **wrap** the statement in **braces**, it works.

```
const obj = {  
  a: 1,  
  b: '2'  
};  
  
let a, b;  
  
({ a, b } = obj);
```



SyntaxError: Unexpected token

Destructure Function Parameters To Increase Readability For Users

Too many parameters make a function very difficult to use for users.

It's hard to tell which parameter is exactly what.



```
const myFunction = (one, two, three, four, five) => {  
  // processing  
};  
  
myFunction(1, 2, 3, '4', 5);
```



Destructuring the parameters allows your users to pass a single object where each parameter is **named**.

This can drastically increase readability.



```
const myFunction = ({one, two, three, four, five}) => {  
  // processing  
};  
  
myFunction({  
  one: 1,  
  two: 2,  
  three: 3,  
  four: '4',  
  five: 5  
});
```



Make Arguments Required By Using Default Parameters

This is just an arrow-function.

Whenever it is called, it simply throws an error.

```
const required = (parameterName) => {
  throw new Error(
    `${parameterName} is a required parameter`
  );
};
```

Use like this.



If you assign the arrow function as a **default parameter**, you throw an error whenever someone leaves out an otherwise required parameter.

Throws because the required argument is not provided.

```
const myFunction = (argument = required('argument')) => {
  // ...
};
```

myFunction();



Anatomy Of A For Loop

The **loop variable** needs to be **mutable**.

This is the **loop variable**.
It is usually modified on
each iteration.

This operation is performed **after**
each iteration.

```
for (let loopVariable = startValue; loopVariable < endValue; loopVariable++) {  
    someArray[loopVariable];  
  
    doSomethingWith(loopVariable);  
}
```

Everything within the curly
braces is performed **once**
for each iteration.

This is the value the loop variable
is **set to in the beginning**.

This check is performed **before**
each iteration.

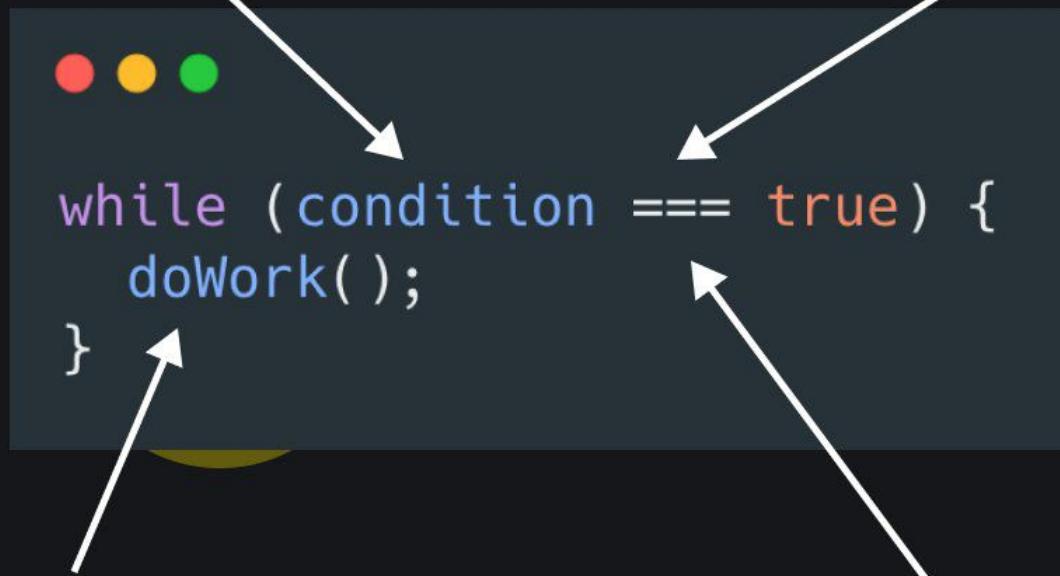
As soon as this check yields **false**,
the loop ends.



Anatomy Of A While Loop

This condition is checked **before** each step of the iteration.

If it yields **false**, the loop **ends**, even directly in the beginning.



You can also write a short condition like **true** or use a variable.

JavaScript basically calls the Boolean constructor with your variable like: **Boolean(variable)**

Everything **within** the **curly braces** is performed **once** for each **iteration**.

If the condition checked **never** yields **false**, the loop continues **forever**.



Use The Performance API To Measure Execution Times

Using **Date** to measure execution times is not very precise.

```
● ● ●  
const begin = new Date();  
  
someOperation();  
  
const end = new Date();  
  
const elapsedTime = end.getTime() - begin.getTime();
```



The **performance API** is made to measure time with **microsecond** precision.



```
● ● ●  
const begin = performance.now();  
  
someOperation();  
  
const end = performance.now();  
  
const elapsedTime = end - begin;
```



There is **one drawback**, though:
All major browsers have reduced precision
to **prevent fingerprinting**.
Precision is **unaffected in Node**.



Anatomy Of A Do-While Loop

Everything within the curly braces is performed **at least one time** until the condition yields **false**.

You can also write a **short** condition like **true** or use a **variable**.

```
do {  
    doSomething();  
} while (condition === true);
```

This condition is checked **after** each **iteration**.

If it yields **false**, the loop **ends**, but but only after it finished at least the first iteration.

If the condition checked **never** yields **false**, the loop continues **forever**.

