Unit 04b: Prefabs

- Introduction
- Goal
- Process
- Wrap-Up
- Further Material

Introduction

Some parts of working with Unity need their own unit. Creating Prefabs is one of those parts. It's a critical piece of Unity development to understand.

Goal

This unit is solely to make sure you understand the idea of Prefabs, and the process to create them.

Process

We've seen how everything that exists in the game world exists in the Hierarchy as a GameObject, and how you can attach Components to those GameObjects to add functionality.

Prefabs are Unity's manner to package up those GameObjects and associated Components into a **referenced template**.

It's a *template*, because once you've made a Prefab, it's super easy to duplicate it. Those duplicates are called *instances*.

Those instances are *referenced*, which means that when you change the Prefab, every instance of that template picks up the new settings. So you are able to make changes across all duplicates of a Prefab very easily.

Lastly, Prefabs allow us to create new complete GameObject packages on the fly during gameplay using *instantiation*. We'll look into how that works later.

For now, we are going to make a Prefab from the wall, so we can make more walls as needed.

- 1. Make sure you still have a wall object in your Hierarchy, and that it's still at position {0, 0, 0}. It should also have a Cube child.
- 2. In your Project panel, navigate into the Prefabs folder in your named folder.
- 3. Back in the Hierarchy panel, select your wall object. Then drag it from the Hierarchy panel into the Project panel.

Wrap-Up

Further Material