

Learn JavaScript Syntax: Classes

Class

JavaScript supports the concept of *classes* as a syntax for creating objects. Classes specify the shared properties and methods that objects produced from the class will have.

When an object is created based on the class, the new object is referred to as an *instance* of the class. New instances are created using the `new` keyword.

The code sample shows a class that represents a `Song`. A new object called `mySong` is created underneath and the `.play()` method on the class is called. The result would be the text `Song playing!` printed in the console.

```
class Song {  
  constructor() {  
    this.title;  
    this.author;  
  }  
  
  play() {  
    console.log('Song playing!');  
  }  
}  
  
const mySong = new Song();  
mySong.play();
```

Class Constructor

Classes can have a `constructor` method. This is a special method that is called when the object is created (instantiated). Constructor methods are usually used to set initial values for the object.

```
class Song {  
  constructor(title, artist) {  
    this.title = title;  
    this.artist = artist;  
  }  
}  
  
const mySong = new Song('Bohemian  
Rhapsody', 'Queen');  
console.log(mySong.title);
```

Class Methods

Properties in objects are separated using commas. This is not the case when using the `class` syntax. Methods in classes do not have any separators between them.

extends

JavaScript classes support the concept of inheritance — a child class can *extend* a parent class. This is accomplished by using the `extends` keyword as part of the class definition.

Child classes have access to all of the instance properties and methods of the parent class. They can add their own properties and methods in addition to those. A child class constructor calls the parent class constructor using the `super()` method.

```
class Song {  
  play() {  
    console.log('Playing!');  
  }  
  
  stop() {  
    console.log('Stopping!');  
  }  
}
```

```
// Parent class  
class Media {  
  constructor(info) {  
    this.publishDate = info.publishDate;  
    this.name = info.name;  
  }  
}
```

```
// Child class  
class Song extends Media {  
  constructor(songData) {  
    super(songData);  
    this.artist = songData.artist;  
  }  
}
```

```
const mySong = new Song({  
  artist: 'Queen',  
  name: 'Bohemian Rhapsody',  
  publishDate: 1975  
});
```

Static Methods

Within a JavaScript class, the `static` keyword defines a static method for a class. Static methods are not called on individual instances of the class, but are called on the class itself. Therefore, they tend to be general (utility) methods.

```
class Dog {  
  constructor(name) {  
    this._name = name;  
  }  
  
  introduce() {  
    console.log('This is ' + this._name  
+ ' !');  
  }  
  
  // A static method  
  static bark() {  
    console.log('Woof!');  
  }  
}  
  
const myDog = new Dog('Buster');  
myDog.introduce();  
  
// Calling the static method  
Dog.bark();
```