

JavaScript: Can a comma occur after the last set of values in an array?

Asked 8 years, 6 months ago Active 5 years ago Viewed 8k times

▲ I am wondering if a comma trailing an array in javascript is valid?

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```
var settings = {  
  'foo' : oof,  
  'bar' : rab,  
};
```

VS

```
var settings = {  
  'foo' : oof,  
  'bar' : rab  
};
```

Note the second example does not have a comma after the last key/value.

javascript

jquery

arrays

asked Feb 28 '11 at 7:23



superUntitled

15.4k

25

77

105

Suggest (1) title change to "...in an object or array" and (2) additional example with a trailing comma in an array literal. `var array_literal = ['foo', 'bar',];` – [Bob Stein](#) Dec 31 '15 at 12:09

This question provides info about IE support: [Does Internet Explorer 9 choke on extra commas at the end of array and object literals?](#) – In a nutshell, if you support only IE9+, you can use trailing commas. – [Gras Double](#) Jun 25 '17 at 10:33

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Most browsers and implementations do allow a trailing comma, the big **BUT** is the "Internet Explorer".

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A trailing comma in most Internet Explorer versions causes **BIG** trouble. It'll throw *wierd*, *crazy*, strange and unreasonable **errors** .. you have no idea where you're at! This is *terrible*, you'll fall into *deep* and serious *depressions*. The disease also has a name, "evil comma of doom" it was called once.



Conclusion: NEVER.. ever! use a trailing comma in Javascript.

answered Feb 28 '11 at 7:27



jAndy

184k

44

276

335

23 good use of drama and hyperbole +1 – meouw Feb 28 '11 at 7:39

2 I might be a drama queen :-P – jAndy Feb 28 '11 at 7:40

Thanks jAndy, i now know of the 'ecod'. is it semantically incorrect, or just a bug in ie? – superUntitled Feb 28 '11 at 7:46

1 It's rather the Internet Explorer that is the *eval browser of doom*. ;) – Gumbo Feb 28 '11 at 7:56 ✎

6 I know its late, but in case anybody spots this. More modern version of IE (IE9/10) will cater for this perfectly. < IE8 however, and expect pain. – KingCronus May 7 '13 at 9:31



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Historically speaking, [ES3](#) did NOT allow a trailing comma when defining an object literal. This was one thing that IE did get right, but most other browser vendors went against the spec and allowed it anyways. So technically it *was* a bug in the other browsers that supported it. In ES3, an `ObjectLiteral` was defined as,



```
ObjectLiteral
{ }
{ PropertyNameAndValueList }
```

Later [ES5](#) resolved this issue by going with the majority and legitimizing the trailing comma by putting it in the spec. Now an `ObjectLiteral` is defined as,

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Notice the trailing comma at the end.

Although the trailing comma is defined in an object literal, it is still not allowed in JSON according to ES5. So while the following object literal is valid,

```
{ foo: "bar", }
```

the following JSON is not,

```
'{ "foo": "bar", }'
```

The grammar for a JSONObject is,

```
JSONObject
  { }
  { JSONObject }
```

```
JSONMemberList
  JSONMember
  JSONMemberList , JSONMember
```

```
JSONMember
  JSONObject : JSONObject
```

In short, if you don't want to worry about spec or browser quirks, then do NOT add a trailing comma.

edited Apr 4 '13 at 23:30

answered Feb 28 '11 at 7:50



Anurag

122k

31

202

252

2 sign.. IE always gets blamed even if it did thing right :(– Guanlun Dec 12 '14 at 10:12

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<http://dontkry.com/posts/code/trailing-commas.html>

answered Aug 26 '14 at 12:37



Peter O'Brien

129 1 5

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