Destructuring is a way of extracting values into variables from data stored in objects and arrays.

# Object Destructuring

Let’s imagine we have an object like so:

const obj = {first: 'Asim', last: 'Hussain', age: 39 };

We want to extract the first and last properties into local variables, prior to ES6 we would have to write something like this:

const f = obj.first;

const l = obj.last;

console.log(f); // Asim

console.log(l); // Hussain

With destructing we can do so in one line, like so:

const {first: f, last: l} = obj;

console.log(f); // Asim

console.log(l); // Hussain

{first: f, last: l} describes a pattern, a set of rules for how we want to destructure an object.

**Tip**

const {first: f} = obj;

translates to extract the property first and store in a constant called f.

If we wanted to extract the properties into variables with the same name we would write it like so:

const {first: first, last: last} = obj;

console.log(first); // Asim

console.log(last); // Hussain

The above is quite a common use case for destructuring so it has a shortcut, like so

// {prop} is short for {prop: prop}

const {first, last} = obj;

console.log(first); // Asim

console.log(last); // Hussain

# Array Destructuring

Array destructuring works in a similar way except it extracts based of the index in the array, like so:

const arr = ['a', 'b'];

const [x, y] = arr;

console.log(x); // a

console.log(y); // b

# Function Parameter Destructuring

One useful use case for destructuring is in function parameters.

Typically, if we want to pass multiple params to a function, with maybe some optional parameters, we would pass it in as an object like so:

function f(options) {

console.log(options.x);

}

f({x:1}); // 1

Now we can define the function parameter list as an object destructure pattern, like so:

function f({x}) {

console.log(x); // Refer to x directly

}

f({x:1});

Notice that in the function body above we can refer to x directly, we don’t have to refer to it through an object property like options.x.

In addition to that when using destructured function parameters we can also provide default values, like so:

function f({x=0}) {

console.log(x);

}

f({}); // 0

In the above example x now has a default value of 0 even if it’s not passed into the function when called.

# Summary

Destructuring is a useful feature of ES6, with it we can extract values from objects and arrays with ease.

Through function parameter destructing we now have a built in syntax for providing optional parameters to functions, including giving them default values if none are provided