

JavaScript Identifiers

All JavaScript **variables** must be **identified** with **unique names**.

These unique names are called **identifiers**.

Identifiers can be short names (like x and y) or more descriptive names (age, sum, totalVolume).

The general rules for constructing names for variables (unique identifiers) are:

- Names can contain letters, digits, underscores, and dollar signs.
- Names must begin with a letter
- Names can also begin with \$ and _ (but we will not use it in this tutorial)
- Names are case sensitive (y and Y are different variables)
- Reserved words (like JavaScript keywords) cannot be used as names

JavaScript identifiers are case-sensitive.

The Assignment Operator

In JavaScript, the equal sign (=) is an "assignment" operator, not an "equal to" operator.

This is different from algebra. The following does not make sense in algebra:

$x = x + 5$

In JavaScript, however, it makes perfect sense: it assigns the value of $x + 5$ to x.

(It calculates the value of $x + 5$ and puts the result into x. The value of x is incremented by 5.)

The "equal to" operator is written like == in JavaScript.