

JavaScript: Objects and Functions

"The" language of the Web

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Outline

- Objects
- Functions
 - Closures
- Dates

JavaScript – The language of the Web

OBJECTS



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition Chapter 5. Objects

Mozilla Developer Network

- Learn web development JavaScript » Dynamic client-side scripting » Introducing JavaScript objects
- Web technology for developers » JavaScript » JavaScript reference » Standard built-in objects » Object
- Web technology for developers » JavaScript » JavaScript reference » Expressions and operators » in operator

Big Warnings (a.k.a., forget Java objects)

- In JavaScript, Objects may exist without Classes
 - Usually, Objects are created directly, without deriving them from a Class definition
- In JavaScript, Objects are dynamic
 - You may add, delete, redefine a property at any time
 - You may add, delete, redefine a method at any time
- In JavaScript, there are no access control methods
 - Every property and every method is always public (private/protected don't exist)
- There is no real difference between properties and methods (because of how JS functions work)

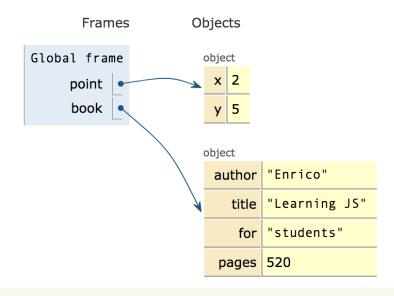
Object

- An object is an unordered collection of properties
 - Each property has a name (key), and a value
- You store and retrieve property values, through the property names
- Object creation and initialization:

```
let point = { x: 2, y: 5 };

let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  title : "Learning JS",
  for: "students",
    pages: 520,
};

Object literals syntax:
  {"name": value,
    "name": value,
    or:
    {name: value,
        name: value,
    }
}
```



Object Properties

Property names are ...

- Identified as a string
- Must be unique in each object
- Created at object initialization
- Added after object creation
 - With assignment
- Deleted after object creation
 - With delete operator

Property values are ...

- Reference to any JS value
- Stored inside the object
- May be primitive types
- May be arrays, other objects, ...
 - Beware: the object stores the reference, the value is *outside*
- May also be functions (methods)

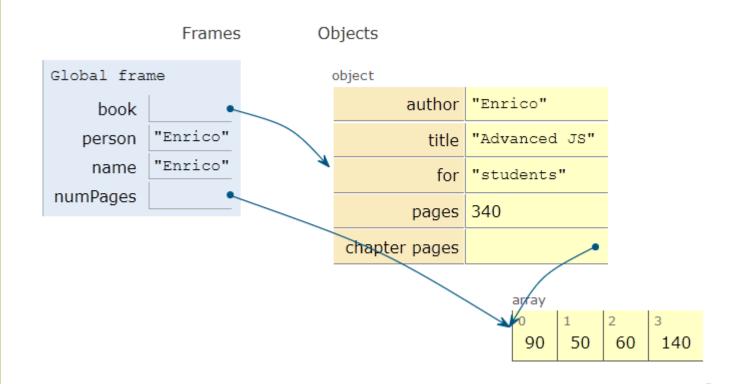
Accessing properties

• Dot (.) or square brackets [] notation

The . dot notation and omitting the quotes are allowed when the property name is a valid identifier, only.

book.title or book['title']
book['my title'] and not book.my title

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  title : "Learning JS",
  for: "students",
  pages: 340,
  "chapter pages": [90,50,60,140]
};
let person = book.author;
let name = book["author"];
let numPages =
    book["chapter pages"];
book.title = "Advanced JS";
book["pages"] = 340;
```



Objects as associative arrays

- The [] syntax looks like array access, but the index is a string
 - Generally known as associative arrays
- Setting a non-existing property creates it:

```
- person["telephone"] = "0110901234";
- person.telephone = "0110901234";
```

Deleting properties

```
- delete person.telephone;
```

- delete person["telephone"];

Computed property names

- Flexibility in creating object properties
 - {[prop]:value} -> creates an
 object with property name equal to
 the value of the variable prop
 - [] can contain more complex expressions: e.g., i-th line of an object with multiple "address" properties (address1, address2, ...): person["address"+i]
 - Using expressions is not recommended...

- Beware of quotes:
 - book["title"] -> property called
 title
 - Equivalent to book.title
 - book[title] -> property called
 with the value of variable title (if
 exists)
 - If title=="author", then equivalent to book["author"]
 - No equivalent in dot-notation

Property access errors

- If a property is not defined, the (attempted) access returns undefined
- If unsure, must check before accessing
 - Remember: undefined is *falsy*, you may use it in Boolean expressions

```
let surname = undefined;
if (book) {
   if (book.author) {
      surname = book.author.surname;
   }
}
```

surname = book && book.author && book.author.surname;

Iterating over properties

• for .. in iterates over the properties

```
for( let a in {x: 0, y:3}) {
     console.log(a);
}

x
y
```

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
  chapterPages: [90,50,60,140],
};

for (const prop in book)
  console.log(`${prop} = ${book[prop]}`);
```

```
author = Enrico
pages = 340
chapterPages = 90,50,60,140
```

Iterating over properties

 All the (enumerable) properties names (keys) of an object can be accessed as an array, with:

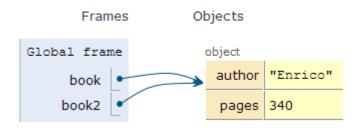
```
- let keys = Object.keys(my_object);
[ 'author', 'pages']
```

- All pairs [key, value] are returned as an array with:
 - let keys_values = Object.entries(my_object)

```
[ [ 'author', 'Enrico' ], [ 'pages', 340 ] ]
```

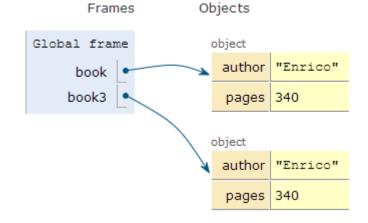
Copying objects

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};
let book2 = book; // ALIAS
```



```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

let book3 = // COPY
  Object.assign({}, book);
```



Object.assign

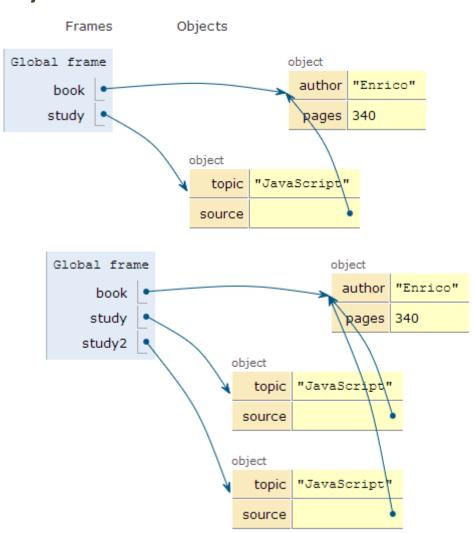
- let new_object = Object.assign(target, source);
- Assigns all the properties from the source object to the target one
- The target may be an existing object
- The target may be a new object: {}
- Returns the target object (after modification)

Beware! Shallow copy, only

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

let study = {
  topic: "JavaScript",
  source: book,
};
```

```
let study2 = Object.assign({},
study);
```

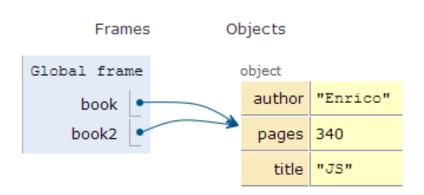


Merge properties (on existing object)

• Object.assign(target, source, default values, ..);

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

let book2 = Object.assign(
  book, {title: "JS"}
);
```

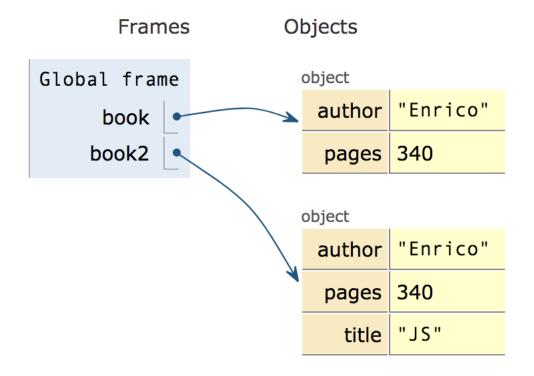


Merge properties (on new object)

• Object.assign(target, source, default values, ..);

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

let book2 = Object.assign(
  {}, book, {title: "JS"}
);
```



Copying with spread operator (ES9 – ES2018)

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

let book2 = {...book, title: "JS"};
let book3 = { ...book2 };
console.log(book2);
```

```
const {a,b,...others} =
    {a:1, b:2, c:3, d:4};

console.log(a);
console.log(b);
console.log(others);
```

```
{ author: 'Enrico', pages: 340, title: 'JS' }
```

```
1
2
{ c: 3, d: 4 }
```

Checking if properties exist

- Operator in
 - Returns true if property is in the object. Do <u>not</u> use with Array

```
let book = {
  author : "Enrico",
  pages: 340,
};

console.log('author' in book);
delete book.author;
console.log('author' in book);
```

```
const v=['a','b','c'];
console.log('b' in v);

console.log('PI' in Math);
```

```
true
false
```

```
false
true
```

Object creation (equivalent methods)

- By object literal: const point = {x:2, y:5};
 By object literal (empty object): const point = {};
 By constructor: const point = new Object();
 By object static method create: const point = Object.create({x:2,y:5});
- Using a constructor function



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Chapter 7. Functions

JavaScript – The language of the Web

FUNCTIONS

Functions

- One of the most important elements in JavaScript
- Delimits a block of code with a private scope
- Can accept parameters and returns one value
 - Can also be an object
- Functions themselves are objects in JavaScript
 - They can be assigned to a variable
 - Can be passed as an argument
 - Used as a return value

Declaring functions: 3 ways

```
function do(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

Classic functions

```
Global frame
                                                                                       function square(x) {
                                                                     square 🌘
                                                                                        return y ;
                                                                 square
                                                                        Х
                                               During
function square(x) {
                                                                    Return
                                                execution
  let y = x * x;
                                                                     value
  return y ;
let n = square(4);
                                                                                     Objects
                                                                        Frames
                                                After
                                                execution
                                                                 Global frame
                                                                   square
                                                                                        return y ;
                                                                        n 16
```

Frames

Objects

Parameters

- Comma-separated list of parameter names
 - May assign a default value, e.g., function(a, b=1) {}
- Parameters are passed by-value
 - Copies of the reference to the object
- Parameters that are not passed in the function call get the value 'undefined'
- Check missing/optional parameters with:

```
- if(p===undefined) p = default_value ;
- p = p || default_value ;
```

Variable number of parameters

Syntax for functions with variable number of parameters, using the . . . operator (called "rest")

```
function fun (par1, par2, ...arr) { }
```

 The "rest" parameter must be the last, and will deposit all extra arguments into an array

```
function sumAll(initVal, ...arr) {
  let sum = initVal;
  for (let a of arr) sum += a;
  return sum;
}
sumAll(0, 2, 4, 5); // 11
```

Declaring functions: 3 ways

```
function do(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

```
2a) Function expression

const fn = function(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

```
2b) Named function expression

const fn = function do(params) {
   /* do something */
}
```

Function expression: indistinguishable

```
function square(x) {
  let y = x * x;
  return y;
}

let cube = function c(x) {
  let y = square(x)*x;
  return y;
}

The cobsequence of the
```

```
Global frame

square

square

cube

n 64

function square(x) {
    let y = x * x ;
    return y;
    let y = square(x) *x ;
    return y;
}
```

The *expression* function(){} creates **a new object of type 'function'** and returns the result.

Any variable may "refer" to the function and call it. You can also store that reference into an array, an object property, pass it as a parameter to a function, redefine it, ...

Declaring functions: 3 ways

```
function do(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

```
3) Arrow function

const fn = (params) => {
  /* do something */
}
```

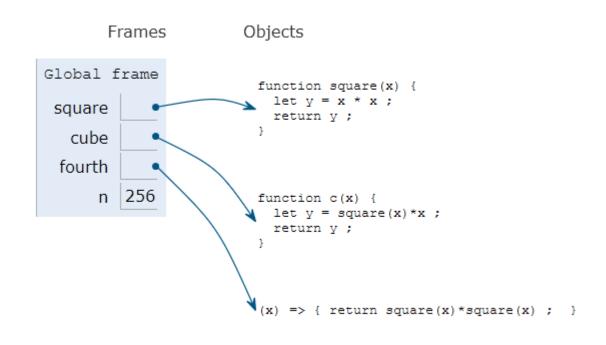
```
2a) Function expression

const fn = function(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

```
const fn = function do(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

Arrow Function: just a shortcut

```
function square(x) {
 let y = x * x;
  return y;
let cube = function c(x) {
 let y = square(x)*x;
  return y ;
let fourth = (x) => { return
square(x)*square(x); }
let n = fourth(4);
```



Parameters in arrow functions

Return value

- Default: undefined
- Use return to return a value
- Only one value can be returned
- However, objects (or arrays) can be returned

```
const fun = () => { return ['hello', 5]; }
const [ str, num ] = fun();
console.log(str);
```

Arrow functions have implicit return if there is only one value

```
let fourth = (x) => { return square(x)*square(x) ; }
let fourth = x => square(x)*square(x);
```

Nested functions

Function can be nested, i.e., defined within another function

```
function hypotenuse(a, b) {
   const square = x => x*x;
   return Math.sqrt(square(a) + square(b));
}

function hypotenuse(a, b) {
   function square(x) { return x*x; }
   return Math.sqrt(square(a) + square(b));
}
```

- The inner function is scoped within the external function and cannot be called outside
- The inner function might access variables declared in the outside function

Closure: definition (somewhat cryptic)

A closure is a name given to a feature in the language by which a nested function executed after the execution of the outer function can still access outer function's scope.

Really: one of the most important concepts in JS

https://medium.com/@vvkchandra/learn-javascript-closures-through-the-laws-of-karma-49d32d35b3f7

Closures

- JS uses lexical scoping
 - Each new functions defines a scope for the variables declared inside
 - Nested functions may access the scope of all enclosing functions
- Every function object remembers the scope where it is defined, even after the external function is no longer active → Closure

```
"use strict";
function greeter(name) {
    const myname = name ;
    const hello = function () {
        return "Hello " + myname ;
                           Warning: not
    return hello ;
                        return hello();
const helloTom = greeter("Tom") ;
const helloJerry = greeter("Jerry") ;
console.log(helloTom());
console.log(helloJerry());
```

Closures

- hello accesses the variable myname, defined in the outer scope
- The function is returned (as helloTom or helloJerry)
- Each of the functions "remembers" the reference to myname, when it was defined
- The variable myname goes out of scope, but is not destroyed
 - Still accessible (referred) by the hello functions.

```
"use strict";
function greeter(name) {
    const myname = name ;
                                         greeter
                                         scope
    const hello = function () {
        return "Hello " + myname ;
                                      hello
                                      scope
    return hello ;
const helloTom = greeter("Tom") ;
const helloJerry = greeter("Jerry") ;
console.log(helloTom());
console.log(helloJerry());
```

Using closures to emulate objects

```
"use strict";
function counter() {
    let value = 0;
    const getNext = () => {
        value++;
        return value;
    return getNext ;
```

```
const count1 = counter();
console.log(count1());
console.log(count1());

console.log(count1());

console.log(count2());
console.log(count2());
console.log(count2());
```

```
123123
```

Using closures to emulate objects (with methods)

```
"use strict";
function counter() {
    let n = 0;
    // return an object,
    // containing two function-valued
    // properties
    return {
        count: function() {
            return n++; },
        reset: function() { n = 0; }
    };
```

```
let c = counter(), d = counter();
        // Create two counters
c.count()
       // => 0
d.count()
        // => 0: they count independently
c.reset()
        // reset() and count() methods
c.count()
        // => 0: because we reset c
d.count()
        // => 1: d was not reset
```

Immediately Invoked Function Expressions (IIFE)

- Functions may protect the scope of variables and inner functions
- May declare a function
 - With internal variables
 - With inner functions
 - Call it only once, and discard everything

```
( function() {
    let a = 3;
    console.log(a);
} ) ();
```

```
let num = ( function() {
    let a = 3 ;
    return a ;
} ) ();
```

https://flaviocopes.com/javascript-iife/ https://medium.com/@vvkchandra/essentialjavascript-mastering-immediately-invokedfunction-expressions-67791338ddc6

Using IIFE to emulate objects (with methods)

```
"use strict";
const c = (
    function () {
        let n = 0;
        return {
            count: function () {
                return n++; },
            reset: function () {
                n = 0; }
    })();
```

```
console.log(c.count());
console.log(c.count());
c.reset();
console.log(c.count());
console.log(c.count());
```

```
0
1
0
1
```

Construction functions

- Define the object type
 - Use a capital initial letter
 - Set the properties with the keyword this
- Create an instance of the object with new

```
function Car(make, model, year) {
  this.make = make;
  this.model = model;
  this.year = year;
  this.isNew = ()=>(year>2000);
}
```

```
let mycar = new Car('Eagle',
'Talon TSi', 1993);
```



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition Chapter 9.4 Dates and Times

Mozilla Developer Network
Web technology for developers » JavaScript »
JavaScript reference »
Standard built-in objects » Date

Day.js https://day.js.org/en/

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DATES

Date object

- Store a time instant with *millisecond* precision, counted from Jan 1, 1970 UTC (Unix Epoch)
- Careful with time zones
 - Most methods work in local time (not UTC) the computer is set to

```
let now = new Date();
```

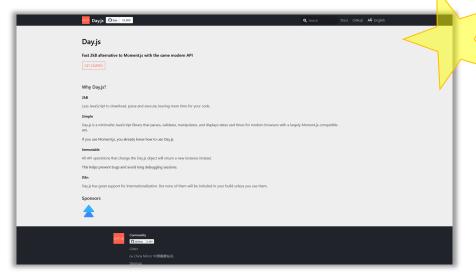
```
let newYearMorning = new Date(
2021, // Year 2021
0, // January (from 0)
1, // 1st
18, 15, 10, 743);
// 18:15:10.743, local time
```

UTC vs Local time zone are confusing.
> new Date('2020-03-18')
2020-03-18T00:00:00.000Z
> new Date('18 March 2020')
2020-03-17T23:00:00.000Z

Formatting is locale and implementation dependent

Comparisons are difficult (no way to specify which fields you want, must set them to zero explicitly)

Serious JS date/time handling libraries



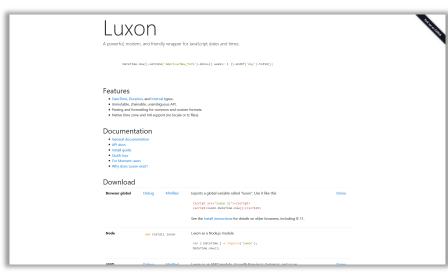
https://day.js.org/



https://momentjs.com/



https://date-fns.org/



https://moment.github.io/luxon/



https://js-joda.github.io/js-joda/

Day.js Library

DAYJS https://day.js.org/

- Goals
 - Compatible with moment.js
 - But very small (2kB)
 - Works in nodejs and in the browser
 - All objects are immutable
 - All API functions that modify a date, will always return a new object instance
 - Localization
 - Plugin system for extending functionality

Install

```
npm init #if not already done
npm install dayjs
```

Import

```
const dayjs = require('dayjs')
```

Use

```
let now = dayjs()
console.log(now.format())
```

Basic operations with Day.js

Creating date objects – dayjs() constructor

Displaying date objects – format()

https://day.js.org/docs/en/parse/parse

Get/Set date/time components

```
# obj.unit() -> get
# obj.unit(new val) -> set
let now2 = now.date(15);
let now2 = now.set('date', 15);
        2021-03-<mark>15</mark>T16:50:26+01:00
let now3 = now.minute(45);
let now3 = now.set('minute',45);
        2021-03-02T16:45:26+01:00
let today_day = now.day();
let today_day = now.get('day');
```

| No. | Unit | Shorthand | Description |
|-----|-------------|-----------|--|
| | date | D | Date of Month |
| | day | d | Day of Week (Sunday as 0, Saturday as 6) |
| | month | М | Month (January as 0, December as 11) |
| | year | у | Year |
| | hour | h | Hour |
| | minute | m | Minute |
| | second | S | Second |
| | millisecond | ms | Millisecond |

https://day.js.org/docs/en/get-set/get-set

Date Manipulation and Comparison

```
let wow = dayjs('2019-01-25').add(1, 'day').subtract(1, 'year').year(2009).toString();
// "Sun, 25 Jan 2009 23:00:00 GMT"
```

- Methods to "modify" a date (and return a modified one)
- add/.subtract
- .startOf/.endOf
- d1.diff(d2, 'unit')
- Specify the unit to be added/subtracted/rounded
- Can be easily chained

- Day.js objects can be compared
- .isBefore/.isSame/.isAfter
- .isBetween
- .isLeapYear / .daysInMonth

Day.js Plugins

- To keep install size minimal, several functions are only available in *plugins*
- Plugins must be
 - Loaded
 - Registered into the libraries
- Then, functions may be freely used

```
const isLeapYear =
    require('dayjs/plugin/isLeapYear');
    // load plugin

dayjs.extend(isLeapYear);
    // register plugin

console.log(now.isLeapYear());
    // use function
```

Advanced Day.js Topics

- Localization / Internationalization
 - Language-aware and locale-aware parsing and formatting
 - Various formatting patterns for different locales/languages

Durations

- Measuring time intervals (the difference between two time instants)
- Interval arithmetic
- Time Zones
 - Conversion between time zones



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