

JavaScript: Objects and Functions

"The" language of the Web

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Outline

- Objects
- Functions
 - Closures

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)

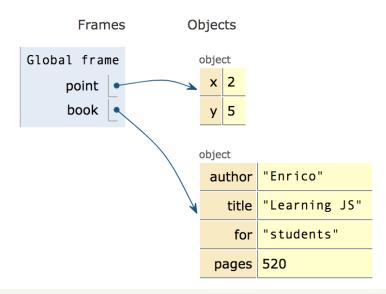
Object

- 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)

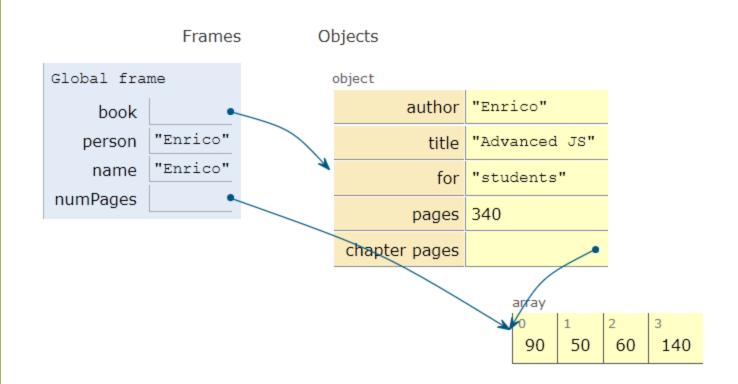
Accessing properties

• 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:

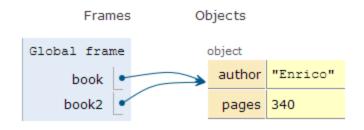
```
- let keys = Object.keys(my_object);
[ 'author', 'pages']
```

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

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

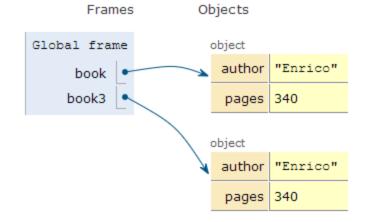
Copying objects

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



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

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



Object.assign

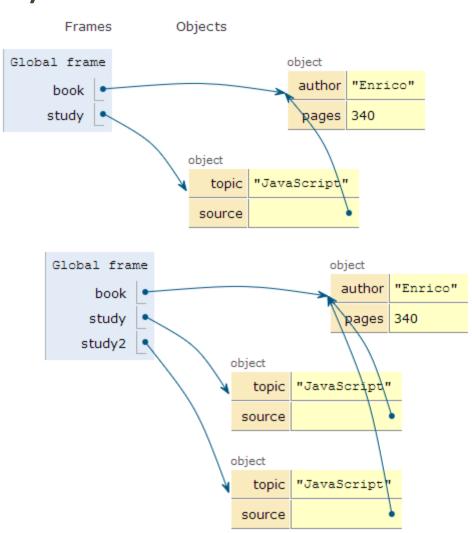
- let new_object = Object.assign(target, source);
- Assigns all the properties from the source object to the target one
- The target may be a new object: {}
- The target may be an existing object
- If properties already exists, they will be overwritten
- Returns the target object (after modification)

Beware! Shallow copy, only

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

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

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

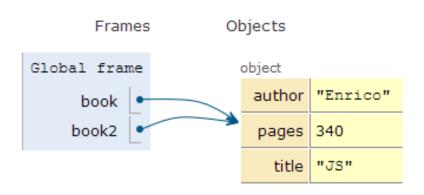


Merge properties (on existing object)

• Object.assign(target, default values, ..other sources..);

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

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

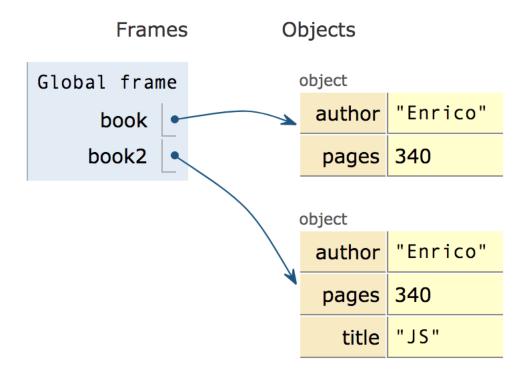


Merge properties (on new object)

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

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

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



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 not 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



JavaScript: The Definitive Guide, 7th Edition

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);
                                                                         Frames
                                                                                      Objects
                                                After
                                                execution
                                                                  Global frame
                                                                                        function square(x) {
                                                                    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 object of the cube (4);
```

```
Global frame

square

square

cube

n 64

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

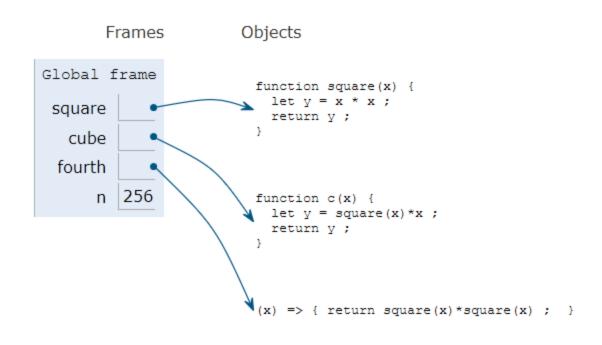
const fn = function(params) {
  /* do something */
}
```

```
2b) Named function expression

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());
```

```
1
2
3
1
2
3
```

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);
```



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