**Why does React need this key prop? 🔑**

The official documentation clarifies this perfectly:

Keys help React identify which items have changed, are added, or are removed. Keys should be given to the elements inside the array to give the elements a stable identity.

When the state of your component changes, the render function will return a new tree of React elements, different to the previous/current one. **React needs to figure out what are the differences to efficiently update the UI** with the most recent changes. This process of matching both element trees is called **reconciliation.**