

Lesson

Weekend

Introduction to Programming

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/ JavaScript and Web Browsers

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/ JavaScript Variables

Text

Cheat sheet

Terminology

- **Variable:** Variables can be thought of as containers used to store information. They allow for a way to label data with a descriptive name.
- **Lower camel case:** Use `lowerCamelCase` when naming JavaScript variables. Start with a lowercase letter, and if the variable name is more than one word, remove all spaces and capitalize the first letter of each subsequent word.
- **var:** The old way of declaring a variable in JavaScript. You should recognize it but not actually use this way of doing things! A JavaScript **statement**.
- **let:** The modern way of declaring a variable that changes in JavaScript. A JavaScript **statement**.

- **const:** The modern way of declaring a variable that should never change in JavaScript. This is short for constant. A JavaScript **statement**.
- **assignment operator:** This is the equals sign `=`; what we use to assign a value to a variable.
- **statement:** The technical term to group reserved keywords in JavaScript that serve a specific purpose, like variable declaration with `let`, `const`, or `var`.

Tips

- Variables should begin with a letter.
- Variables are case sensitive (`myNumber` is a *different* variable than `myNUMBER`).
- Use clear names that describe the value being stored like `myNumber`.
- Always name your variables in a manner that will be easy for other developers to understand. Avoid vague letters or initials. (For example: `const x = 45` doesn't tell us what the value is. Is 45 an age, a distance, size, a time?...)

Examples

Set a variable equal to a number:

```
let myNumber = 45;  
let favoriteNumber = 22;
```

Use a variable without modifying its value:

```
favoriteNumber * 4;
```

Use a variable and modify it:

```
favoriteNumber = favoriteNumber * 4;
```

Shortcut:

```
favoriteNumber *= 4;
```

Use multiple variables:

```
const myNumber = 45;  
const otherNumber = 12;  
const result = myNumber + otherNumber;
```

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Last updated March 24, 2023

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