Lesson   Weekend

Introduction to Programming (/introduction-to-programming) / JavaScript and Web Browsers (/introduction-to-programming/javascript-and-web-browsers) / Functions

Text   Cheat sheet

Terminology

- **Function:** A function is a bundle of code that performs a set of procedures.

- **Method:** A method is a type of function. It is an action run on a piece of data; you can think of it as a message you send to a piece of data, and the result is the response.

- **Receiver:** The data that the method is called on. In the example below, `toUpperCase` is called on `"hi"` and `"hi"` is the receiver.

```
> "hi".toUpperCase();
HI
```

- **Function declaration:** This is when we define what a function does — its "functionality". This is also called **function definition**. Here's an example:

```
function addEmphasis(stringParam) {
  const result = stringParam.toUpperCase().concat("!!!");
  return result;
}
```

- **Return value:** The return value is the method or function's response.

- **Argument:** Some methods/functions take one or more arguments that provide the method/function with additional information to help it perform its action.

- **Parameter:** This is a placeholder variable that is included in the definition of a function. There is no value for parameters. Once the function is called, an argument is passed into the parameter and gives it a value. Methods also can have parameters, but we won't create our own methods until Intermediate JavaScript.

- **Parens:** A shorthand for saying parentheses.

- **Calling a function/method:** This means that we are executing a function/method's actions. We must include parentheses at the end of a function/method name to call a function/method. Here's an example method call and function call:

```
// calling the toUpperCase method
"hello".toUpperCase()
```

```
// calling the addEmphasis function
addEmphasis("I love cats");
```

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