

Lesson

Monday

Introduction to Programming

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/ JavaScript and Web Browsers

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/ Writing Functions

Text

Cheat sheet

Terminology

- An **argument** is what you pass into a function or method when you are calling it.
- A **parameter** is a placeholder variable for the data we pass into a function via the argument. The value of a parameter is set to the argument we pass into the function when we are calling the function. In the example below, `number1` and `number2` are parameters while `1` and `2` are arguments.

Sample code

This function takes 2 arguments (expecting two numbers) and assigns them to the parameters `number1` and `number2`. The function returns a number:

```
function add(number1, number2) { // function declaration
  return number1 + number2;
}
> add(1, 2);                      // function call
3                                 // returned value from the function
```

Parts of a function

- A **function declaration** starts with the `function` keyword.
- Next comes the name. It should be descriptive and clear. In the example above, the name is `add`. Always use lower camel case for function names.
- The name is always followed with parens. These parens may or may not include **parameters**. In the `add` function above, `number1` and `number2` are parameters.
- The function **body** is enclosed in curly brackets. The code inside the curly brackets is the code that will be executed when the function is called.
- Generally, you will want to return a value from your function. It's very common for beginners to forget the `return`, which means that the function will return `undefined` instead of a value. In the example above, the `add` function will return the value of `number1 + number2`.

Conventions

- Use lower camelCase for function names.
- Use descriptive variable names so that your code is easy to understand. Don't be tempted to abbreviate.

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