

key prop

When you render a list of elements, you need to add a key prop to each element with a unique value within the list

- if your data comes from a database, you can use the database keys/IDs, which are unique by nature
- if your data is created and persisted locally, use an incrementing counter, `crypto.randomUUID()` or a package like `uuid`

Rules of keys

1. The *key* prop goes on the outermost repeated element
2. *key* is a special prop that React uses internally. It's not a prop that you pass to a child component and destructure there to get access to it

Index as key anti-pattern

When is it actually safe to use index as a key?

1. Your items don't have a unique ID (if they do, always use that instead!)
2. The list is completely static - you never add or remove items
3. The list is never reordered or filtered

Ex: navigation menu links

If you ever see weird behavior in your lists - like data jumping between items, inputs losing focus, or animations glitching - check your keys first