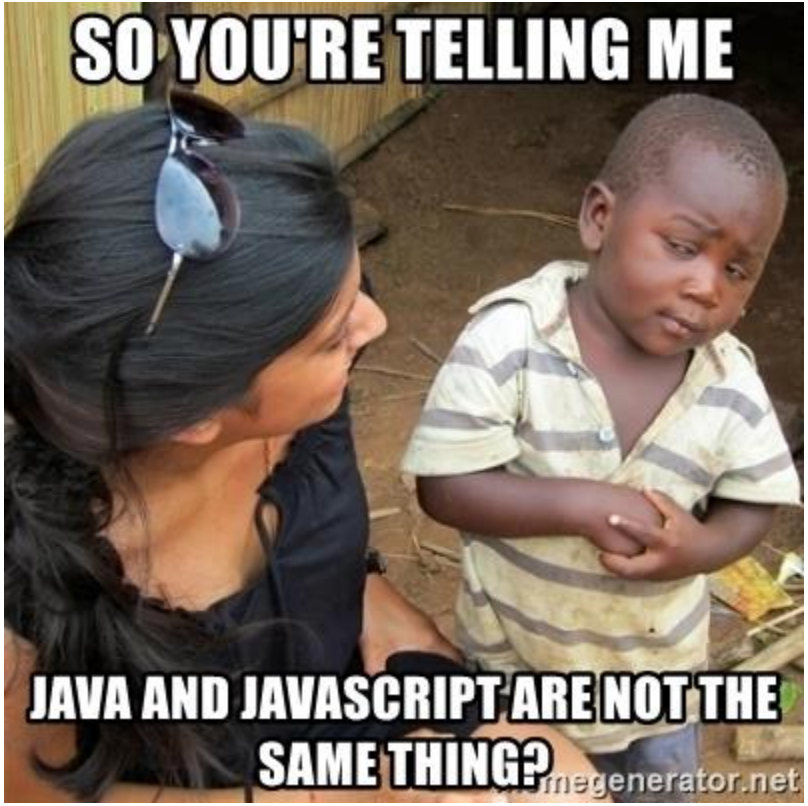
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Module 3-5

Intro to JavaScript

Objectives

- Variables
- Variable names
- Declaring variables
- var, let and const
- Datatypes
- Operators and arithmetic
- Type conversion

Some Quick Facts

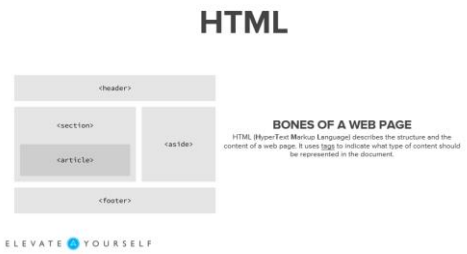
JavaScript is an interpreted scripting language that runs on internet browsers (client-side).

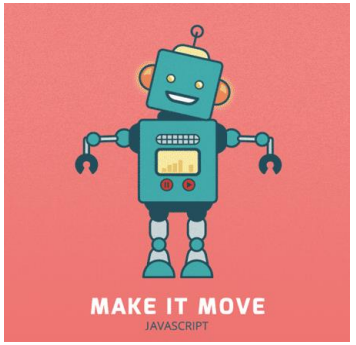
- It is not related in any way shape or form to that other language you are now familiar with.
  - Though it does share similar language syntax.

- Came into being in the mid-1990’s.
- In recent times, JavaScript libraries and frameworks have greatly extended the language’s capabilities.

The Three Pillars of The World Wide Web

- **HTML**: The content being presented.
- **CSS**: How that content is formatted.
- **JavaScript**: Any actions or behaviors the content can provide.





JavaScript: Where does It Go?

JavaScript can be incorporated directly into a HTML page:

```
<html>
<head>
     <script>
          window.alert('Hello World.');
     </script>
</head>
<body>Helpful Content.</body>
</html>
```

A block of JavaScript code is enclosed in a set of <script> tags.

JavaScript: Where does It Go? (Preferred Method)

It is recommended that JavaScript logic be placed in a separate file and “included” in the HTML file.

```
<html>
<head>
<script src="thisScript.js"></script>
</head>
<body>Helpful Content.</body>
</html>
```

```
window.alert('Hello World.')
```

This is preferred over the first method we discussed.

Loosely Typed

- In terms of data types, JavaScript is loosely typed, meaning we do not explicitly tell JavaScript what data type a variable will hold.
- These are the data types a variable can take on: **String**, **Number**, **Boolean**, **Arrays**, and **Objects**.

```
typeof 1 //> "number"
typeof "1" //> "string"


typeof [1,2,3] //> "object"
typeof {name: "john", country: "usa"} //> "object"


typeof true //> "boolean"
typeof (1 === 1) //> "boolean"


typeof undefined //> "undefined"
typeof null //> "object"


const f = () => 2
typeof f //> "function"
```

Declaring Variables

- Declaring variables in JavaScript takes on the following form:

  let <<variable name>> = <<initial value>>;

```
let myStrVariable = ‘hammer’;
let myNumVariable = 3;
let myOtherNumVariable = 3.14
let myBoolean = true;
```

- In older texts you will see variables declared using var, i.e. var myBoolean = true. This should be avoided at all costs, **always use let**.
- Values that do not change are declared using **const**.

typeof

- We can use typeof to ascertain the data type of a variable.

```
let myStrVariable = 'hammer';
console.log(typeof myStrVariable); // string
let myNumVariable = 3;
console.log(typeof myNumVariable); // number
let myOtherNumVariable = 3.14
console.log(typeof myNumVariable); // number
let myBoolean = true;
console.log(typeof myBoolean); // boolean
```

Let’s Code!

Conditional Statements and Comparisons

These should also look familiar:

```
let x = -3;
let positive = (x > 0);
console.log(positive);
// Prints false

if (x < 0) {
   console.log(x + ' is a negative number.');
}
// Prints -3 is a negative number
```

Conditional Statements and Comparisons

We can also apply AND / OR / XOR statements:

```
let x = -3;
let y = -4
let positive = (x > 0);

if (x < 0 && y < 0) {
   console.log('Both numbers are negative.');
}
else if ( x < 0 ^ y < 0) {
   console.log('Only one is negative.');
}
else {
   console.log('Both are positive');
}
```

Declaring An Array

Here are a few examples of array declarations:

```
//Declaring an array with three strings:
let myArray = ['Fiat Chrysler', 'Ford', 'GM'];

//An empty array:
let myEmptyArray = [];
```

Iterating Through an Array

Our loopy friends are back:

```
let myArray = ['Fiat Chrysler', 'Ford', 'GM'];
for (i=0; i < myArray.length; i++) {

   console.log(myArray[i]);
}
// Prints out Fiat Chrysler Ford GM
```

- Note that the for-loop is structurally similar to its Java counterpart.
- We access individual elements of an array in a similar way: myArray[0] for the first, myArray[1] for the second, etc.
- We can access the length of an array with the .length property.

Comparison operators

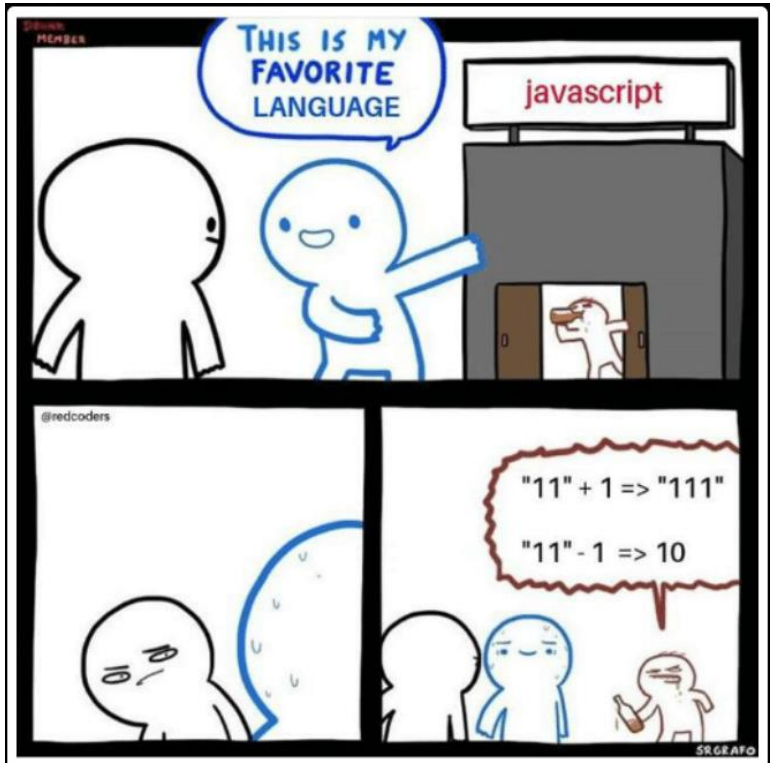
Identity vs. Equality:

```
let x = 10;
if (x === “10”){

   console.log(“equal”);
}
// x is a number and “10” is a string so this
is false
```

- Identity (===) operator behaves identically to equality (==) operator except no type conversion is done
- == operator will compare for equality after doing any necessary type conversions
- === will not do the conversion and will only consider the two equal if they are of the same type and same values

Truthy and Falsy



If you are coming from a strictly typed language like Java, there are some unusual things to consider with regards to data type, one of these is the idea of “truthy” and “falsy.”

Truthy and Falsy

- These rules can sometimes strike one as bizarre, but we can derive an intuitive understanding of what's going on. Here is a good site with a more in-depth explanation: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Equality_comparisons_and_sameness
- For now, consider the following code:

```
let i ='1';
let j = 1
console.log(i == j); // true
console.log(i === j); // false
```

- The triple equals is to evaluate "strict equality" - meaning that not only do the values have to be the same, but the types must equal as well.

Truthy and Falsy

The following values are **always falsy**:

- `false`
- `0` (zero)
- `''` or `""` (empty string)
- `null`
- `undefined`
- `NaN`

Everything else is **truthy**. That includes:

- `'0'` (a string containing a single zero)
- `'false'` (a string containing the text “false”)
- `[]` (an empty array)
- `{}` (an empty object)
- `function(){}` (an “empty” function)

```
function testTruthyFalsy (val)
{
    return val ? console.log('truthy') : console.log('falsy');
}

testTruthy(true);                   // truthy
testTruthy(false);                  // falsy
testTruthy(new Boolean(false));     // truthy (object is always true)

testTruthy('');                     // falsy
testTruthy('Packt');                // truthy
testTruthy(new String(''));         // true (object is always true)

testTruthy(1);                      // truthy
testTruthy(-1);                     // truthy
testTruthy(NaN);                    // falsy
testTruthy(new Number(NaN));        // truthy (object is always true)

testTruthy({});                     // truthy (object is always true)

var obj = { name: 'John' };
testTruthy(obj);                    // truthy
testTruthy(obj.name);               // truthy
```

Objects

- JavaScript is not generally considered an object oriented language, it is instead a functional language (one that is based on functions).
  - Over time though, some OO features have been added to the language.

- JavaScript objects follow JSON notation, with the object itself surrounded by curly braces, and the object properties listed in comma delimited key-value pairs:

  { **prop1**: **<<prop1Value>>**, **prop2**: **<<prop2Value>>**}

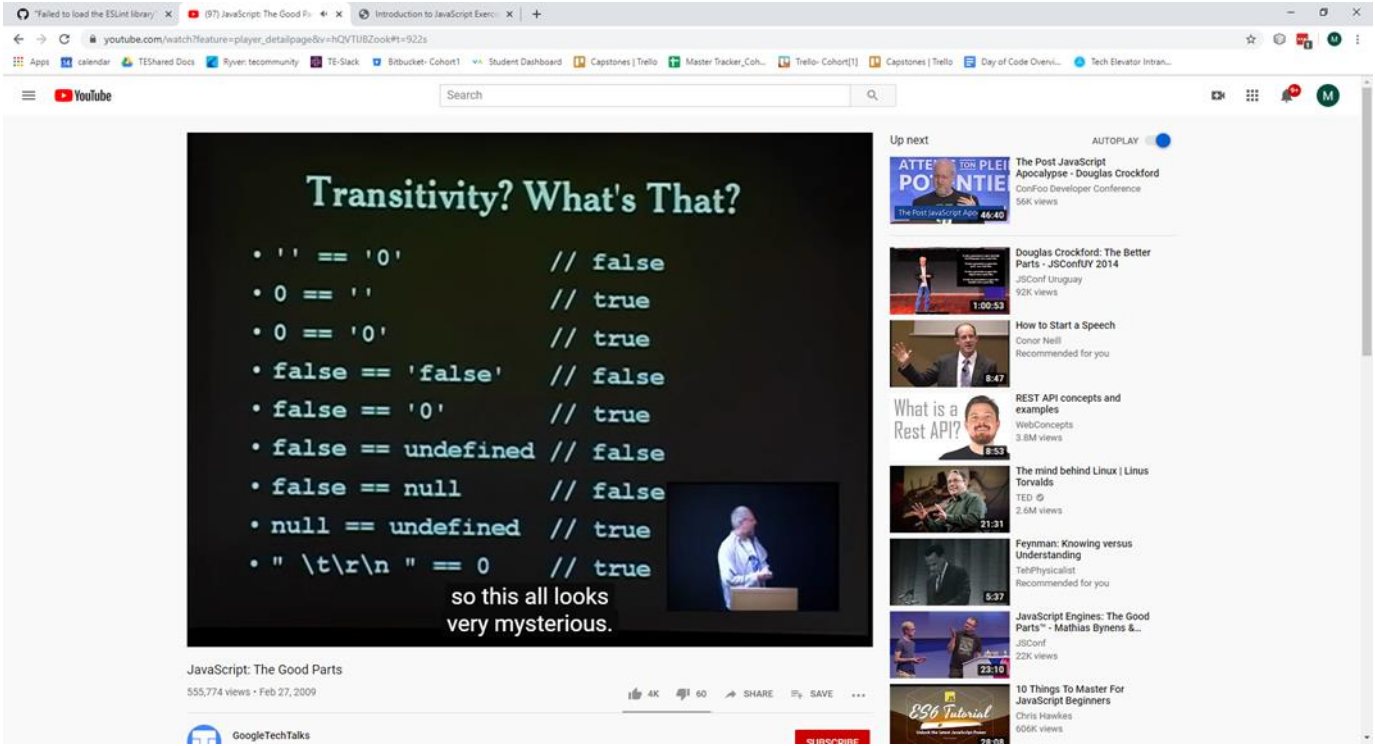
Objects Example

Let’s look at a concrete example:

```
let crewMember = {
firstName: 'James',
lastName: 'Kirk',
rank: 'Captain'
};

console.log(crewMember.firstName);
console.log(crewMember.lastName);
console.log(crewMember.rank);
crewMember.rank = 'Admiral';
console.log(crewMember.rank);
```

Let’s Code!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• 0 == '' // true
• 0 == '0' // true
• false == 'false' // false
• false == '0' // true
• false == undefined // false
• false == null // false
• null == undefined // true
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