

**Title:** What is an IIFE?

**Answer:**

**IIFE** (Immediately Invoked Function Expression) is a JavaScript function that runs as soon as it is defined.

```
(function () {  
    statements  
})();
```

It is a design pattern which is also known as Self-Executing Anonymous Function and contains two major parts. The first is the anonymous function with lexical scope enclosed within the Grouping Operator `()`. This prevents accessing variables within the IIFE idiom as well as polluting the global scope.

The second part is creating the immediately executing function expression `()`, through which the JavaScript engine will directly interpret the function.

## Examples

The function becomes a function expression which is immediately executed. The variable within the expression can not be accessed from outside.

```
(function () {  
    var aName = "Barry";  
})();  
// Variable name is not accessible from the outside scope  
aName // throws "Uncaught ReferenceError: aName is not defined"
```

Assigning the IIFE to a variable does not store it but its result.

```
var result = (function () {  
    var name = "Barry";  
    return name;  
})();  
// Immediately creates the output:  
result; // "Barry"
```

**Tags:** functions / methods, javascript