



JONAS.IO
SCHMEDTMANN

THE COMPLETE JAVASCRIPT COURSE

FROM ZERO TO EXPERT!



@JONASSCHMEDTMAN

SECTION

DEVELOPER SKILLS & EDITOR SETUP

LECTURE

HOW TO THINK LIKE A DEVELOPER:
BECOME A PROBLEM SOLVER!

JS

HOW TO FAIL 🤦 AT SOLVING PROBLEMS



John can
code now 😊

WHENEVER JOHN ENCOUNTERS A PROBLEM:

- 💥 He jumps at the problem **without much thinking**
- 💥 He implements his solution in an **unstructured way**
- 💥 He **gets stressed out** when things don't work
- 💥 He is **too proud to research** solutions

↓ FIX

- 👍 Stay calm and slow down, don't just jump at a problem without a plan
- 👍 Take a very **logical and rational approach** (programming is just logic, in the end...)
- 👍 Use my **4-step framework** to solve any problem

NEXT SLIDE →

👉 Example: In an array of GPS coordinates, find the two closest points

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

1

Make sure you 100% understand the problem. Ask the right questions to get a clear picture of the problem

EXAMPLE

Project Manager: “We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it”

1

- 👉 What does “whatever” even mean in this context?
What should be reversed? **Answer:** Only strings, numbers, and arrays make sense to reverse...
- 👉 What to do if something else is passed in?
- 👉 What should be returned? Should it always be a string, or should the type be the same as passed in?
- 👉 How to recognize whether the argument is a number, a string, or an array?
- 👉 How to reverse a number, a string, and an array?

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

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Make sure you 100% understand the problem. Ask the right questions to get a clear picture of the problem



2

Divide and conquer: Break a big problem into smaller sub-problems.

2

SUB-PROBLEMS:

- 👉 Check if argument is a number, a string, or an array
- 👉 Implement reversing a number
- 👉 Implement reversing a string
- 👉 Implement reversing an array
- 👉 Return reversed value



Looks like a task list that we need to implement

EXAMPLE

Project Manager: “We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it”

4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

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Make sure you 100% understand the problem. Ask the right questions to get a clear picture of the problem



2

Divide and conquer: Break a big problem into smaller sub-problems.



3

Don't be afraid to do as much research as you have to

EXAMPLE

Project Manager: “*We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it*”

3

- 👉 How to check if a value is a number in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to check if a value is a string in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to check if a value is an array in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse a number in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse a string in JavaScript?
- 👉 How to reverse an array in JavaScript?



4 STEPS TO SOLVE ANY PROBLEM

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4

For bigger problems, write pseudo-code before writing the actual code

EXAMPLE

Project Manager: "We need a function that reverses whatever we pass into it"

4

```
function reverse(value)
  if value type !string && !number && !array
    return value

  if value type == string
    reverse string
  if value type == number
    reverse number
  if value type == array
    reverse array

  return reversed value
```