

DWA_02.8 Knowledge Check_DWA2

1. What do ES5, ES6 and ES2015 mean - and what are the differences between them?

ES5, ES6 and ES2015 are names of Javascript versions. However, ES6 and ES2015 refer to the same version. The 2015 in ES2015 refers to the year it was released. ES5 is a preceding version of Javascript to ES6/ES2015.

2. What are JScript, ActionScript and ECMAScript - and how do they relate to JavaScript?

JScript is a scripting language which was developed by Microsoft which would be read by its newly developed browser, Internet Explorer. Internet Explorer was developed to compete with Netscape Navigator, by Netscape. But because Javascript was the exclusive property of Netscape and safeguarded internally, Microsoft had to come with their own version of Javascript, which was successful.

ActionScript is a programming language developed by Macromedia, later acquired by Adobe. Its relation to Javascript is that it was based on an early version of ECMAScript 4. ECMAScript 4 is a forfeited Javascript version / standard, which was abandoned because of its huge changes and complexity.

The ECMAScript term is used differently depending on the context. It can be described as the technical name of Javascript. It is also a scripting language specification. In this regard *"ECMAScript provides the rules, details, and guidelines that a scripting language must observe to be considered ECMAScript compliant"*, quoting from the freeCodeCamp article: *What's the difference between JavaScript and ECMAScript?*. The close relation is in the fact that ECMAScript specification and Javascript scripting language were both developed by Netscape. ECMAScript came a year after Javascript was created, after the language was submitted to Ecma International, an organisation that creates standards for technology.

3. What is an example of a JavaScript specification - and where can you find it?

ECMAScript 2017 is an example of a JavaScript specification it can be found in the ECMA International website

4. What are v8, SpiderMonkey, Chakra and Tamarin? Do they run JavaScript differently?

V8, SpiderMonkey, Chakra and Tamarin are Javascript engines. V8 is in Chrome, SpiderMonkey in Firefox, Chakra in Internet Explorer and Tamarin in Adobe Flash. They may run differently if certain engines have not been updated to execute particular javascript code.

5. Show a practical example using caniuse.com and the MDN compatibility table.

In this example, I check which browsers support the JSON parsing method. The green colour indicates compatibility and the red colour indicates non-compatibility. Moving across the column are the different browsers and moving own the rows are the different versions of the browsers



