Theory: Overview of the basic program

6 minutes 0 / 5 problems solved

In this topic, you will learn how to develop your first JS script. These programs are quite simple yet functional, so they do a good job showing that programming in JavaScript is an easy and enjoyable activity. However, there are caveats and difficulties everywhere, so we will also look at some common programming errors so that you can successfully avoid them.

§1. Hello, World!

When learning any programming language, it is a kind of a tradition to start with writing a program that displays a message `"Hello, World!"` on the screen or on another device. And who are we to break traditions?

```
console.log("Hello, World!");
```

You may run this code: just copy it and click on the triangle. You should get this result:

```
Hello, World!
```

As you can see, the script consists of one line and simply prints the text passed in brackets. Note that quotes are also ignored when outputting the result. This code is very simple, but deserves detailed consideration.

§2. Explanation

Here `console.log` is a function. A **function** is a block of code that performs useful work for you, such as printing text. In a way, a function is a subroutine that can be reused in your programs. When a function name is followed by parentheses, it means that it has been **called** to get the result. `console.log` allows you to output information to the console, so this function is often used to find errors in the code.

Moving on: `"Hello, World!"` is a **string**. All strings in JavaScript are enclosed in single or double quotes, so `'Hello, World!'` would also be a valid string. See for yourself – try to run the following code:

```
console.log('JavaScript');
```

This program will print:

```
JavaScript
```

§3. Printing quotes

If you want to include quotes in a string, there are two ways to avoid the confusion and successfully print them:

- You can quote this line in other types of quotes, for example:

```
console.log("Yes, I'm ready to learn JS.");
```

- Or put a backslash (`\`) before the quote:

```
console.log('Yes, I\'m ready to learn JS.');
```

The result of both will be as follows:

```
Yes, I'm ready to learn JS.
```

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It'll work with other types of quotes, too. You can try running all the examples to better familiarize yourself with JS.

§4. Possible errors

Even in simple code lines, errors happen. The most common are:

- misprints

```
consle.log("Hello, World!");
```

This line contains `consle.log` instead of `console.log`. This code will not work because of a misprint.

- missing one or both quotes for a string

```
console.log(JavaScript);
```

This does not work because of missing closing quotes.

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