

MERN PART-TIME
ONLINE

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📄 Javascript

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Installation

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Before we jump into the nuances of JavaScript, we’re going to install Node. Doing this now will give you a couple of new powers as you code the early assignments:

1. You can enter a JavaScript console without needing to open a browser.
2. You can run JavaScript files in your terminal. That means you don’t have to write JavaScript in HTML `<script>` tags, which makes the development experience a little cleaner.

Installing software can be cumbersome, but the Node.js install should be pretty straightforward. If you are stuck for some reason, talk to a classmate who has the same type of OS as you.

First, visit <http://nodejs.org/> and download the long term stable installation, or LTS. Once you’ve opened the file and completed the installation process, let’s check out our awesome new tool:

Using your terminal, let check the version by typing:

```
$ node -v
```

This should print your current version, letting you know that node has installed correctly. It should also match the LTS version.

Let’s actually enter our own JavaScript environment and declare variables from the comfort of our own terminal.

```
$ node
```

You should have noticed your command prompt may have changed from `$` to `>`. That means whatever we write will be interpreted as JavaScript. (To exit this environment you can just type `ctrl C` twice or `.exit` once.)

Let’s write some code:

```
> console.log('hello');
```

Did you see the following output?



```
hello
undefined
```

Wahoo!

One additional note before we move ahead. We just typed `node` to enter a JavaScript environment, but what if we wanted the node to run a file full of code that we wrote in our text editor (which is a bit more efficient than writing directly in the console)? Just append your file name to the `node` command, like so: `node your_file_name.js`.

For macs:

If you try to run the `node` command and it fails check to make sure it is installed by typing `which node` in the terminal. It should show something similar to this:

```
[~]$which node
/usr/local/bin/node
```

If it states it cannot find node, it's probably your Mac trying to protect you. Use the following command to give yourself the ability to write files into `usr/local/`:

```
sudo chown -R $(whoami) /usr/local/
```

This will prompt you for your password. After you succeed, try reinstalling node!

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