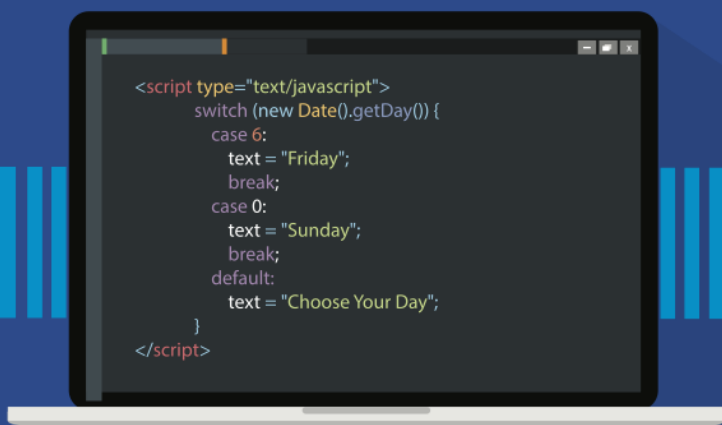


ZIP CODE WILMINGTON'S PROGRAMMING IN JAVASCRIPT

A CRASH COURSE IN CODING



WorkBook



ZIPCODE
<WILMINGTON>
SCHOOL OF CODING

Zip Code Wilmington's Workbook for JavaScript

Kristofer Younger

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Colophon

Zip Code Wilmington's Workbook for JavaScript by
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Preface

Zip Code Wilmington is a non-profit coding boot-camp in Delaware for people who wish to change their lives by becoming proficient at coding. Find out more about us at <https://zipcodewilmington.com>

About this book

This book's aim is to provide you with exercises to assist in learning the most basic fundamentals of JavaScript, the world's most popular programming language. It comes from the preparation sessions we often give prospective Zip Code applicants on how to do well on the Zip Code application coding assessment. By completing these exercises, reading the companion *Fundamentals of Javascript* book or taking one of ZipCodeWilmington's preparation sessions, someone who has never coded in any language before can use this as a place to start, to study and to get ready to take the ZipCodeWilmington admissions assessment. If you have almost any serious coding experience, this book is probably too elementary for you. You might, however, find the ideas in the Appendices interesting.

You may be aware that Zip Code doesn't focus on JavaScript *per se*, and that can leave you wondering why the first book we wrote was all about JavaScript. Well...

JavaScript: Easy to Understand

JavaScript is a fairly easy programming language to learn, and we're going to use it in this book to describe the basic fundamentals of coding. Its form is modern and it is widely used. It can be used for many purposes, from web applications to back-end server processing. We're going to use it for learning simple, programming-in-the-small, methods and concepts; but make no mistake - JavaScript is world-class language capable of amazing things.

Simple to Use

JavaScript also has the advantage that one can learn to use it without a lot of setup on a computer. In fact, we recommend the use of a "REPL" for the running of the JavaScript examples you'll find in this book. The REPL at <https://code.zipcode.rocks> is a simple webpage where you can edit JavaScript scripts and run them. You can run almost every code snippet in the book and see what the code does.

Focuses on coding

Finally, because in this book all we aim to teach you is "programming in the small", JavaScript is great for that. Many of the examples here are significantly less than 20 lines in length. We want you to get better at looking at small blocks of code to see how they work. These smaller examples and concepts are a core building block as you become proficient in coding.

You'll learn it eventually

The truth is, in today's coding world, all of us eventually learn to do things with JavaScript. So, start early, get comfortable with it, and then go on and study other computer languages like Java or Python. JavaScript will always be there, waiting patiently for you to return.

Coding *The Hard Way*.

Zed A. Shaw is a popular author of several books where he describes learning a programming language *The Hard Way*. Zed suggests, and we at Zip Code agree with him wholeheartedly, that the best, most impactful, highest return for your investment when learning to code, is **type the code using your own fingers** ^[1]

That's right. Whether you are a "visual learner", a "video learner", or someone who can read textbooks like novels (are there any more of these out there?), the best way to learn to code is **to code and to code by typing out the code with your own fingers**. This means you DO NOT do a lot of copy and paste of code blocks; you really put in the work, making your brain better wired to code by **coding with your own typing of the code**.

You're here, reading this, because you're thinking (or maybe you know) that you want to become a coder. It's pretty straight-forward.

You may have heard a friend wistfully dream of making a career at writing. "Oh," they say, "I wish I had time to write a great novel, I want to be a writer someday".

So you can ask them: Did you write *today*? *How many words*? And the excuses flow: "Oh, I have to pick up the kids" "Ran out of time, I'm so busy at work." "I had to cut the grass" and so on. Well, I'm here to tell you that all the excuses in the world don't stop a real writer from writing. They just sit down and do it. As often as they can, sometimes even when they can't (or shouldn't).

Coding, like writing, isn't something you can do when all your other chores, obligations, and entertainments are done. If you're serious about learning coding, you must make time for coding.

Watching hours of YouTube videos *will not* make you a coder.

Reading dozens of blog posts, Medium articles, and books *will not* make you a coder.

Following along with endless step-by-step tutorials *will not* make you a coder.

The only way you're going to learn to code is by doing it. Trying to solve a problem. Making mistakes, fixing them, learning from what worked and what didn't at the keyboard.

Many have heard my often-repeated admonition: **If you coded today, you're a coder. If not, you're not a coder.** It really is as simple as that.

Dedication to the mission

I happen to be among those who feel anyone can learn to code. It's a 21st century superpower. When you code, you can change the world. Being proficient at coding can be a life-changing skill that impacts your life, your family's life and your future forever. Time and time again, I've seen that the ability to learn to code is evenly distributed across the population, but the *opportunity to learn to code is not*. So, we run Zip Code to give people a shot at learning a 21st century superpower, no matter where you come from.

And fortune favors the prepared. Some day, you may be working at a great company, making a decent living, working with professionals in a great technical job. Your friends may say "You are so lucky!"

And you will think: **Nope. It wasn't luck.** You'll know that truly. You got there by preparing yourself to get there, and by working to get there, working *very hard*. Ain't no luck involved, just hard work. You make your own luck by working hard.

As many know, getting a spot in a Zip Code cohort is a hard thing to do. Many try but only a few manage it. I often get asked "what can I do to prepare to get into Zip Code?"

The best way is to start solving coding problems on sites like <https://hackerrank.com> - HackerRank (among others) has many programming assignments, from extremely simple to very advanced. You login, and just do exercise after exercise, relieving you of one of the hardest of coding frustrations, that of trying to figure out **what** to code. Solving programming assignments is a good way to start to cultivate a coding mindset. Such a mindset is based on your ability to pay very close attention to detail, a desire to continually learn, and being able to stay focused on problem solving even if it takes a lot of grit and dedication.

Spending even 20 minutes a day, making progress on a programming task can make all the difference. Day after day your skills will grow, and before long you'll look back on the early things you did and be astonished as to how simple the assignments were. You may even experience embarrassment at remembering how hard these simple exercises seemed at the time you did them. (It's okay, we've

all felt it. It's part of the gig.)

Working on code every day makes you a coder. And coding everyday will help with your ability to eventually score high enough on the Zip Code admissions assessment that you get asked to group and potentially final interviews. And then, well, then you get to learn Java or Python and work yourself to exhaustion doing so. Lots and lots more hours.

Why?

You do that hard work, you put in those hours, you create lots of great code, you'll make your own luck, and someone will be impressed and they will offer you a job. And that is the point, right? A job, doing what you love, coding. Right? RIGHT?

You're Welcome,

-Kristofer

Ready?

Okay, let's go.

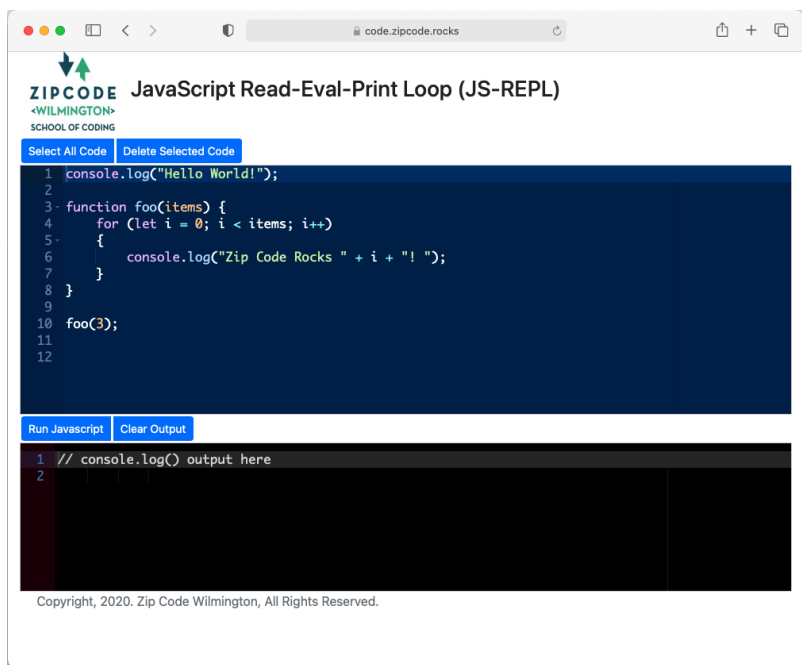
[1] check out his terrific work: <https://learncodethehardway.org>

Chapter 1. Using the REPL

A "REPL" is a special kind of program. It allows you to type in a Javascript program, run it, and see what happens. Even though it is simple and easy to use, it is a pretty powerful computer programming tool.

The one we've created for your use, <https://code.zipcode.rocks>, let you type in various JavaScript programs and run them showing you the results.

Let's try the sample on that is built-in to the REPL page. Use a browser to go to the URL <https://code.zipcode.rocks>. You should see something like:



Take a look at the black section. What does it say?

Notice the two sections of blue buttons, click the one that says **Run Javascript**. (It's in the middle of the page). Now, what does the black section say?

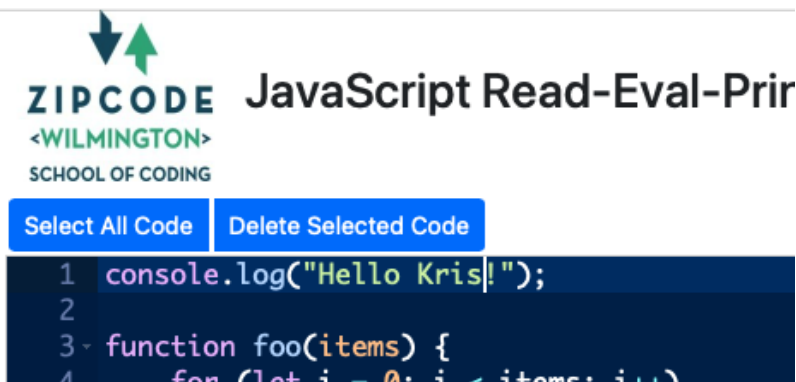
That is how you run JavaScript in this REPL.

Now, what does **REPL** stand for? Well, it means "Read Evaluate Print Loop" (R-E-P-L). A REPL is a program that reads in your code (here it is JavaScript), evaluates what it means, and then prints out any output the program might have. Here, we are using the command `console.log()` to print out a series of output values.

1.1. Editing JavaScript Code

In the REPL window, the blue part, you can change the JavaScript code. It works like a text editor or a word processor.

Change Line 1 in the blue section from "Hello World" to "Hello YourName" (see, I've changed *World* to *Kris*) (and use your real name there, not *YourName*).



Now click the blue **Run Javascript** button, what did the

black section change to??

Pretty cool, huh?

Notice that the source code is several colors. This is because many code editing programs today, like our REPL here, use different colors to point out different parts of the JavaScript program. Here, numbers are in orange, Strings are in green, and special JavaScript *reserved words* are in a pinkish color. This *syntax coloring* is used to indicate extra information to the coder.

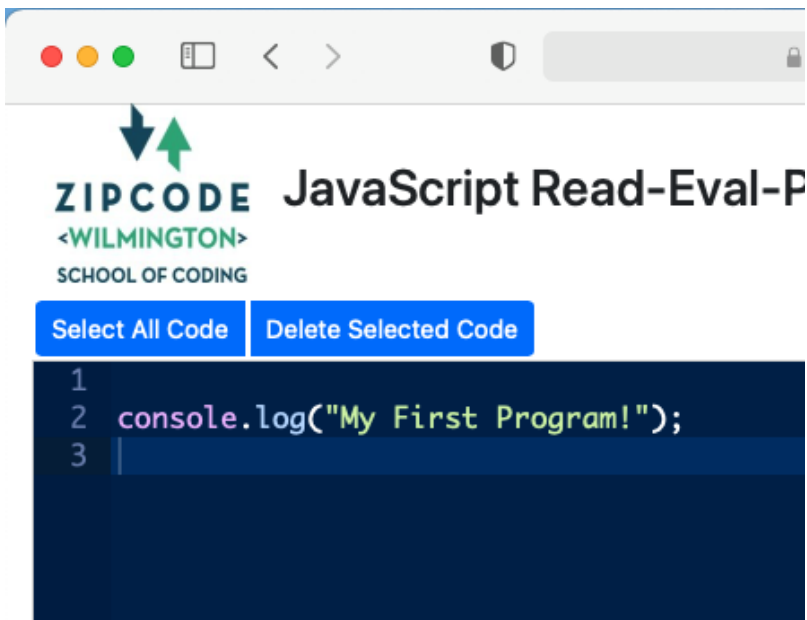
1.2. A First Program

Let's write your first program. First, click the **Select All Code** blue button. Second, click the **Delete Selected Code** blue button. This empties the blue editor of all the code that was there.

Now, type onto line 1,

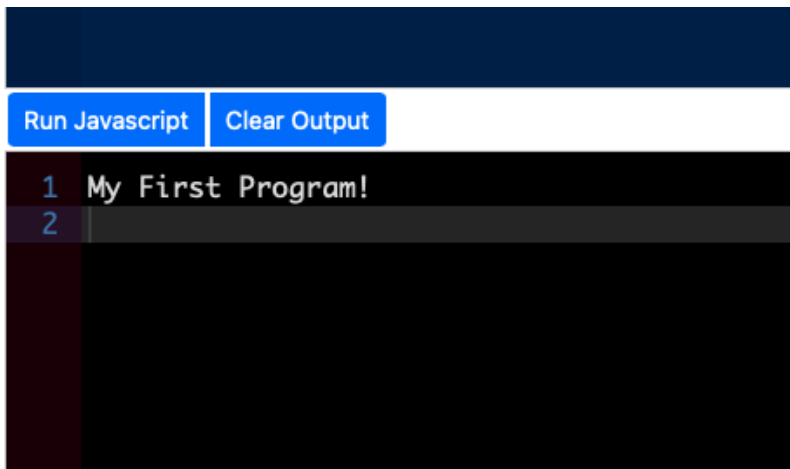
```
console.log("My First Program!");
```

Take care to notice the double quotes (") AND notice the semicolon (;) at the end of the line.



And now click the **Run Javascript** blue button. What does the black output section say now?

Does it look like this?



Congratulations! You've just written a Javascript program.

Maybe you are Zip Code material after all.

1.3. Coding Assessments

To attend a Zip Code Wilmington cohort, Zip Code asks you to complete a JavaScript coding assessment. Usually, this is done on a website like HackerRank. By asking you to solve some pretty simple programming challenges, we get a chance to see how you do when learning something entirely new. The ability to learn new and different things continually is a very important aspect of building a professional career as a coder. As you will see, if you do make coding a professional endeavor, learning is something you will do all the time. Let's look at a series of problems that you can solve to get a feel for what we're looking for on the Zip Code admissions assessment.

Chapter 2. Algebra

Exercises

Computing is often programming a computer to math. By solving these problems, you'll get a feel for the kind of algebra problems we'd like to be able to solve.

Fell free to use the <https://code.zipcode.rocks> REPL to work these problems out. (You can also just work them out in your head or on paper)

As with many kinds of programming tasks, these problems can be solved a large number of ways.

2.1. Y equals ?

Given the following formula,

$$y = (5 * x) + 100$$

what is y , if $x = 3$?

For each of these problems, you need to compute the value of y . In each case the value of x is different, and so is the formula you need to compute.

For this first one, if x **equals 3**, you would first multiple 5 times 3, and then add 100 to it. So a correct answer is **15 + 100** or **115**.

Each of these below are computed in pretty much the same

way.

Given the following formula,

$$y = (4 * x) - 5$$

what is y , if $x = 5$?

Given the following formula,

$$y = (6 * x) - 7$$

what is y , if $x = 2$?

Given the following formula,

$$y = (15 / x) * 8$$

what is y , if $x = 5$?

2.2. Velocities

Velocity is often thought of as **speed**. It's common to drive at 40 or 45 miles per hour. That speed is a **velocity**. **Acceleration**, you may remember, is the change in velocity.

If a car is moving at an initial velocity V , and accelerates at rate of A for a set time period of T , the formula to determine its final velocity S is:

$$S = V + A * T$$

What is S if $(V = 10)$, $(A = 4)$, $(T = 3)$?

What is S if $(V = 0)$, $(A = 5)$, $(T = 20)$?

What is S if $(V = 17)$, $(A = 2)$, $(T = 14)$?

You substitute each variable (V , A and T) in turn into the formula and compute the result.

2.3. F of X or $F(x)$

Sometimes you will see a formula expressed as a function which takes one argument, x . This is an algebraic function, not a Javascript function.

$$F(x) = 3x + 4$$

My point is, this is just another way of describing a simple computation. Some might say that $F(x)$ (which is pronounced *F of x*), is the same as y was in the problems above.

$$y = 3x + 4$$

Y ended up being the answer to the computation. So is *F of x* is also the answer to the computation. Don't overthink this, y and **f of x** are just two ways of saying the same thing.

2.4. F of (x, y)

Well, so if F of x is the result of a function, F of x and y is also the result of a function. But in this case, the function takes two arguments x and y .

Given the following function using x and y :

$$F(x, y) = 2x + y - 27$$

And then if $F(1, 2) = -23$, well, how did we get that result?

The idea is that you think it through like this

given $F(1, 2)$,
we assign $x=1$ and $y=2$.
we substitute these two variables and compute the result.
 $(2 * x) + y - 27$
 $(2 * 1) + 2 - 27$
 $2 + 2 - 27$
 $= 23$

Using that as a **pattern**, what is:

$f(20, 8) = ?$
 $f(6, 25) = ?$
 $f(5, 2) = ?$
 $f(0, 0) = ?$

2.5. Complete the answer

Complete the blanks in the following question with the appropriate answer.

$$\text{dog} + \text{fish} = 25$$

$$\text{dog} + \text{bird} = 35$$

$$\text{bird} + \text{fish} = 30$$

$$\text{dog} + \text{bird} + \text{fish} = ?$$

45

Chapter 3. JavaScript Coding

3.1. Triangle Area (15)

Triangle diagram The area of a triangle is calculated using the following function:

$$A = (h*b)/2$$

where A represents the area, h represents the height perpendicular to the length of its base, b.

What is A, if h = 4 and b = 5 ?

What is A, if h = 2 and b = 6 ?

What do you need to do to this function to make it use the triangle equation?

```
function triangleArea(h, b) {  
    A = 0;  
    return A  
}  
  
console.log(triangleArea(4,5));  
console.log(triangleArea(2,6));
```

3.2. Maths (10)

Complete the function to calculate multiplication of two input values. 4 x 4 should print 16. Return the remainder (modulus) of the following equation: 118 % 31 Using Arithmetic Operators, return the product of 789 x 123. Complete the function to calculate the square of an input value. Remember that the square of a number is the result of multiplying that number times itself. === Variables (10)

Create a variable with the value 1024 and return the variable.

3.3. Functions (15)

Make a function that: Return the string value "Zip Code" from the given function. and more...

Using the length method, return the length of the string "ZipCodeRocks" using the given function.

Example 1 input: "hello".length output: 5

Example 2 input: "Delaware" output: 8

3.4. Arrays (30)

Complete the function below to swap two elements in an array and return the result. Your function should take three arguments: An array and two integers. The integers are the indexes of the two elements in the array you should swap.

Example 1:

Input: [7,4,9,3,6,2], 4, 2

Output: [7,4,6,3,9,2],

3.5. First and Last (50)

Given a string, create a new string made up of its last two letters, reversed and separated by a space.

Example Given the word 'bat', return 't a'.

Function Description Complete the function lastLetters in the editor below.

lastLetters has the following parameter(s): string word: a string to process

Returns: string: a string of two space-separated characters

Constraint $2 \leq \text{length of word} \leq 100$

3.6. Sum something (50)

Calculate the sum of an array of integers.

Example numbers = [3, 13, 4, 11, 9]

The sum is $3 + 13 + 4 + 11 + 9 = 40$.

Function Description Complete the function arraySum in the editor below.

arraySum has the following parameter(s): int numbers[n]: an array of integers Returns int: integer sum of the numbers array

Appendix A: Additional JavaScript Resources

Here are a series of other resources to go on from this point. Javascript.info is a really good one.

Some JavaScript sites for you to explore:

- <https://javascript.info>
 - <https://javascript.info/first-steps>
- <https://eloquentjavascript.net>
- <http://jsforcats.com>
- <https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Web/JavaScript/Guide>

If you're looking for more of a professional code tool, use an IDE like vscode: <https://code.visualstudio.com> (Many people use this these days.)