

1: Changes at O'Reilly - O'Reilly FYI Blog

This brain-friendly guide teaches you everything from JavaScript language fundamentals to advanced topics, including objects, functions, and the browser's document object model.

There are No Dumb Questions Q: A keyword is a reserved word in JavaScript. JavaScript uses these reserved words for its own purposes, and it would be confusing to you and the browser if you started using them for your variables. What if I used a keyword as part of my variable name? For instance, can I have a variable named `ifOnly` that is, a variable that contains the keyword `if`? Is JavaScript case sensitive? In other words, are `myvariable` and `MyVariable` the same thing? With JavaScript however, case matters for variables, keywords, function names and pretty much everything else, too. So pay attention to your use of upper- and lowercase.

Syntax Fun Each statement ends in a semicolon. Comments are just notes to you or other developers about the code. The variable `counter` is different from the variable `Counter`. Express yourself To truly express yourself in JavaScript you need expressions. Expressions evaluate to values. Take the expression in this statement for instance: `temp > 10`. There are also string expressions; here are a few: `"hello"`. We also have expressions that evaluate to true or false, otherwise known as boolean expressions. Work through each of these to see how you get true or false from them: `temp > 10`. For now, the important thing is to realize all these expressions evaluate to something: Sharpen your pencil Get out your pencil and put some expressions through their paces. For each expression below, compute its value and write in your answer. Be sure to check your answers at the end of the chapter. What is the result when `temp` is 10? What does this evaluate to? Only one is correct. Which would you choose? That is, we use one equal sign to assign values to variables. We use two equal signs to test if two values are equal to each other. Substituting one for the other is a common coding mistake. Wax on, wax off First we set `scoops` to five. Because the conditional is true, we start executing the block of code. The next statement subtracts one from the number of scoops and then sets `scoops` to that new value, four. Evaluating our conditional again, this time `scoops` is four. The next statement subtracts one from the number of scoops and sets `scoops` to that new value, which is three. Evaluating our conditional again, this time `scoops` is three. And as you can see, this continues `scoops` is zero, and so our conditional returns false. This time, we bypass the block and execute the statement that follows it. Now we execute the other document. You can also use boolean expressions to make decisions in JavaScript with the `if` statement. The `if` statement executes its code block only if a conditional test is true. What exactly is a block of code? Syntactically, a block of code which we usually just call a block is a set of statements, which could be one statement, or as many as you like, grouped together between curly braces. For instance, all the statements within the block in a `while` statement are executed if the condition of the `while` is true. The same holds for a block in an `if` or `else if`. How does that work? Where does the name boolean come from? Booleans are named after George Boole, an English mathematician who invented Boolean logic. Code Magnets A JavaScript program is all scrambled up on the fridge. Can you put the magnets back in the right places to make a working JavaScript program to produce the output shown below?. Check your answer at the end of the chapter before you go on. Just call `alert` with a string containing your alert message, and the browser will give your user the message in a nice dialog box. A small confession though: Write directly into your document. You can use a function document. Every JavaScript environment also has a console that can log messages from your code. You can view console. Note The console is a really handy way to help find errors in your code! Directly manipulate your document. But, using the document object model requires knowledge of how your page is structured and of the programming interface that is used to read and write to the page. All our methods of communication have come to the party with masks on. Can you help us unmask each one? Match the descriptions on the right to the names on the left. A closer look at console. Writing to the console log is typically done to troubleshoot as you develop your page. I get that console. Can the console do anything other than just log? Yes, but typically people just use it to log. There are a few more advanced ways to use log and console , but they tend to be browser-specific. Uh, console looks great, but where do I find it? In most browsers you have to explicitly open the console window. Check out the next page for details. Opening the console Every browser has a slightly different implementation of the console. We

need some variables, a while statement, some if statements with elses. See if you can find the flaw, and fix it. Before we got there we wanted to make sure you had enough JavaScript under your belt to make it interesting. Note To download all the code and sample files for this book, please visit <http://> Load the file into your browser. How do I add code to my page? Your selection should look like this: Now you need to test it. Getting to know JavaScript Head First: And, I am busier than ever these days; people are using JavaScript on just about every page on the Web nowadays, for everything from simple menu effects to full blown games. Seems like your basic language features are about the same My ability to do things in the browser has expanded dramatically. Using the JavaScript libraries available in all modern browsers you can find out your location, play video and audio, paint graphics on your web page and a lot more. But if you wanna do all that you have to know JavaScript. But back to those criticisms of you, the language. Remember Java in the browser? Ha, what a joke. I could go on and on. So, tell me, how bad could I be? But simplicity comes at a cost, no? Well, for example, can you say dynamic types, first-class functions and closures? Well, give us the gist. Let me just say this, JavaScript was built to live in a dynamic web environment, an exciting environment where users interact with a page, where data is coming in on the fly, where many types of events happen, and the language reflects that style of programming.

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