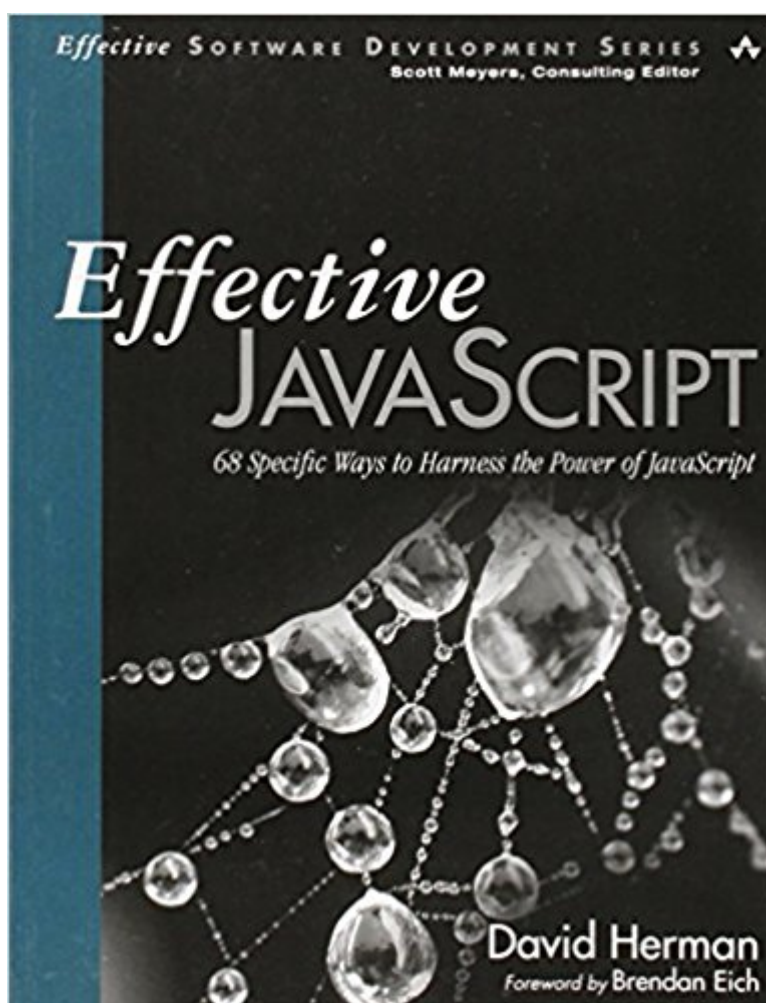


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# Effective JavaScript: 68 Specific Ways To Harness The Power Of JavaScript (Effective Software Development Series)



## Synopsis

“It’s uncommon to have a programming language wonk who can speak in such comfortable and friendly language as David does. His walk through the syntax and semantics of JavaScript is both charming and hugely insightful; reminders of gotchas complement realistic use cases, paced at a comfortable curve. You’ll find when you finish the book that you’ve gained a strong and comprehensive sense of mastery.”

• Paul Irish, developer advocate, Google Chrome

“This is not a book for those looking for shortcuts; rather it is hard-won experience distilled into a guided tour. It’s one of the few books on JS that I’ll recommend without hesitation.”

• Alex Russell, TC39 member, software engineer, Google

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Living up to the expectation of an Effective Software Development Series programming book, Effective JavaScript by Dave Herman is a must-read for anyone who wants to do serious JavaScript programming. The book provides detailed explanations of the inner workings of JavaScript, which helps readers take better advantage of the language.”

• Erik Arvidsson, senior software engineer

“Before reading Effective JavaScript, I thought it would be just another book on how to write better JavaScript. But this book delivers that and so much more—it gives you a deep understanding of the language. And this is crucial. Without

that understanding you'll know absolutely nothing whatever about the language itself. You'll only know how other programmers write their code. "Read this book if you want to become a really good JavaScript developer. I, for one, wish I had it when I first started writing JavaScript."

• Anton Kovalyov, developer of JSHint "If you're looking for a book that gives you formal but highly readable insights into the JavaScript language, look no further. Intermediate JavaScript developers will find a treasure trove of knowledge inside, and even highly skilled JavaScripters are almost guaranteed to learn a thing or ten. For experienced practitioners of other languages looking to dive headfirst into JavaScript, this book is a mustread for quickly getting up to speed. No matter what your background, though, author Dave Herman does a fantastic job of exploring JavaScript's beautiful parts, its warts, and everything in between."

• Rebecca Murphey, senior JavaScript developer, Bocoup "Effective JavaScript is essential reading for anyone who understands that JavaScript is no mere toy and wants to fully grasp the power it has to offer. Dave Herman brings users a deep, studied, and practical understanding of the language, guiding them through example after example to help them come to the same conclusions he has. This is not a book for those looking for shortcuts; rather, it is hard-won experience distilled into a guided tour. It's one of the few books on JavaScript that I'll recommend without hesitation."

• Alex Russell, TC39 member, software engineer, Google "Rarely does anyone have the opportunity to study alongside a master in their craft. This book is just that—the JavaScript equivalent of a time-traveling philosopher visiting fifth century BC to study with Plato."

• Rick Waldron, JavaScript evangelist, Bocoup

David Herman is a principal researcher at Mozilla Research. He holds a BA in computer science from Grinnell College, and an MS and PhD in computer science from Northeastern University. David serves on Ecma TC39, the committee responsible for the standardization of JavaScript.

Looking for resources to help you maximize your learnings and minimize your time use is often fruitless. Publishing deadlines cut books short, real life gets in the author's way, and personal preference, well there isn't much you can do about that. In many ways, this book is an oddity. The voice is at ease, nothing is crammed down your throat and it doesn't feel like he was slamming caffeinated beverages just to get it done. It is refreshing being the recipient of an exposition that not only teaches you, but questions you, and sets expectations of you and what you should learn. The book is broken up into 68 different lessons, and it ends up being a perfect approach. It gives you time

to pick it up when you are free and dig as deep as you want. It also is very humble, the sections make the point and pose the advice, and if you don't grok it then you had better revisit it. Again, it makes for peaceful and pleasant reading, without sacrificing the seriousness or even urgency of the valuable points contained within. Books like this are few and far between, at least when it comes to industrial concerns. This book is a gem for the JavaScript technology, because it poses the technology for thoughtful grownups instead of obsessing over the 24h tricks, recipes of the week, and "one way to do it right", it will be a timeless contribution that will always be valued. Just like the author said, it is not for new learners of the language, it is for experienced programmers who have gotten through the first 80% and now want to master the remaining 80%. On the Kindle it looked great, text, code, and pictures. In my eyes, this is the missing manual that should have gone out with ECMA-262. 5/5

Maybe if you are David or at his level of experience and expertise with JavaScript, this book wouldn't help. For everyone else, you're virtually guaranteed to get several, if not many, great insights that will make you that much more capable of grappling with the often obscure nuances of JavaScript. Some of the items felt pretty edge-casey, but most you will doubtless run into at some point, even if you don't realize it. This book will help you recognize and avoid bad practices (and bugs) while helping cultivate good ones.

Although it's been around for almost 20 years, JS doesn't have a well established standard - the gap between different hosting environments and other important issues are not covered by ECMAScript specification. JS is a very powerful and dynamic language to begin with, which without correct guidance may lead you to fundamental mistakes, struggling with unanticipated, untraceable bugs and inefficient computing. I find this book to be the 'missing guide' on how to bridge over these gaps and level up your knowledge of JS. This book covers 68 principles of JavaScript programming in an intelligent, concise and clear manner. It focuses mainly on pitfalls and best practices to avoid them by writing better, robust code. 68 items may sound a bit cumbersome, but the explanations are very clear and the reading direction is forward - rarely, if at all, do you need to hop back and forth between items to understand what you're currently reading. The items span several topics: \* general JavaScript idioms - this is not a beginner's introduction, but more of a review over the language strengths and weaknesses \* variable scopes - best practices regarding global objects and other scope concerns \* functions - the identity of functions as traditional functions, methods and closures. how to use them properly in terms of context ('this' object) \* objects/prototypes - the identity of

objects as classes/interfaces - proper prototyping and inheritance\* arrays - how to leverage standard Array API and common pitfalls\* API design - tips on how to write a concise and unambiguous API (be it for public use or your own code base)\* concurrency - guidelines for writing asynchronous functions properly and a brief description of Promises.

From the legendary Effective series, this book lives up to its standard. It goes deep into the language in a series of 68 topics. It's very good at breaking down and explaining topics and contains a wealth of knowledge. It actually explains intricate details about JavaScript semicolon insertion, implicit coercions, and a lot of other goodness like implicit binding of "this". A lot of subjects are already covered in other books, but this book actually explains them in more detail and why things the way they are. It's not overly complex but it is very dense with information and joy to read. This is a must read for any serious developer who wants a deeper understanding of the JavaScript language.

This is book for advanced JavaScript developers, I as intermediate JavaScript developer found myself rereading some chapters for two or three times. First there was some JavaScript syntax that I was not familiar with or there were concepts that I was not aware of. But with rereading the chapter you will get the authors point. For me it was good reference because it explained me the difference between object oriented languages (in which I have more experience) and JavaScript. There are tips and tricks that are very effective and can save you a lot of time in development. In my opinion this is not a book for JavaScript beginners, I will recommended to all intermediate and advanced JavaScript developers.

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