javaScript Tutorial 4

Functions

So far in our code we've had javaScripts that load and run when the web page loads in the browser. In order to make the javaScript run again, we have to reload the page in the browser. So, for example, last week we saw a web page with a script that used a prompt to ask the user, "Would you like to learn about an animal?" and if the user answered "yes", the script generated a random number and then used that random number to change the header to the name of the animal, the image to a picture of the animal, and the paragraph to a paragraph about the animal. If the user wanted to learn about a different animal, the user had to reload the entire web page. In another example, a script used a prompt to ask the user, "Heads or Tails?" and then, depending on what the user chose and the random number generated the script either wrote a paragraph, "Congratulations! You guessed correctly!" or "Sorry, you guessed heads and the computer generated tails." (or vice versa). Again, if the user wanted to play again, the user had to reload the web page in the browser. Wouldn't you prefer to create a web page with a button, and every time you clicked the button, the script happened again? Then if you wanted to run the javaScript again, you would just need to click on the button.

You can do this by adding a function and a button. A function is, essentially, naming your javaScript code. When you give your javaScript code a name, you can "call it", or make it run, by calling the name of the function. Every time you call the name of the function, the browser will run it, without having to reload the web page.

Defining a function

```
function fname ()
{
    javaScript code that function does
}
```

Above is a basic template for a function. You must first declare that you are creating a function, so the very first word in the creation of a function is, well, *function*.

Fname is any name you choose to give your function. You can choose any name you wish, as long as it follows the javaScript naming conventions (i.e., no spaces, no special characters other than _, must start with a letter, and can't be a reserved javaScript word.

After the name of the function, you must have the (and). Later we may put something between those parentheses, but for now we can just include () after the function's name.

Then all the code that you want to belong to your function must go between an opening { and closing }

Example:

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html><head> <meta charset= "utf-8" ></head>
<body>
   This is a paragraph
   <script>
    function guessinggame()
    {       var x = Math.floor(Math.random()*6) + 1
            var y = parseInt(prompt("Enter a number between 1 and 6"))
```

```
if (x == y)
{     document.getElementById("firstp").innerHTML = "You guessed it!";
}
else
{     document.getElementById("firstp").innerHTML = "You are wrong!";
}
</script>
</body></html>
```

Above is an example of including a function in your javaScript code. The function includes all code between its opening { and its closing }.

We turned code into a function for a reason. By making javaScript code into a function and giving it a name, we can make the code happen whenever we call its name (e.g., by clicking a button on our web page, which we will learn how to add next). That means that the code inside of a function doesn't happen automatically. I'm going to repeat that. The code inside a javaScript function doesn't happen whenever you load the web page. So in order to make the code inside the function, we must call its name somehow. One way to do that is to add a button to our web page and make that button call the function's name.

Adding a button

The button is technically not javaScript code – it is HTML code. So it must go in the web page, but not inside your script. The button does, however, call the javaScript function's name, and, in doing so, makes the function happen.

To include a button in your web page, you'd include the following html code:

<input type = "button" value = "Click to play" onClick = "guessinggame()">

Breaking it down, this html code will create a button, with the text, "Click to play" on it. When you click it, it calls the function you named "guessinggame()", thus making the code inside the function be executed by the browser.

So, putting it all together, you'd get:

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html><head>
                                   <meta charset= "utf-8" ></head>
  <body>
          This is a paragraph
        <input type = "button" value = "Click to play" onClick = "guessinggame()">
  <script>
        function guessinggame()
               var x = Math.floor(Math.random()*6) + 1
        {
               var y = parseInt(prompt("Enter a number between 1 and 6"))
               if (x == y)
               {
                      document.getElementById("firstp").innerHTML = "Play the lottery!";
               }
               else
               {
                      document.getElementById("firstp").innerHTML = "You are wrong!";
               }
  </script>
</body></html>
```

So, in the above example, the function guessinggame does not happen automatically. It is only executed when we click on the button. But we can click on the button again and again. Each time we click on it, the code inside the function will run. This is more efficient than reloading the entire web page in the browser.

Placing functions in the head section:

So far we've placed all of our javaScript code in the body of the web page. javaScript code, and in particular functions, can go in the body section of our html code or in the head section of the html code. With functions, we usually put them in the head section. The reason is that if there are images involved, by putting it in the head section, the images will preload. If we put the code in the body section, the images won't download until the function is called, making it run slow.

Plus, when we put the functions inside the body of our html code, it's just sloppier and harder to read through the html page. By separating the javascript and placing it in the head section, the web page is cleaner to read through.

We can also place javaScripts into separate files and link the separate file in the head section, like we did with the css style sheet. But for now, let's just place the javaScript code in the head section.

Below is an example of placing the javaScript code in the head section of your html page:

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html>
<head>
      <meta charset= "utf-8" >
     <script>
          function show confirm()
                var r=confirm("Press a button");
                if (r==true)
                     document.getElementById('p1').innerHTML = "You pressed OK!";
                {
                }
                else
                     document.getElementById('p1').innerHTML = "You pressed Cancel!";
                {
           }
      </script>
</head>
<body>
      <input type="button" value="Show confirm box" onclick="show confirm()" >
       Answer goes here 
</body>
</html>
```

In the following example, there are two functions in the head section, each with its own name. Every function name within a javaScript has to be unique.

<!DOCTYPE html><html><head><meta charset= "utf-8" >

<script>

function coffeeinfo()
{
 document.getElementById('p3').innerHTML = "The word 'coffee' was at "
 document.getElementById('p3').style.color = "#CCBBAA"
 document.getElementById('p3').style.backgroundColor = "#995500" }

function teainfo()

{

```
document.getElementById('p3').innerHTML = "The origin of tea can be traced.. "
document.getElementById('p3').style.color = "#227700"
```

```
document.getElementById('p3').style.backgroundColor = "#BBCC22"
           document.getElementById("p3").style.borderColor = "#114400"
           document.getElementById("tea").style.borderColor = "#114400"
           document.getElementById("tea").style.borderWidth = "10px"
           document.getElementById("coffee").style.borderWidth = "0px"
     }
</script>
</head>
<body>
     <img src = "Images/coffee.jpg" width = "300" height = "280"
                 alt = "pic of coffee" id = "coffee">
            <img src = "Images/tea.jpg" width = "360" height = "280" alt = "pic of tea" id = "tea">
            <input type = "button" value = "Learn more about coffee" onClick = "coffeeinfo()">
            <input type = "button" value = "Learn more about tea" onClick = "teainfo()">
```

```
</body></html>
```

Methods for calling Functions (making them be executed by the browser)

There are a number of ways you can make a function happen in JavaScript. You've seen onClick="functionname()"

There's also:

- onMouseOver() when you run your mouse over something •
- onMouseOut() when you take your mouse pointer off of something
- **onLoad()** for when the web page loads •

I use the above frequently, along with onKeyPress(below). But there are a number of other options we can include in the html code for calling javaScript functions, including:

- onDblClick() when you double-click on something
- onFocus() when you put your cursor into a form element like a textbox •
- onBlur() – when your cursor leaves a form element
- onKeyDown () when you press a key down over something •
- onKeyUp() when you release a key over something •
- onKeyPress()- when you press and release a key over something •
- onMouseDown()- when you click the mouse over something (but don't release it) ٠
- onMouseUp() when you release the mouse over something •
- onMouseMove()- moving the mouse while hovering over something
- onSubmit() when submitting a form •
- onUnload() when you leave the current web page window you're in.

OnMouseOver and onMouseOut:

Below is an example of using onMouseOver and onMouseOut to call the javaScript functions. In the example, there are two javaScript functions, *changepara()* and *changethanks()*. In the html code in the body of the web page is a button. Moving your mouse over the button (you don't need to click on it – just run your mouse over it) will call the function, changepara() and the code inside it will be executed. When you move your mouse off of the button, the function changethanks() will be called and executed.

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html>
<head>
     <meta charset= "utf-8" >
     <script>
     function changepara()
     {
           document.getElementById('firstp').innerHTML = "GET YOUR MOUSE OFF THAT BUTTON!"
     }
     function changethanks()
     {
           document.getElementById('firstp').innerHTML = "Whew, that was close!"
     }
     </script>
</head>
<body>
     This is a very important paragraph!!!
     <input type = "button" value = "Don't click here"</pre>
           onMouseOver = "changepara()" onMouseOut = "changethanks()">
</body></html>
```

onMouseOver and onMouseout (and onClick, and almost every other method for calling functions) will work on any element with a tag on your web page. You don't have to create a button – you can place onMouseOver and onMouseOut in a paragraph, for example. In the code below, there's a paragraph with the id, "firstp". Inside the paragraph tag, there's a call to changepara() that happens in an onMouseOver event (i.e., when you run your mouse over the paragraph with the id "firstp"). Now, when you run your mouse over the paragraph, the function changepara() is called and executed. The function changepara() changes the innerHTML of the element with the id 'firstp' to "DON'T RUN YOUR MOUSE OVER THIS PARAGRAPH!". That means when you move your mouse over the paragraph, 'firstp', its text changes. Equally, when you move your mouse off the paragraph, the function changethanks() will be called and the code will be executed, meaning the innerHTML of the element with the id 'firstp' (the paragraph) will be changed to, "Thanks for taking your mouse off this paragraph".

So to summarize, when you move your mouse over the paragraph 'firstp', the text changes to, "DON'T RUN YOUR MOUSE OVER THIS PARAGRAPH!" and when you mover your mouse off of the paragraph, the text will change to, "Thank you for taking your mouse off this paragraph".

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html><head> <meta charset= "utf-8" >
    <script>
    function changepara()
         document.getElementById('firstp').innerHTML = "DON'T RUN YOUR MOUSE OVER THIS
    {
PARAGRAPH!"
    }
    function changethanks()
         document.getElementById('firstp').innerHTML = "Thank you for taking your mouse off
    {
this paragraph"
    }
    </script>
    </head>
    <body>
```

This is a very important paragraph!!!
</body></html>
Equally, you can call functions using onMouseOver and onMouseOut on images on your web page. The
functions called can change the images to new images. See if you can figure out what the following code does:

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html><head> <meta charset= "utf-8" >
     <script>
     function changepic()
     {
           document.getElementById('pic1').src = "ghost.jpg"
     }
     function changeback()
     {
           document.getElementById('pic1').src = "woman.jpg"
     }
     </script>
     </head>
     <body>
           <img src = "woman.jpg" width = "300" height = "300" id = "pic1"
           onMouseOver = "changepic()" onMouseOut = "changeback()"> 
</body></html>
```

In the above example, when you move your mouse over the image on the web page with the id, 'pic1', the src of the image (the picture) changes from woman.jpg to ghost.jpg. When you move your mouse off of the image, the src picture changes back to that of a woman.

Using the length of an Array:

Look at the following code. Can you tell what it does?

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head><meta charset= "utf-8" >
   <script >
       var picArray = new Array()
       picArray[0]= "safari1.jpg"
       picArray[1]="safari2.png"
       picArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
       picArray[3]="safari4.jpg"
       picArray[4]="safari5.jpg"
       function displaypic()
         var num = Math.floor(Math.random()*5)
       {
          document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[num]
       }
   </script>
</head>
<body>
     <h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
     <img src = "Leopard.jpg" height = "300" width = "390"</p>
          alt = "vacation pics" id = "pic1" > 
     <input type = "button" value = "Click for more pics" onClick = "displaypic()">
</body>
</html>
```

The code above is a web page with an image on it with the id 'pic1' and a button on it. When the button is clicked on, the function displaypic() is called and executed. In the function, a random number between 0 and 5 (not including 5) is generated. That random number is used to change the element on the web page with the id 'pic1' (the image) src (or picture) to whatever picture is stored in the array picArray at that random number.

How would we add a picture? Well, if you remember from previous tutorials, we can add a picture fairly easily by saying,

```
picArray[5]='safari6.jpg'
```

I could even write a simple function to add a picture:

```
function addpic()
{
    var x = prompt('Enter the name of a picture to be added to the array')
    picArray[5] = x
}
```

However, there is a problem with this. What if we want to add more than one picture to the array? What if we call this function more than once? Each time it is called, the user will be asked to enter the name of a picture they want to add to the array. But then, each time the new picture will be placed in the picArray at location 5, overwriting the picture that was there before. So with this function, at most the user can add only one new picture to the array. Yet we can call this function again and again. Most users would assume that each time they enter a new picture, it is added to the array as opposed to replacing the previous picture they added.

So how can we always add a picture to the end of the array, regardless of the number of items in the array? We need a way to find out the current number of items in the array. Luckily javaScript gives us a way to do that easily:

picArray.length

the .length method tells us the current length (the number of elements) in any array. To use it, you must say the name of the array, and add .length to it.

For example:

```
var myArray = new Array()
myArray[0]= "safari1.jpg"
myArray[1]="safari2.png"
myArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
```

var num = myArray.length

In the above code, **Num** now holds **3** because there are 3 elements in myArray.

Now let's write a function that adds a picture to the array:

Now in the above code, whenever we click on the button that calls the function addpic(), the code prompts the user to enter a new picture. Then we find out the latest number of pictures in the picArray using picArray.length. Whatever that number is goes into the variable num. Because the number of elements in an array is always one more than the last location in the array (because we placed the first element at location 0), we can put the newest picture into the array at the location of num. For example, in the array picArray, above, the first time we use picArray.length, num will hold 5 because there are 5 pictures in the array picArray. Yet the last location address in the array is picArray[4]. So if we want to add a new picture to the end of the array, we would want to add it at picArray[5]. 5 is the number of elements in the array, or picArray.length.

Remember this code?

```
<script >
    var picArray = new Array()
    picArray[0]= "safari1.jpg"
    picArray[1]="safari2.png"
    picArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
    picArray[3]="safari4.jpg"
    picArray[4]="safari5.jpg"
    function displaypic()
    {       var x = Math.floor(Math.random()*5)
            document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[x]
    }
</script>
```

In this script, the function generates a random number between 0 and 5, not including 5. Then the picture in picArray at that random number's location will be displayed. This works fine, as long as the picArray only has 5 pictures in it. But if we start adding pictures to the array, the code will only display the pictures between locations 0 and 4. It will never display the new pictures we added to the end of the array.

To fix that, we again use picArray.length. This time we'll use it to get the length of the array before we generate a random number, and, instead of generating a random number between 0 and 5, we'll generate a random number between 0 and the length of the array picArray.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
      <meta charset= "utf-8" >
      <script >
           var picArray = new Array()
           picArray[0]="Images/safari1.jpg"
           picArray[1]="Images/safari2.png"
           picArray[2]="Images/safari3.jpg"
           picArray[3]="Images/safari4.jpg"
           picArray[4]="Images/safari5.jpg"
           function addpic()
                 var newpic = prompt("Enter new picture")
           {
                 var num = picArray.length
                 picArray[num] = newpic
           }
           function displaypic()
                 var num = Math.floor(Math.random()*picArrav.length)
           {
                 document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[num]
            }
      </script>
</head>
<body>
   <h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
        <img src = "Leopard.jpg" height="300" width="390" alt="vacation pics" id="pic1" >
              <input type="button" value="Click here for more vacation pics" onClick="displaypic()">
        <input type="button" value="Click here to add a pic" onClick="addpic()">
</body>
</html>
```

Now we can add as many pictures as we want to the array using the addpic() function. Each time a new picture will be added to the end of the array, and the length of the array will increase by 1. Then, when we call the function displaypic(), it will always first determine the current number of elements in the array, and use that number to generate a random number between 0 and that current length, and that random number will be used to choose the picture from picArray that is to be displayed in the src of the image with the id of 'pic1'.

Going through an array in order:

In the example above, we are able to click on a button and randomly see one of the pictures in the array of pictures. But what if we want to see the images in the array in the order in which they occur in the array, e.g., we want to see safari1.jpg first, then safari2.png second, then safari3.jpg third, etc.? Think of your vacation pictures. Probably you would want to see them in order – otherwise it might be hard to figure out where you were and what you were doing in the picture. The order of pictures can matter, and there are times when we want to go through things in order.

To do that, we need another variable. We'll start this variable at 0. Then, each time we call the function and make the code inside of it run, we will increase the variable's value by 1 and display the image in the array at that variable. This way we will see the pictures in the array in order.

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
     <meta charset= "utf-8">
     <script >
           var picArray = new Array()
           picArray[0]="Images/safari1.jpg"
           picArray[1]="Images/safari2.png"
           picArray[2]="Images/safari3.jpg"
           picArray[3]="Images/safari4.jpg"
           picArray[4]="Images/safari5.jpg"
           var count = 0
                            /* We'll change this value later*/
           function displaypic()
                 count = count + 1
           {
                 document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
           }
     </script>
</head>
<bodv>
   <h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
   <img src="Leopard.jpg" height="300" width="390" alt="vacation pics" id="pic1" > 
   <input type="button" value="Click here for more vacation pics" onClick="displaypic()">
</body>
</html>
```

A couple of things should be pointed out. First, the variable count is created outside and above the function it is used in. Why? Because if I put it inside the function, e.g.,:

```
function displaypic()
{    var count = 0
    count = count + 1
    document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
}
```

Every time the function displaypic() was called and the code was executed, the first thing that would happen is that the variable count would be set to hold 0. We don't want that. We want the function displaypic() to increase the count variable by 1 only, and then display the picture in picArray at the new count value. We don't want it to be set back to 0 each time we call it and the code runs. By placing var count=0 outside of the function, it will only happen one time, and not every time the function is called (because only code between the opening and closing { } happens when the function is called.)

The other thing that might look confusing is:

count = count + 1

This is really the same thing as saying:

```
var x = count + 1
count = x
```

Or, our new variable x holds the value inside of count + 1. So if count is 0, x will hold 1. If count is 1, x will hold 2, etc. Then I'm setting the count variable to hold whatever is inside of x. So if x holds 1, count will now hold 1. If x holds 2, count will now hold 2, etc.

Another way to look at it is that we do the addition on the right side first. So count+1 gives us a number. Whatever that number is, it goes into the variable on the left side (regardless of the name of the variable. So given the following code:

```
var count = 0
function displaypic()
{    count = count + 1
        document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
}
```

The first time displaypic is called, the count variable has already been set to hold the value 0. So when we get to the line, count = count + 1, the right side of the equation, or count + 1, can be replaced with 0+1, or the number 1. That is the number that goes into the variable on the left. So now count will hold 1.

What have we created in total? Well, before anything happens, a variable count is set to 0. Then, every time the user clicks on the button on the web page, the function displaypic() is called, at which point the value inside of count goes up by 1. Then the src of the image with the id of 'pic1' on the web page is changed to the picture in picArray at the count value. Thus, each time the user clicks on the button, s/he sees the next image in the picArray.

Going back to the beginning...

So far, the code we've written will show the pictures in the array from first to last. But there's a problem. What happens when the count variable's value gets to 5? There's no picture at picArray[5]. What do we probably want to happen now? In most cases, we probably want to go back to the picture at the beginning of the array and start over. That will mean resetting the count variable to 0 when it gets to the location of the last element in the array. To do this, we can add an if condition to our code:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head><meta charset= "utf-8">
   <script >
        var picArray = new Array()
        picArray[0]="safari1.jpg'
        picArray[1]="safari2.png'
        picArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
        picArray[3]="safari4.jpg"
        picArray[4]="safari5.jpg"
        var count = -1
        function displaypic()
           count = count + 1
           if (count >= picArray.length)
           {
               count = 0
            }
           document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
        }
   </script>
</head>
<body>
   <h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
   <img src="Leopard.jpg" height="300" width="390" alt="vacation pics" id="pic1"> 
   <input type="button" value="Click here for more vacation pics" onClick="displaypic()">
</body>
</html>
```

Now when we get to the end of the array of pictures, the count variable's value is set back to 0, and the picture displayed is the picture in the picArray[0]. Thus when we get to the end of the picArray, we loop back to the beginning.

Notice that outside the function I've set var count = -1, as opposed to how I had it previously with var count = 0. The reason for this is that when the function displaypic() is called, the first line of code that is executed increases the count variable's value by 1. That means if count = 0, then the very first time displaypic() is called, the count value changes to 1. After it has been changed to 1, the picArray[count] picture is displayed. That means that the first picture to be displayed and seen will be the picture in picArray[1]. But most likely we'd want to see the picture in picArray[0] first. To make that happen, I needed to start the count variable's value outside of the function at -1. Then the very first time the function displaypic() is called, and the first line in the function is executed, the count variable's value is increased by 1, which will make it 0. Then when the picture at picArray[count] is displayed, it will be the picture at location 0 in the array.

Adding pictures:

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head><meta charset= "utf-8">
   <script >
        var picArray = new Array()
        picArray[0]="safari1.jpg"
        picArray[1]="safari2.png"
        picArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
        picArray[3]="safari4.jpg"
        picArray[4]="safari5.jpg"
        var count = -1
        function displaypic()
           count = count + 1
        {
           if (count >= picArray.length)
           {
                 count = 0
           }
            document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
        }
        function addpic()
           var newpic = prompt("Enter new picture")
        {
           var num = picArray.length
           picArray[num] = newpic
           document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[num]
        }
   </script>
</head>
<body>
   <h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
        <img src="Leopard.jpg" height="300" width="390" alt="vacation pics" id="pic1">
        <input type="button" value="Click here for more vacation pics" onClick="displaypic()">
        <input type="button" value="Click here to add a pic" onClick="addpic()">
</body>
</html>
```

Can you see in the above code that using picArray.length everywhere instead of using the number 5 to represent the number of pictures in picArray allows this code to work properly and allows all the images to be displayed, regardless of how many pictures we add to the array?

Going Backwards

Finally, when you're going through your gallery of vacation pictures, you often want the ability to go backwards as well as forwards. You'd first need another button, representing the ability to go backwards through your pictures. You'd also need another function, that went backwards instead of forwards.

To go backwards, instead of increasing the value inside of the count variable, you'd want to decrease it by 1. So you'd have:

count = count -1

Now when we were going forward, when we got to the last picture in the array, we went back to the beginning by setting the count variable to 0. But now we're going backwards. So when the count value gets lower than 0 (because there is a picture at picArray[0]), we want to set it to the last picture in the array's location, which is at picArray.length – 1 (remember, picArray.length gives us the number of pictures in the array, which is always 1 larger than the last location in the array). So the if condition would be:

if (count < 0)
{ count = picArray.length-1
}</pre>

That's it. Now we have a function that will take us through your vacation slides backwards as well as forwards.

```
<!DOCTYPE html><html>
<head><meta charset= "utf-8">
   <script >
        var picArray = new Array()
        picArray[0]="safari1.jpg"
        picArray[1]="safari2.png"
        picArray[2]="safari3.jpg"
        picArray[3]="safari4.jpg"
        picArray[4]="safari5.jpg"
        var count = -1
        function displaypic()
           count = count + 1
        {
            if (count >= picArray.length)
                 count = 0
            {
            }
            document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
            document.getElementById("p1").innerHTML = count
        }
        function displaybak()
            count = count - 1
        {
            if (count < 0)
            {
                 count = picArray.length-1
            }
            document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[count]
document.getElementById("p1").innerHTML = count
        }
        function addpic()
            var newpic = prompt("Enter new picture")
        {
            var num = picArray.length
            picArray[num] = newpic
            document.getElementById("pic1").src = picArray[num]
        }
```

```
</script>
</head>
<body>
<h1> Vacation Pics </h1>
<img src="Leopard.jpg" height="300" width="390" alt="vacation pics" id="pic1">
<input type="button" value="Go Forward" onClick="displaypic()">
<input type="button" value="Go Back" onClick="displaybak()">
<input type="button" value="Go Back" onClick="displaybak()">
<input type="button" value="Click here to add a pic" onClick="addpic()">
Image number 
</body>
</html>
```