



# Introducing JSON

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ECMA-404 The JSON Data Interchange Standard.

**JSON** (JavaScript Object Notation) is a lightweight data-interchange format. It is easy for humans to read and write. It is easy for machines to parse and generate. It is based on a subset of the [JavaScript Programming Language, Standard ECMA-262 3rd Edition - December 1999](#). JSON is a text format that is completely language independent but uses conventions that are familiar to programmers of the C-family of languages, including C, C++, C#, Java, JavaScript, Perl, Python, and many others. These properties make JSON an ideal data-interchange language.

JSON is built on two structures:

- A collection of name/value pairs. In various languages, this is realized as an *object*, record, struct, dictionary, hash table, keyed list, or associative array.
- An ordered list of values. In most languages, this is realized as an *array*, vector, list, or sequence.

These are universal data structures. Virtually all modern programming languages support them in one form or another. It makes sense that a data format that is interchangeable with programming languages also be based on these structures.

In JSON, they take on these forms:

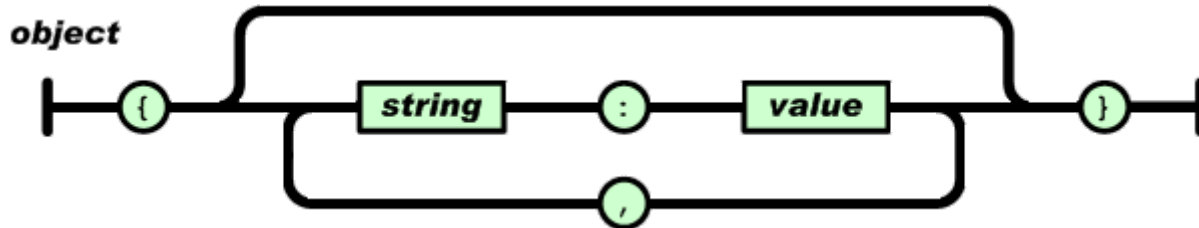
An *object* is an unordered set of name/value pairs. An object begins with { (left brace) and ends with } (right brace). Each name is followed by : (colon) and the name/value pairs are separated by , (comma).

```

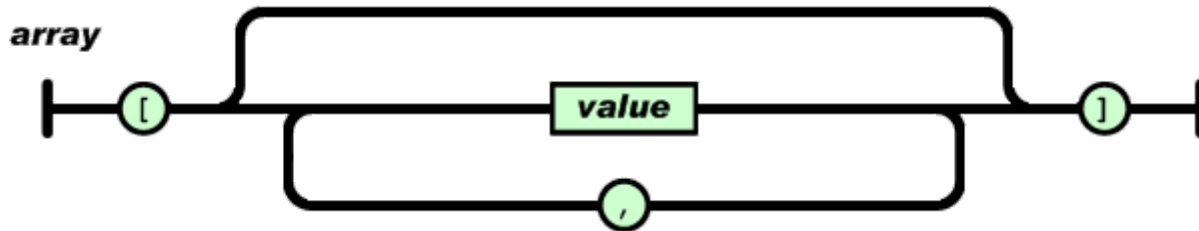
object
    { }
    { members }
members
    pair
    pair , members
pair
    string : value
array
    [ ]
    [ elements ]
elements
    value
    value , elements
value
    string
    number
    object
    array
    true
    false
    null

string
    ""
    " chars "
chars
    char
    char chars
char
    any-Unicode-character-
    except- " -or- \ -or-
    control-character
    \ "
    \\
    \/
  
```

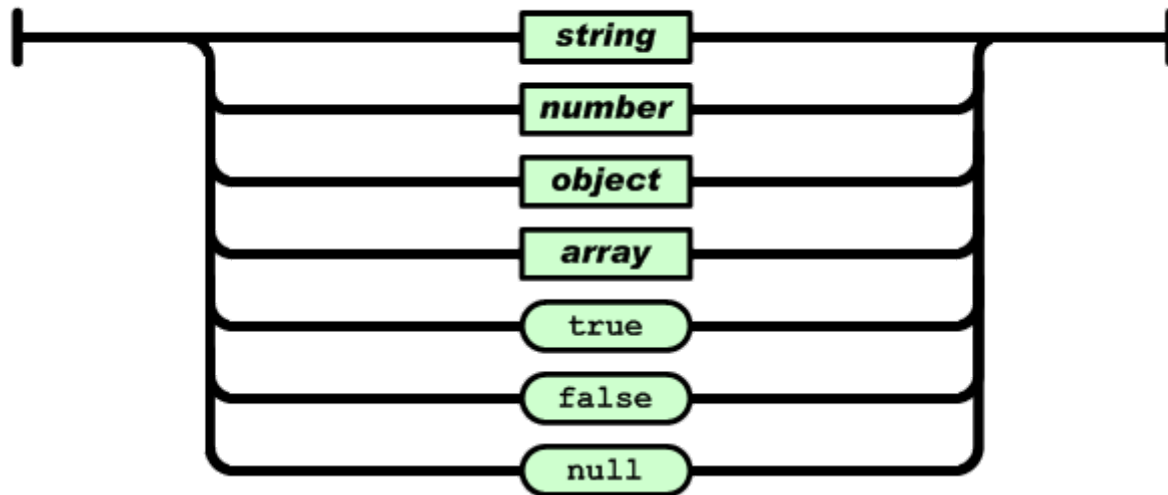
<code>\b</code>
<code>\f</code>
<code>\n</code>
<code>\r</code>
<code>\t</code>
<code>\u four-hex-digits</code>
<i>number</i>
<i>int</i>
<i>int frac</i>
<i>int exp</i>
<i>int frac exp</i>
<i>int</i>
<i>digit</i>
<i>digit1-9 digits</i>
<i>- digit</i>
<i>- digit1-9 digits</i>
<i>frac</i>
<i>. digits</i>
<i>exp</i>
<i>e digits</i>
<i>digits</i>
<i>digit</i>
<i>digit digits</i>
<i>e</i>
<b>e</b>
<b>e+</b>
<b>e-</b>
<b>E</b>
<b>E+</b>
<b>E-</b>



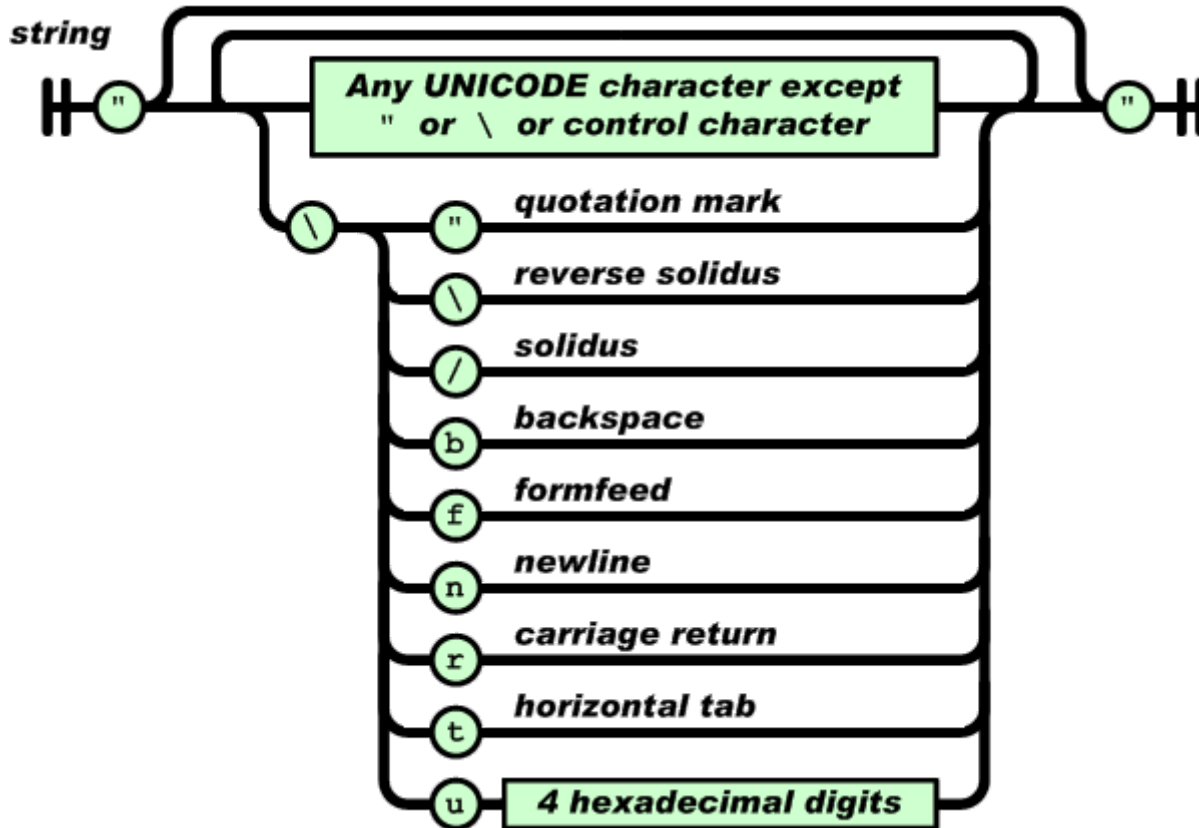
An *array* is an ordered collection of values. An array begins with [ (left bracket) and ends with ] (right bracket). Values are separated by , (comma).



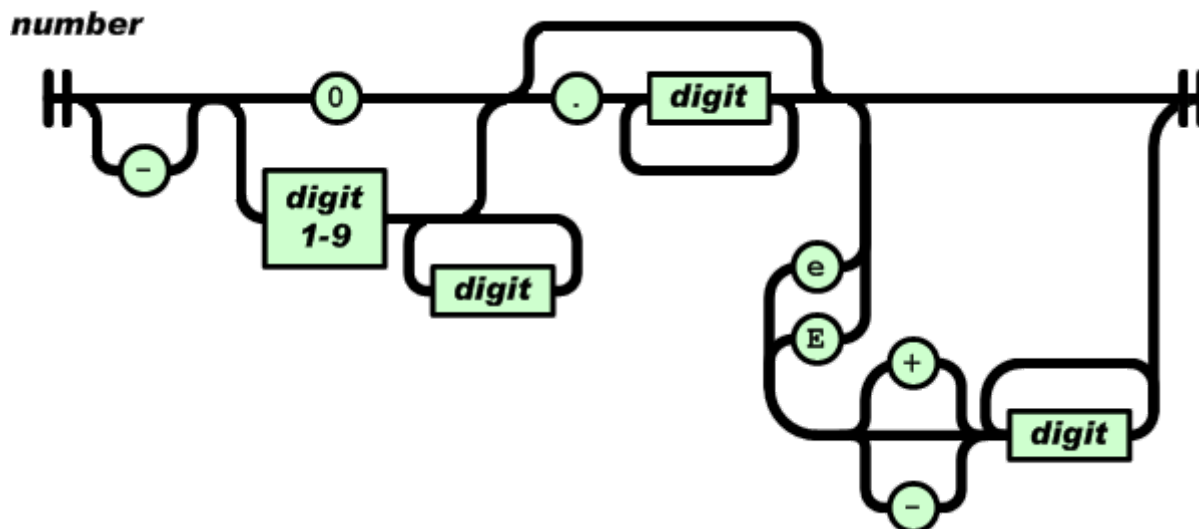
A *value* can be a *string* in double quotes, or a *number*, or **true** or **false** or **null**, or an *object* or an *array*. These structures can be nested.

**value**

A *string* is a sequence of zero or more Unicode characters, wrapped in double quotes, using backslash escapes. A character is represented as a single character string. A string is very much like a C or Java string.



A *number* is very much like a C or Java number, except that the octal and hexadecimal formats are not used.



Whitespace can be inserted between any pair of tokens. Excepting a few encoding details, that completely describes the language.

- ABAP:
  - [EPO Connector](#).
- ActionScript:
  - [ActionScript3](#).
- Ada:
  - [GNATCOLL.JSON](#).
- AdvPL:
  - [JSON-ADVPL](#).
- ASP:
  - [JSON for ASP](#).
  - [JSON ASP utility class](#).
- AWK:
  - [JSON.awk](#).
  - [rhawk](#).
- Bash:
  - [Jshon](#).
  - [JSON.sh](#).
- BlitzMax:
  - [bmx-rjson](#).
- C:
  - [JSON\\_checker](#).
  - [YAJL](#).
  - [LibU](#).
  - [json-c](#).
  - [json-parser](#).
  - [jsonsl](#).
  - [WJElement](#).
  - [M's JSON parser](#).
  - [cJSON](#).
  - [Jansson](#).
  - [jsmn](#).
  - [parson](#).
  - [ujson4c](#).
  - [nxjson](#).
- ColdFusion:
  - [SerializeJSON](#).
  - [toJSON](#).
- D:
  - [Libdjson](#).
- Dart:
  - [json library](#).
- Delphi:
  - [Delphi Web Utils](#).
  - [JSON Delphi Library](#).
- E:
  - [JSON in TermL](#).
- Fantom:
  - [Json](#).
- FileMaker:
  - [JSON](#).
- Fortran:
  - [json-fortran](#).
  - [YAJL-Fort](#).
- Go:
  - [package json](#).
- Groovy:
  - [groovy-io](#).
- Haskell:
  - [RJson package](#).
  - [json package](#).
- Java:
  - [JSON-java](#).
  - [JSONUtil](#).
  - [jsonp](#).
  - [Json-lib](#).
  - [Stringtree](#).
  - [SOJO](#).
  - [json-taglib](#).

- frozen.
- microjson.
- C++:
  - JSONKit.
  - jsonme--.
  - ThorsSerializer.
  - JsonBox.
  - jvar.
  - rapidjson.
  - JSON for Modern C++.
  - qmjson.
  - minijson.
  - jsoncons.
  - JSON Support in Qt.
  - QJson.
  - jsoncpp.
  - JOST.
  - CAJUN.
  - libjson.
  - nosjob.
  - JSON++.
  - JSON library for IoT.
- C#:
  - fastJSON.
  - JSON\_checker.
  - Jayrock.
  - Json.NET - LINQ to JSON.
  - LitJSON.
  - JSON for .NET.
  - JSON@CodeTitans.
  - JSONSharp.
  - fluent-json.
  - Manatee Json.
  - FastJsonParser.
- Ciao:
  - Ciao JSON encoder and decoder.
- Clojure:
  - data.json.
- Cobol:
  - XML Thunder.
  - Redvers COBOL JSON Interface.
- Net.Data:
  - netdata-json.
- Objective C:
  - NSJSONSerialization.
  - json-framework.
  - JSONKit.
  - yajl-objc.
  - TouchJSON.
- OCaml:
  - Yojson.
- JavaScript:
  - JSON.
  - json2.js.
  - clarinet.
  - Oboe.js.
- LabVIEW:
  - flatten.
- Lisp:
  - Common Lisp JSON.
  - Emacs Lisp.
- LiveCode:
  - mergJSON.
- LotusScript:
  - JSON LS.
- LPC:
  - Grimoire: LPC JSON.
- Lua:
  - JSON Modules.
- M:
  - DataBallet.
- Matlab:
  - JSONlab.
  - 20565.
  - 23393.
- Flexjson.
- JON tools.
- Argo.
- jsonij.
- fastjson.
- mjson.
- jjson.
- json-simple.
- json-io.
- JsonMarshaller.
- google-gson.
- Json-smart.
- FOSS Nova JSON.
- Corn CONVERTER.
- Apache johnzon.
- Genson.
- JSONUtil.
- cookjson.

- jsonm.
- PascalScript:
  - JsonParser.
- Perl:
  - CPAN.
  - perl-JSON-SL.
- Photoshop:
  - JSON Photoshop Scripting.
- PHP:
  - PHP 5.2.
- PicoLisp:
  - picolisp-json.
- Pike:
  - Public.Parser.JSON.
  - Public.Parser.JSON2.
- PL/SQL:
  - pljson:
  - PowerShell:
    - PowerShell.
  - Puredata:
    - PuRestJson.
  - Python:
    - The Python Standard Library.
    - simplejson.
    - pyson.
    - Yajl-Py.
    - ultrajson.
    - metamagic.json.
  - R:
    - rjson.
    - jsonlite.
  - Racket:
    - json-parsing.
  - Rebol:
    - json.r.
  - RPG:
    - JSON Utilities.
  - Rust:
    - Serde JSON.
    - json-rust.
  - Ruby:
    - json.
    - yajl-ruby.
    - json-stream.
    - yajl-ffi.
  - Scheme:
    - MZScheme.
    - PLT Scheme.
  - Squeak:
    - Squeak.
  - Symbian:
    - s60-json-library.
  - Tcl:
    - JSON.

- Visual Basic:
  - [VB-JSON.](#)
  - [PW.JSON.](#)
  - [.NET-JSON-Transformer.](#)
- Visual FoxPro:
  - [fwJSON.](#)
  - [JSON.](#)
  - [vfpjson.](#)