



**WYNNE'S**  
coding pros

# Top 30 Recommended Books for Any Javascript Coder

Hi, Wynne Pirini here. I founded Wynne's Coding Pros to share everything I have learned about the *process* of learning to code.

I never started out as a coder. Originally I was a Chemical Engineer. Later, I became a project manager. And then entrepreneur.

After making 100's of websites, I decided I should learn to code also.

Coding is one of the most dynamic and fast moving gigs to be involved in. Nothing stays the same for long. That's one of the reasons for my **Top 30 Recommended Books for Any Javascript Coder ...**

... if you focused on the bestsellers of the past – you might be focusing on something that is no longer a best practice, or used at all.

I've put together a list of what's relevant and works today, and will move you forward in your coding skills at a record pace.

And at Wynne's Coding Pros ([wynnescodingpros.com](https://wynnescodingpros.com)) – I used my combined experience as an engineer, project manager, and entrepreneur – to steer you in the right direction in your coding career.

Wynne Pirini

# #1 A Smarter Way to Learn JavaScript: The new tech-assisted

By Mark Myers



This book is fun and very easy to read. It is the perfect start if you are a beginner, or you've tried to learn before but given up out of frustration.

The learning process is what sets this book apart. Becoming fluent can only be achieved by applying the lessons you've learned in diverse contexts.

Each chapter of this book is broken down into short and bite-sized portions. Learning is layered, so as you move through the book, lessons gradually reinforced by later ones.

At the end of each chapter, you get to practice your knowledge with several practical exercises on the author's companion website. Doing so helps to quickly learn 'best practices'.

If you decide to take a brain-break for a week, no problem. Simply scan back through the material to refresh your memory, then move forward with the next lessons.

It's possible to finish all of the material and exercises in as little as two weeks.

Some of the approaches are getting a little dated since it was published in 2014. But that's OK.

Keep in mind, this is just the START. You need to develop a solid foundation, first. And, this book is the best way to do just that.

Once you have the basics sorted, you will find learning NodeJS, React.JS, Angular, or Vue.JS much easier.

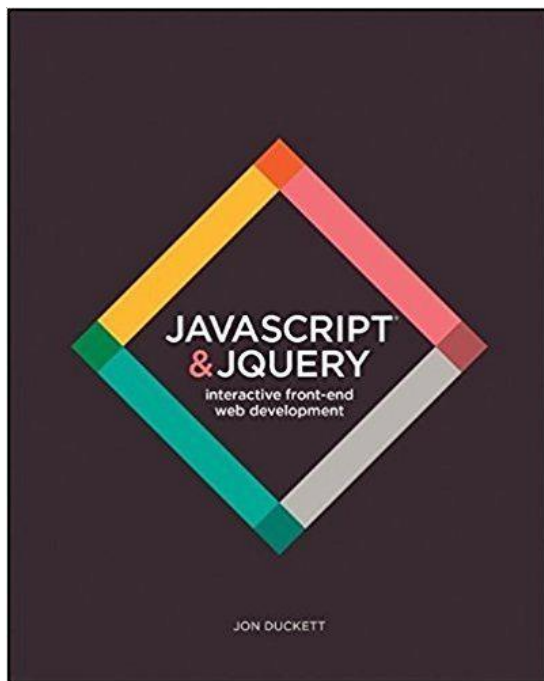
This book is perfect beginners - even if you happen to be an English Major with no previous technical skills.

One note, however. The [Kindle](#) version was poorly formatted (at the time of reviewing). So, get the printed version instead.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #2 JavaScript and JQuery: Interactive Front-End Web Development

By Jon Duckett



This is a great book if you intend to make slick, modern websites.

The content is a pleasure to read with beautiful illustrations, explanations, layout, and high-quality card stock.

First, it covers the foundations of programming. Then it teaches you Javascript, JQuery, and Ajax, in-depth.

For the most part, lessons are thorough and subjects are broken down into bite-sized chunks.

Earlier versions of this book were riddled with errors. But, versions printed after 2016 have the errors corrected. So, make sure you check you're getting the latest version, before purchasing.

One downside is the lack of 'challenges' at the end of the chapters. There are examples that relate to each chapter, but the code is right there for you to read. You could use

sticky notes to cover the code while attempting your own solutions. Then compare your work with the author's solutions.

I recommend using a good editor like Microsoft Visual Studio, so you can pick up on any errors you make.

Even working a full-time job, it's possible to get through all of the material in as little as three weeks.

Bear in mind, some concepts are not explained as well as they could be. Also, the lessons lack recent ECMAScript updates. But, this is not really a big deal. The important thing is the book does a good job of teaching the foundations quickly, without confusing you.

You should have some prior experience with HTML and CSS, before attempting this material.

Also remember, if you plan on learning Vue.JS, React.Js, or Angular, then JQuery is not necessary.

[Available in hardcover and paperback.](#)

## #3 You Don't Know JS (Series)

By Kyle Simpson



You Don't Know JS is a series comprising 6 books. Each one is short and to the point. But, you'll need the complete set.

The series starts with the basics of the JavaScript and then moves onto scope & closures, this & object prototypes, async & performance, types & grammar, and finishes off with ES2016 changes.

Each book of the series is almost 100 pages. Hence, the complete series is shorter than an average detailed JS book.

Kyle's deep fascination with exploring all the little nooks and crannies managed to uncover many bits of the language that I had not yet discovered or explored.

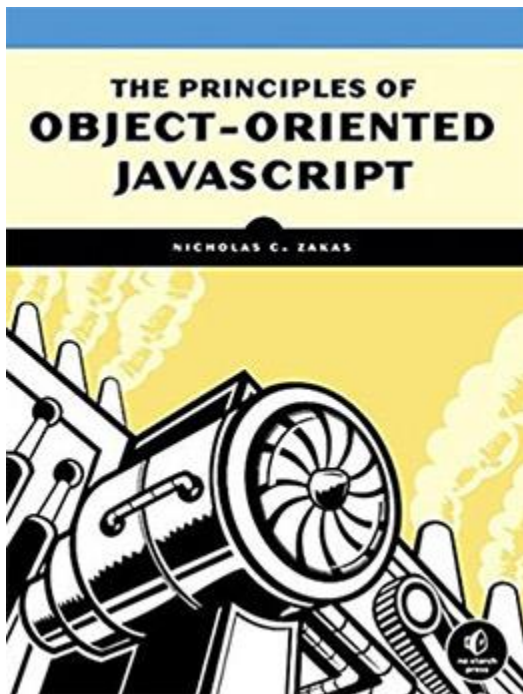
What you won't find is endless talk about software architecture, deep programming wisdom, or an abundance of software design principles. Instead, the books are written in a clear, straight-forward fashion.

This series is probably not suitable for the absolute beginner - several concepts are discussed without much clarification. In saying that, this is a must-read for any serious Javascript developer, who already has some experience with the language.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #4 The Principles of Object-Oriented JavaScript

By Nicholas C. Zakas



This book is suited to those who are versed in strongly typed languages (such as C++ and Java), classes, inheritance, etc. It is not written for beginners.

It's a short book with only 120 pages. Language is concise and to the point. I managed to finish it in just a couple of days.

Every chapter and every section is highly readable and more importantly, useful in teaching the language from an already experienced developer's perspective.

The sample code is great too. It never gets too complex or too long to comprehend easily.

Bear in mind, it only covers ECMAScript 5. Since the book's publication, Javascript has had some important updates in ECMAScript 6.

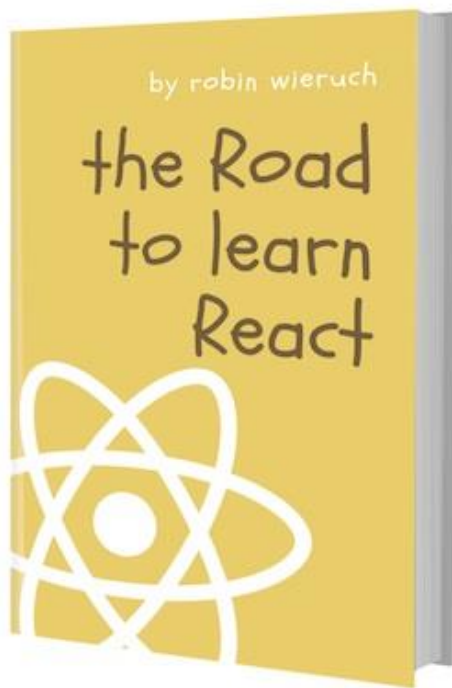
Even so, this is still a great resource for understanding Javascript's approach to Object-Oriented Programming.

Read it multiple times.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #5 The Road to learn React: Your journey to master plain yet pragmatic React.js

By Robin Wieruch



React.JS is by far the most popular Javascript framework for creating modern user interfaces.

The book opens with a simple application that is fully up and running by the end of the first chapter.

As each chapter progresses the original App is made more robust and complex until the project culminates in pushing to live production on Heroku. You're provided with the tools needed to get going with React development. When a more detailed exploration is desired, Robin provides over 200 footnotes to detailed online content.

Lessons are broken down into small, easy to

## Wynne's Top 30 Recommended Javascript Books

understand concepts. The explanations, detail, and pace seem perfect. Throughout, he bestows upon the reader, many words of wisdom to make sure you write good, professional code.

Wieruch certainly has a knack for explaining difficult subjects in a step-wise, concise, and clear way.

This book can easily be read and worked-through in a week or two.

Note: the print version is in black and white, whereas the [Kindle](#) version is in full color, which makes it easier to read through the code examples.

If you are on the road to learning React, I cannot think of a better way to start then taking a week to push through this book. Other books will take you further with React, but this is an excellent way to start.

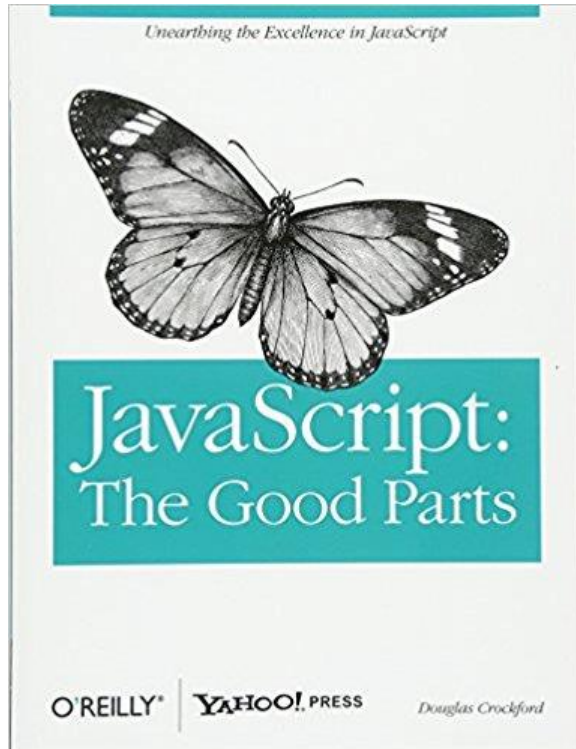
You should have a good foundation in Javascript before attempting this material.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #6 JavaScript: The Good Parts

By Douglas Crockford



First published in 2008, this compact little work is the foundational book on Javascript.

Although genuinely getting a little outdated, it's still relevant and delivers so many insights on the language.

Adhering to this book's practices has saved me many hours of frustration. It is simply required reading.

These days, I still reread random sections and continue to pick up things I had missed the first times.

You'll hate parts of it and reject some of its recommendations, but that's the point. He writes in a way assuming that the reader is intelligent and he presents the argument for his perspective in a clear and simple way.

There's no hedging or wishy-washy language leaving you in doubt. You know his position and he gives you enough information to decide for yourself how much of it to adopt into your own coding.

This is definitely not a beginner's book. But it should be in the library of every developer who wants to improve their Javascript.

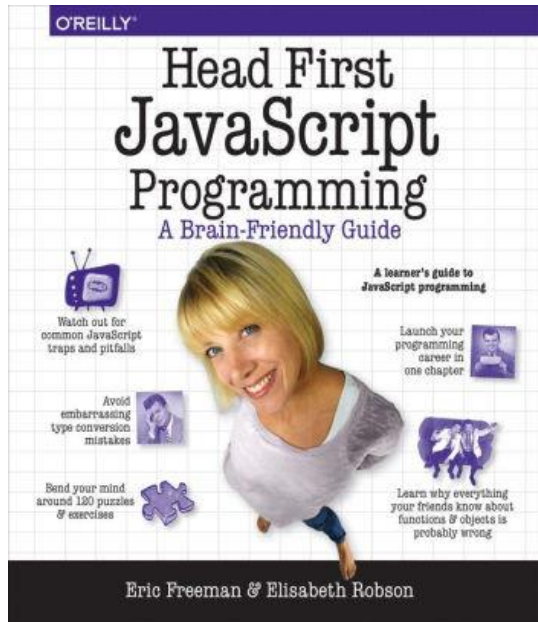
Note: go for print rather than the [Kindle](#) version - example code in the [Kindle](#) version is difficult to read from chapter 4 onwards.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #7 Head First JavaScript Programming: A Brain-Friendly Guide

By Eric Freeman and Elisabeth Robson



This book takes you from being an absolute beginner, all the way to writing complex programs.

It's written in a humorous, fun, and easy to understand style, and gives lots of helpful examples.

There are loads of illustrations to clearly explain the concepts.

My first impression was the whimsical graphics seemed a little over the top. Perhaps, even

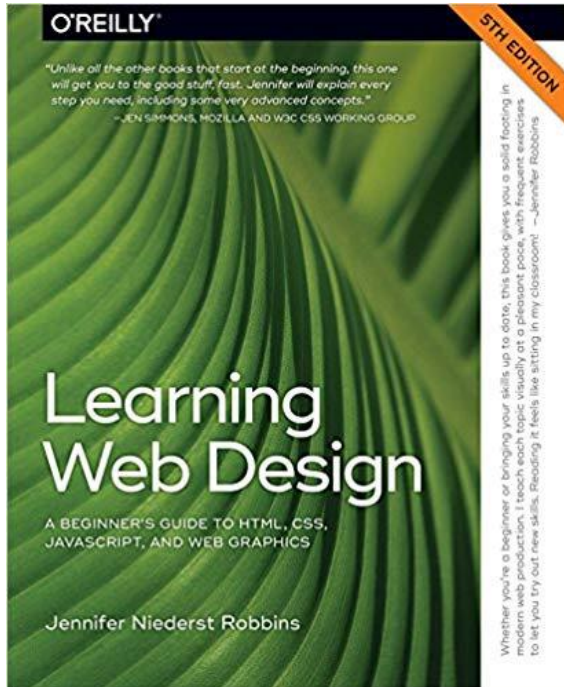
Juvenile. Even so, I think the visual style really helps with learning the concepts.

Highly recommended for novices or those just getting into working with JavaScript and front-end web development. It's also a good reference for those with some Javascript experience.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #8 Learning Web Design: A Beginner's Guide to HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Web Graphics

By Jennifer Robbins



This book teaches you everything you need to know to become a good front-end web developer, including HTML, CSS, and Javascript.

The instruction is excellent. Content is well organized and visual, color-coded pages make it easy to understand. Concepts are broken down to a very basic level and clearly explained with many good examples. If you need to go deeper on a specific topic, Jennifer provides references to many useful sources.

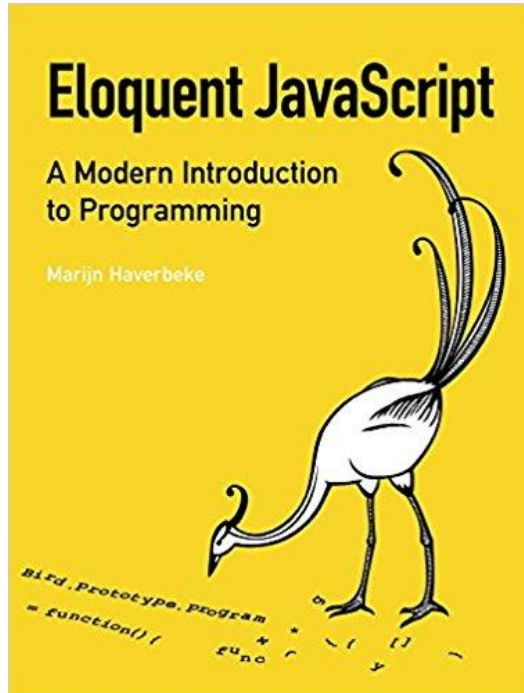
Jennifer's book is the go-to textbook for beginner frontend web development students - even if you know nothing about HTML, CSS, or Javascript.

I can't recommend it highly enough.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #9 Eloquent JavaScript: A Modern Introduction to Programming

By Marijn Haverbeke



This book is a work of art. I think this is my favorite source of knowledge for Javascript.

It's masterfully composed and edited and contains lots of excellent exercises for you to practice your craft. It is complete and thorough in a sense that few programming books are.

Warning - this book is NOT for beginners. If you don't already know certain programming fundamentals, you will feel lost and flounder.

It ramps up very quickly, and in order to really understand the content, you will likely find yourself revisiting sections several times. There will be times where new concepts are simply introduced without explanation until later in the chapter.

Often, I needed to pull up documentation or head over to StackOverflow to get answers.

The book is engaging and leads you along a very carefully planned path, but it also requires you to think for yourself and to extend your research beyond the book itself. In other words, it forces you to develop serious problem-solving skills.

If I were teaching programming in high school or college, I would use this as the main textbook.

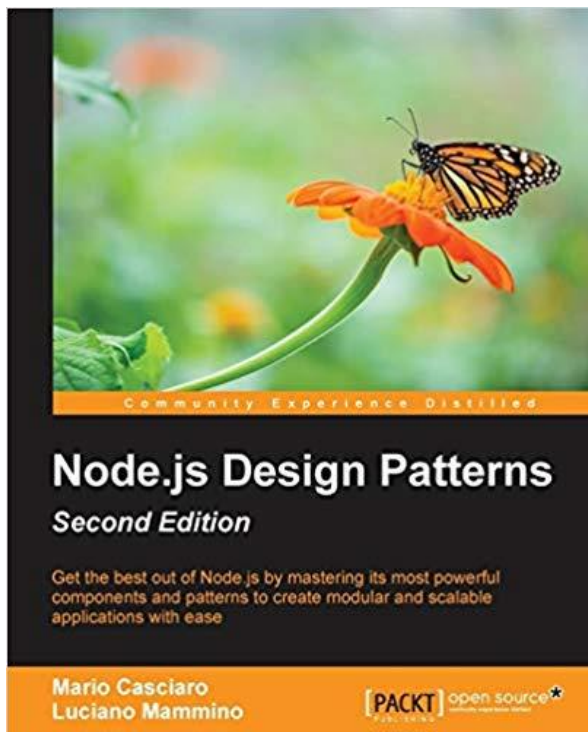
Seriously, it's that good!

I recommend you have at least an intermediate understanding of Javascript, before attempting to read this book. It is challenging. But, if you persist, you will be rewarded.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #10 Node.js Design Patterns - Second Edition: Master best practices to build modular and scalable server-side web applications

By Mario Casciaro and Luciano Mammino



This book came very highly recommended to me by all the best Node developers I know.

This book encompasses more than just Node.js design patterns and covers topics such as callbacks, Promises, generators, isomorphic JavaScript, React, modules, ECMAScript 2015, streams, architecture, and much more.

The book takes you through:

- An introduction to Node, and its underlying structure.

- A crash course in JavaScript async.
- Design patterns, as applied to Node specifically.
- Advanced use cases with Node.

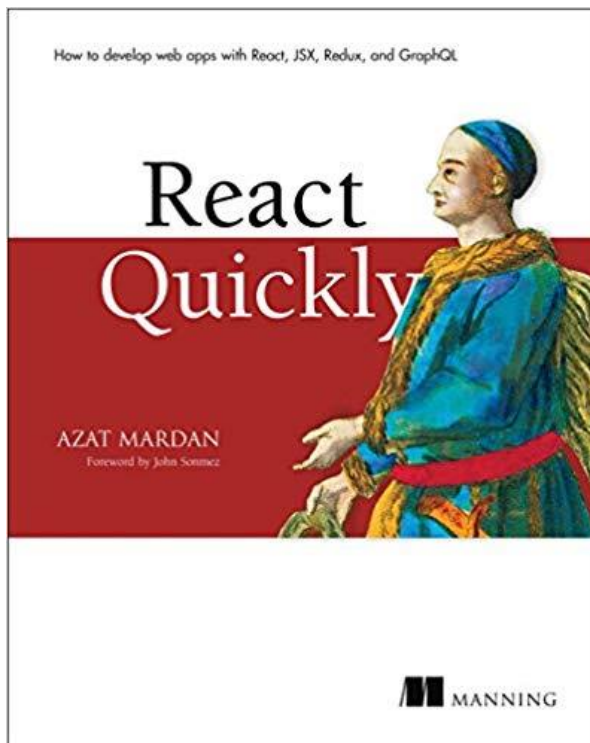
My only gripe is the lack of editing. There are a handful of grammar, spelling, and code syntax mistakes, that feel a little jarring when you're in the 'flow' of reading.

If you have a good grasp of Javascript, along with some experience with Node.JS, then this is the book you want to take your skills to the next level.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #11 React Quickly: Painless web apps with React, JSX, Redux, and GraphQL

By Azat Mardan



The first part of the book sets the foundations for React.JS, covering concepts such as JSX, State, Lifecycle, Events, Forms, and Components.

The content is generally clear and concise. However, as you move through the book, some of the content becomes a bit repetitive.

There are plenty of useful examples and figures, with enough detail to convey the concepts in a clear way. Plus Azat gives you caveats to watch out for.

The second part of the book goes into peripheral topics such as WebPack, the React Router, Redux, GraphQL, and others.

These later topics felt rushed - lacking detail and were quite confusing.

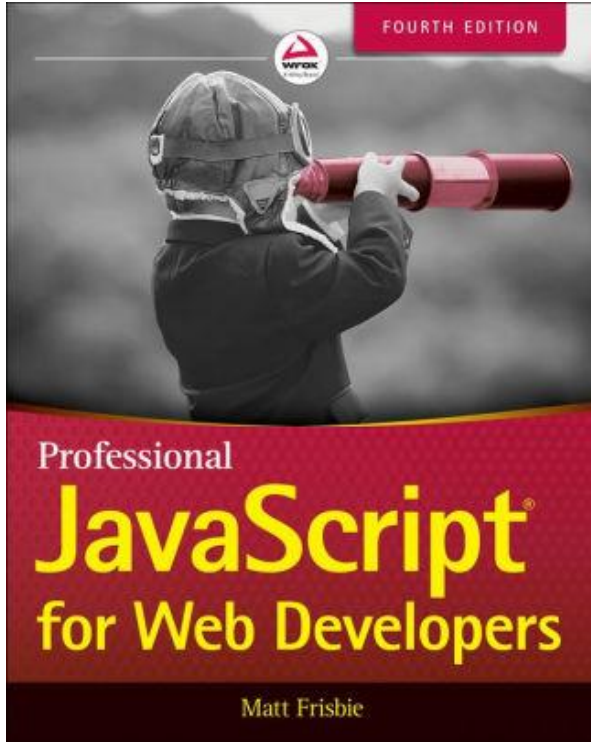
This book is certainly not for the novice. But you don't need to have advanced skills either.





## #13 Professional JavaScript for Web Developers

By Matt Frisbie



The original book version of this book was written by Nicolas Zakas in 2012. So, it's fairly dated now. The latest version was updated by Matt Frisbie in 2019, but I haven't read it yet.

So, my review is based on the earlier book, rather than the more recent one.

An amazing book. Does not use the teach by example approach but rather teaches you the very basics of Javascript. Excellent learning and reference material. Content organization is a bit odd in places.

If you're already an experienced programmer in another language, you'll find this book a breeze to read - possibly within a single night.

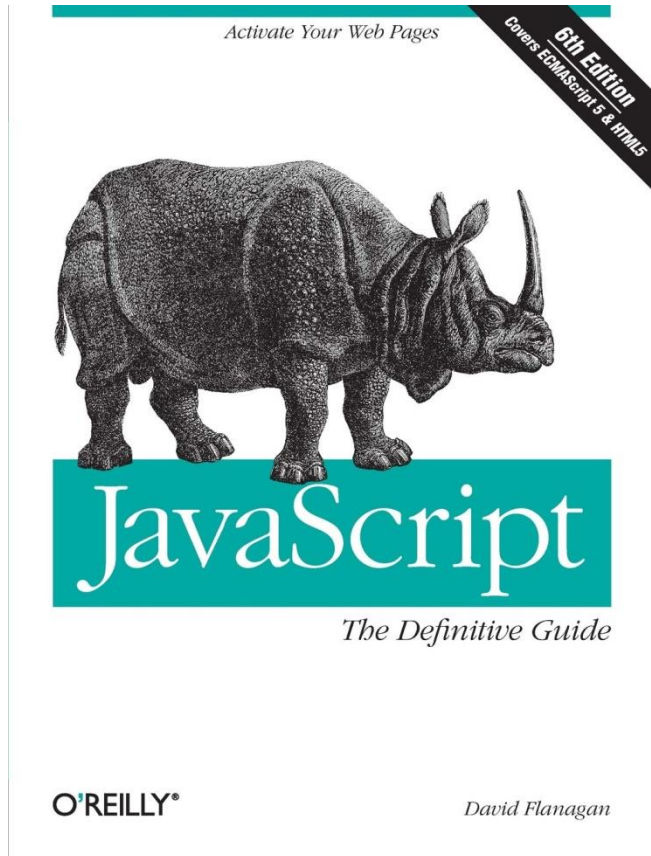
If you have a grounding in a previous coding language, this will be a good book for you. It's not for complete beginners.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #14 JavaScript: The Definitive Guide

By David Flanagan



Published in 2011, it's getting a little dated now, since the ES6 updates in 2015.

Many will agree with me that chapter 15 is one of the real nuggets delivered by this book. Master it and you can query any node in the page, inject and delete nodes on the fly.

Here and there, the author draws attention to how to write cross-browser codes, a skill that is a matter of life or death in production.

Not the best book for beginners.

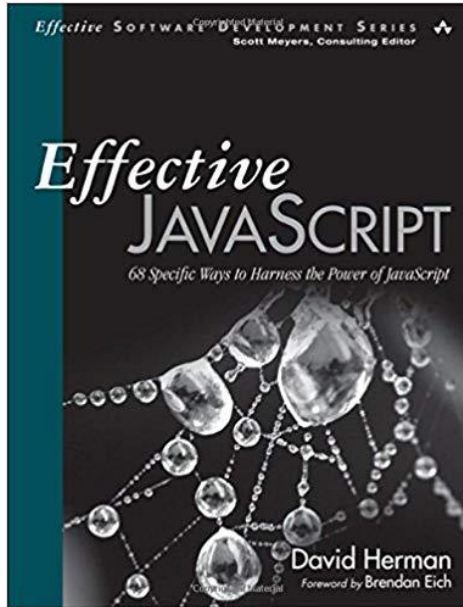
It is now getting a little dated. But when a new version ever gets released, I'd

buy it immediately. In saying that, this is one of those resources you will find yourself consulting again and again.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #15 Effective JavaScript: 68 Specific Ways to Harness the Power of JavaScript

By David Herman



The author not only teaches Javascript but questions and forces you to think about what you're learning. It's one of the few books that explain what's really happening behind the scenes.

This book is broken into 68 bite-sized lessons.

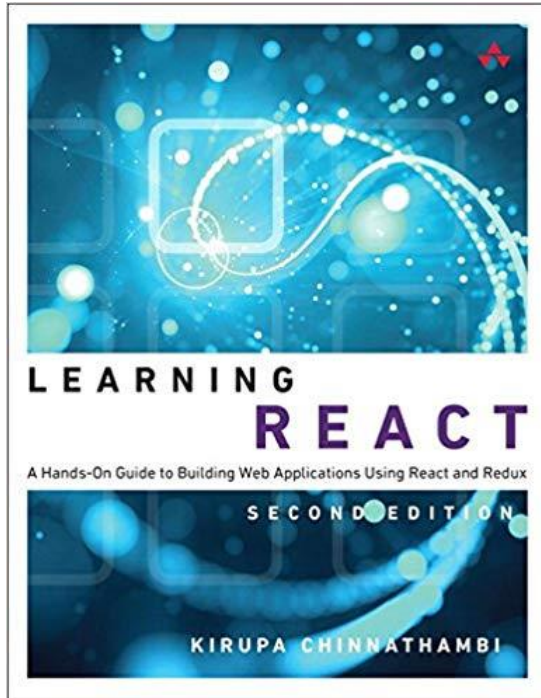
Examples demonstrate both problem and solution to help you understand how your code is being interpreted and why. In the process, you will learn to avoid some of the many not so obvious pitfalls that may plague your code.

This book is for those who've already learned the basics of Javascript.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #16 Learning React: A Hands-On Guide to Building Web Applications Using React and Redux

By Kirupa Chinnathambi



This is a well-structured book. Content is easy to follow. Concepts are clearly explained, one chapter at a time.

Code samples are helpful and work when you type them out, although I wish there were more of them. Kirupa uses a humorous writing style. Some of the text could do with a good edit.

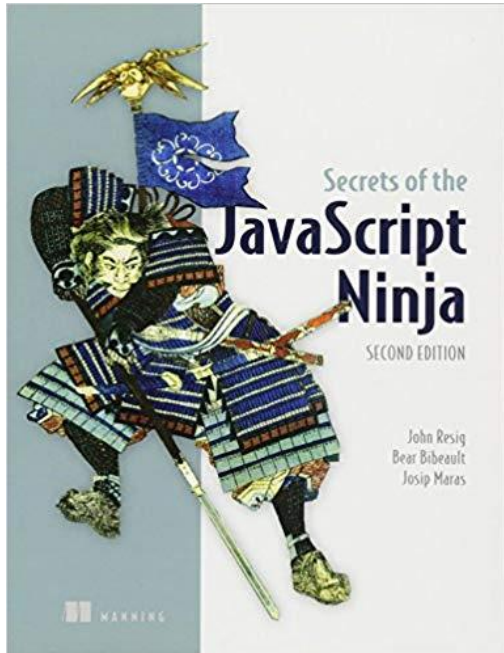
Investing 30 minutes a day, you should be able to work through this book within 3 weeks.

If you have a good foundation in Javascript and are new to React, this is a great book.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #17 Secrets of the JavaScript Ninja

By John Resig



"Ninja" is probably not the right word. Hype almost never goes down well with coders. And, the picture on the cover is a Samurai, not a Ninja. Come on John!

Jokes aside, this book is excellent and will show you how to become a highly competent Javascript developer.

Written in easy to understand language. Covers all the major topics a good JS developer should understand. Although, there are a few minor errors in some of the examples.

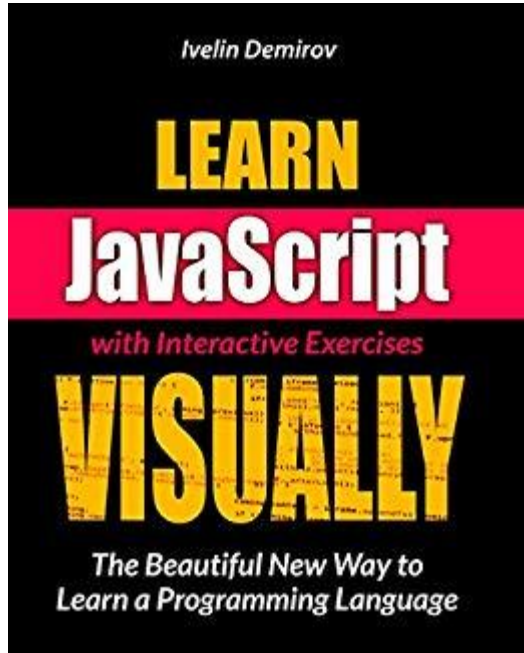
Well worth getting the 2nd edition even if you already own the 1st edition.

Not for beginners.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #18 Learn JavaScript VISUALLY

By Ivelin Demirov



Solid content with lots of concepts covered in just 116 pages. But the book needs some serious editing before I can give it a higher recommendation.

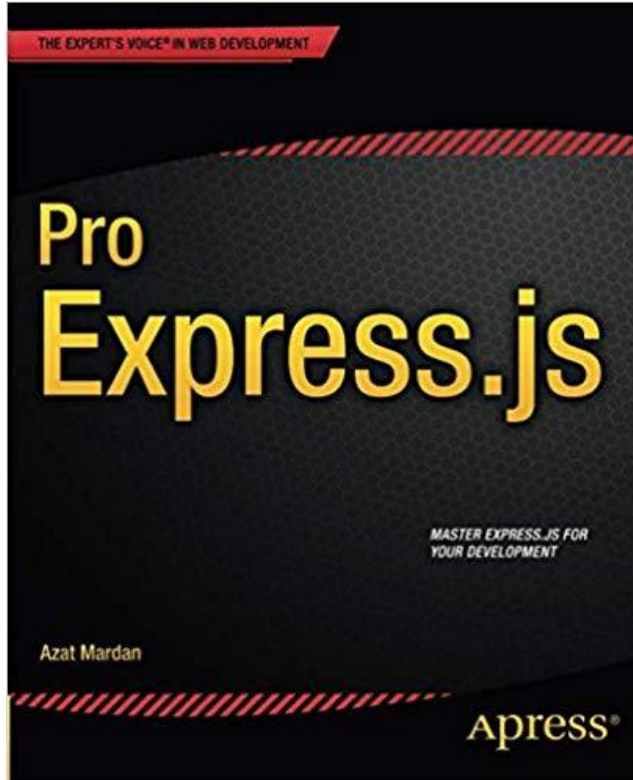
Riddled with spelling and grammatical mistakes, factual errors, concepts discussed without previous explanation, and discrepancies between exercises in the book and the companion website.

This will confuse many beginners to the language. Which is unfortunate because it's a great book.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

# #19 Pro Express.js: Master Express.js: The Node.js Framework For Your Web Development

By Azat Mardan



A concise, easy to read, practical guide to learning Express.js. But contains some minor spelling and grammatical flaws.

Many code examples are provided. But I wish more concrete enterprise-grade examples were provided. For example, building a secure saas app.

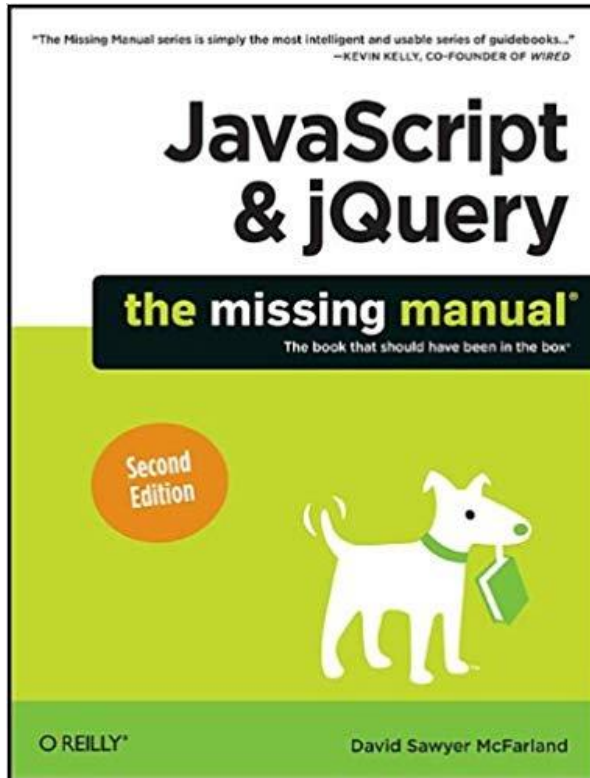
Note - the Kindle version is horribly formatted. So, stay with the printed version.

If you have a good grasp of Javascript and know basic Node.js, this is a good book to learn Express.JS.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #20 JavaScript & jQuery: The Missing Manual

By David Sawyer McFarland



Clear instruction. Get's straight to the point. Easy to comprehend and follow along. The topics I thought could be improved were Ajax and JSON.

Doing the examples in help you learn the concepts and improve your confidence.

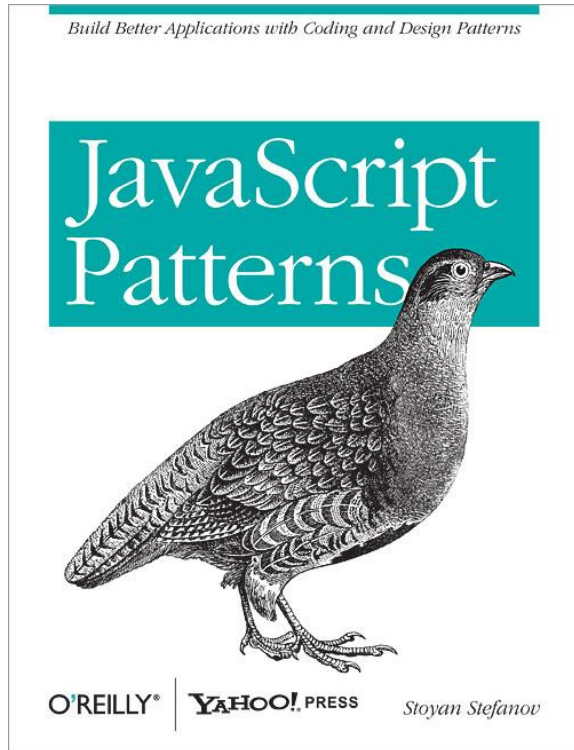
You should have a solid foundation on HTML and CSS, as well as understand the basics of Javascript, before picking up this book.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #21 JavaScript Patterns: Build Better Applications with Coding and Design Patterns

By Stoyan Stefanov



Published in 2010, so it's getting a little out of date. But still useful.

An easy, concise read.

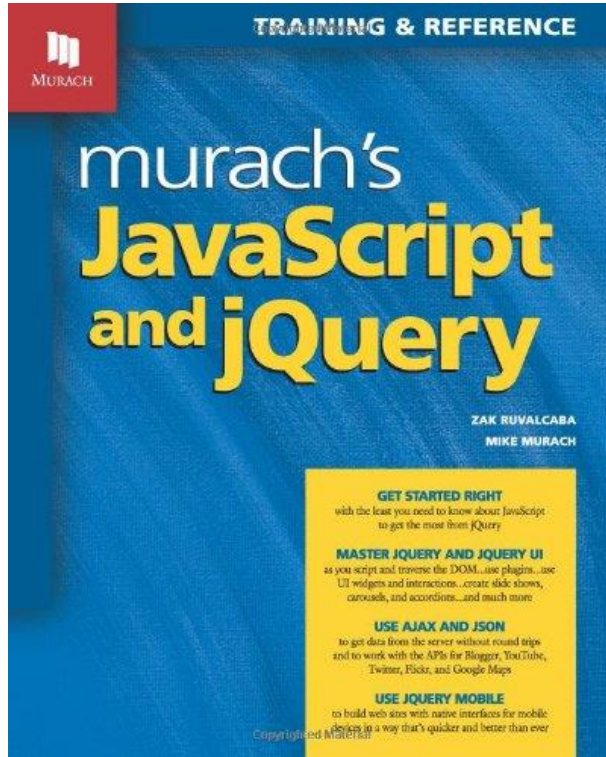
Several coded examples of use cases for the patterns are provided which, in my opinion, are the most useful parts of the book. These reusable patterns that are not limited to JavaScript, either- they can be applied to other languages as well.

Good for Javascript developers of all levels.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #22 Murach's JavaScript and jQuery

By Zak Ruvalcaba, Mary Delamater, Anne Boehm, and Mike Murach



Written in a conversational tone. The layout is interesting - explanations are on one side of the page, with tables and sample code on the other side. And, there are helpful exercises at the end of each chapter.

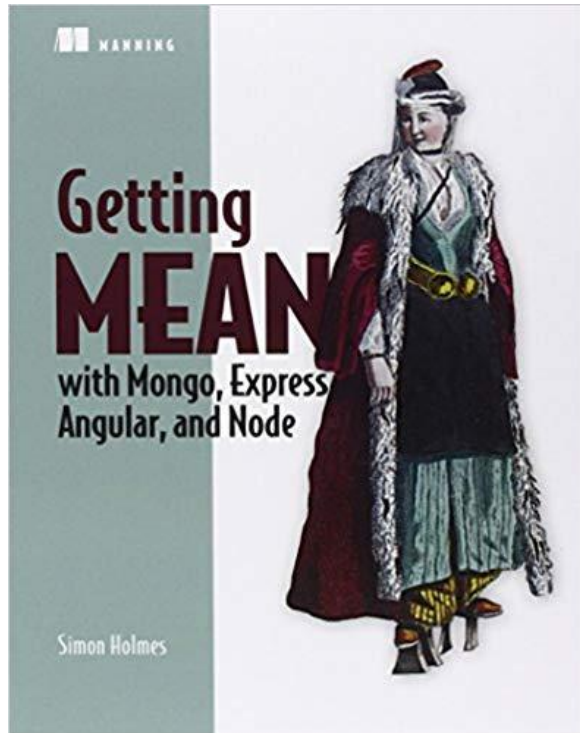
Doesn't go deep into concepts. Most of the focus is on ES5 style Javascript (the older standard). But it's still useful. You can learn more from other books, but it might take more time. If you start here, you will get up to speed quickly.

Very good for absolute beginners.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #23 Getting MEAN with Mongo, Express, Angular, and Node

By Simon Holmes and Clive Herber



This is one of the best books available for becoming a full-stack developer (MEAN stack developer).

This review relates to edition 1 of this book. Walks you through every step of building a real-world application from the ground up.

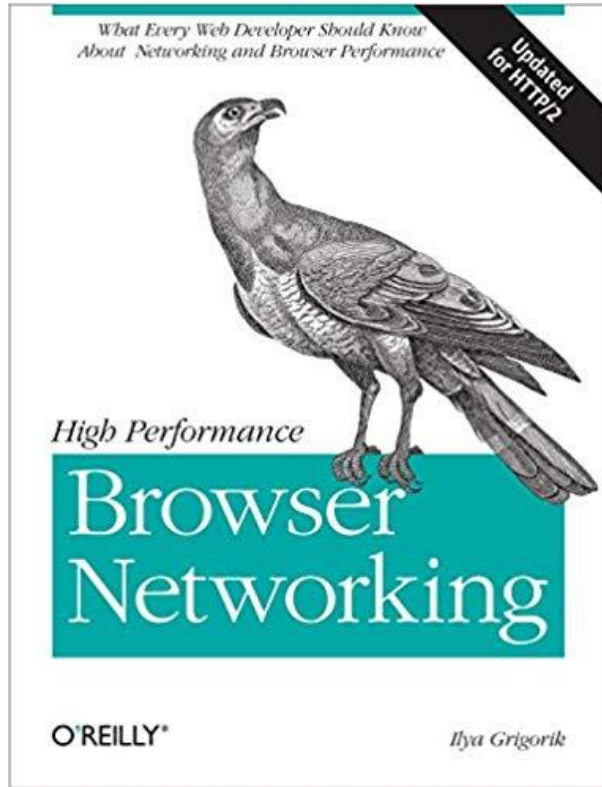
The explanation of MongoDB was a little unclear. And some things didn't work as described - probably because the book was getting out of date with the latest frameworks. Hopefully, the 2019 edition 2 has some of the quirks ironed out.

You must have a solid grasp of Javascript before reading this book.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #24 High-Performance Browser Networking

By Ilya Grigorik



A great resource on improving network performance, covering not only the recent technologies but also drilling in some of the basics which are frustratingly so often not considered or not understood.

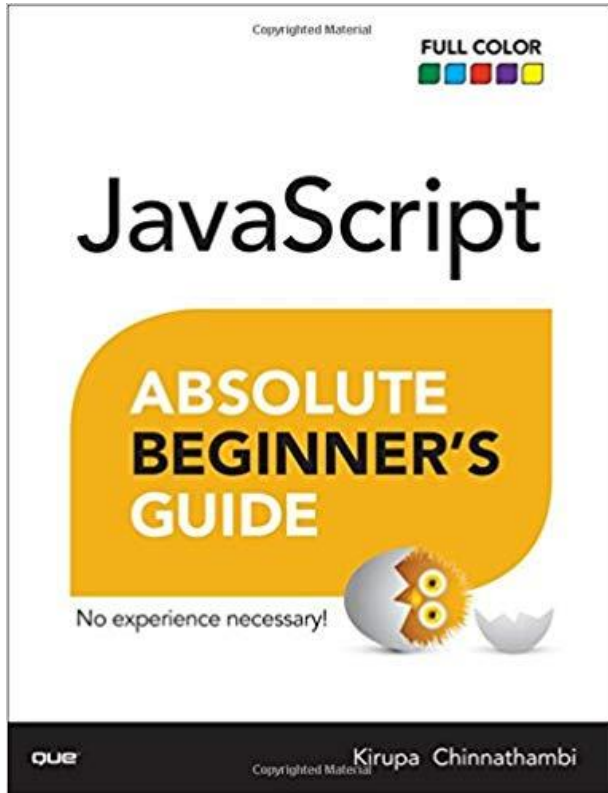
I wish the discussion on http/2 was a little more detailed. The print version had Black and white pictures, which aren't great. The Kindle version has full-color images, which helps visual learners.

Good for anyone who makes websites or apps and is concerned about performance (which should be all Javascript developers!)

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #25 JavaScript Absolute Beginner's Guide

By Kirupa Chinnathambi



Kirupa is great at breaking complex concepts down into small, easy-to-understand pieces. Throughout, his writing shows his warm personality and sense of humor.

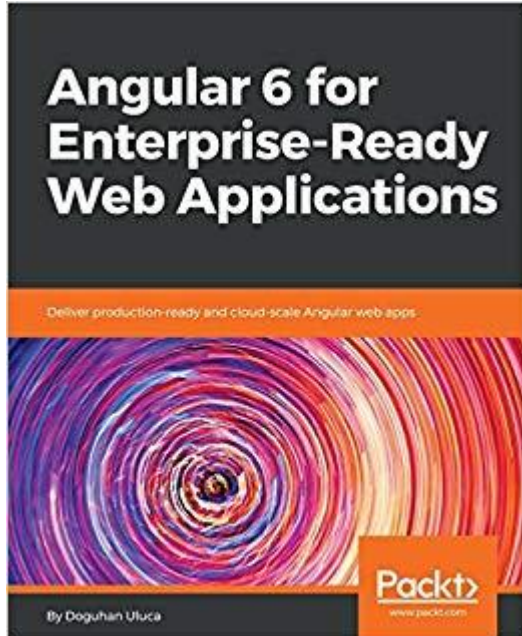
However, the book contains several glaring typos and feels a little incomplete because it lacks exercises for you to practice your knowledge.

As the title says, this book is great for absolute beginners who want to learn Javascript.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #26 Angular 6 for Enterprise-Ready Web Applications: Deliver production-ready and cloud-scale Angular web apps

By Doguhan Uluca



This book provides a complete example of an enterprise application. It explains different issues a real-world developer can expect to encounter.

A decent book for experienced developers who want to start learning Angular and Typescript.

Note - the Kindle version is poorly formatted. Stay with the print version. Also, there are some mistakes in some of the example code, causing it not to work.

However, you'll find updated versions on the companion website that do work, so it's not

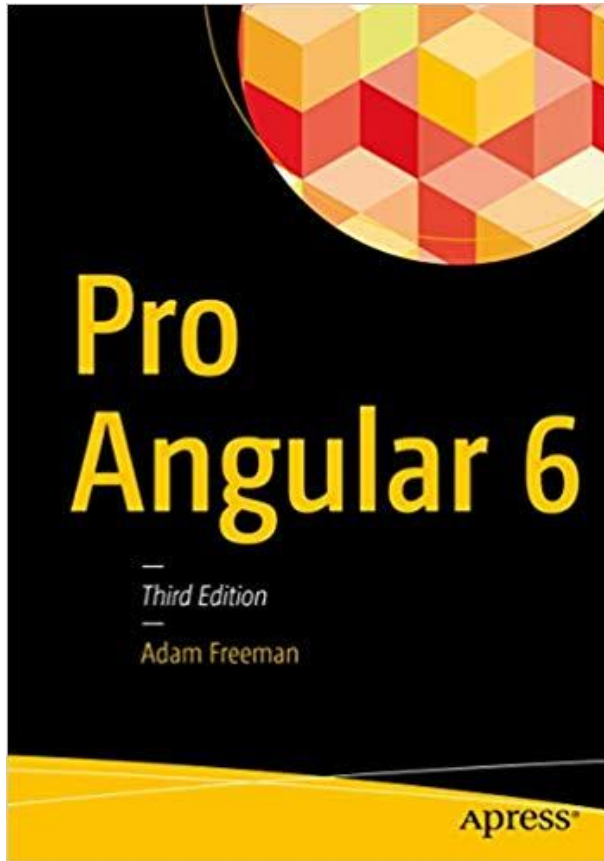
really a big deal.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #27 Pro Angular 6

By David Flanagan



This book is probably the most comprehensive book for learning Angular.

You need to have a solid grasp of JavaScript, HTML, and CSS, before diving in.

Comprehensive and authoritative.

Explanations make perfect sense. Contains a ton of examples, which are easy to follow, and actually work!

If you need to apply a particular technique, you can be pretty confident that there's a working code snippet in one of the chapters that will get you there.

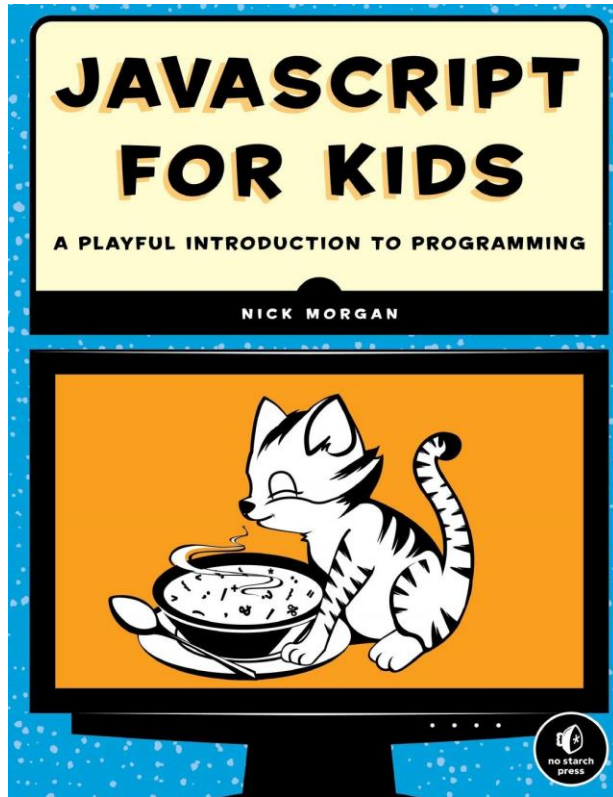
An excellent reference resource for anyone wanting to learn Angular.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)



## #28 JavaScript for Kids: A Playful Introduction to Programming

By Nick Morgan



It might seem odd, putting a kids book in the middle of all these serious coding books.

But, lot's of adults are INTIMIDATED by learning to code. All those curly braces, semi-colons, and parentheses just look crazy (if you've never coded before.)

That's where Nick Morgan has done a great job. He makes Javascript accessible to anyone - even those with ZERO technical ability.

He explains each step in plain English with numbered diagrams that are very easy to follow.

By the way, if you are getting this for your kids, they might struggle. So, make sure you read along and do the exercises with them. So, you can help when they inevitably get stuck.

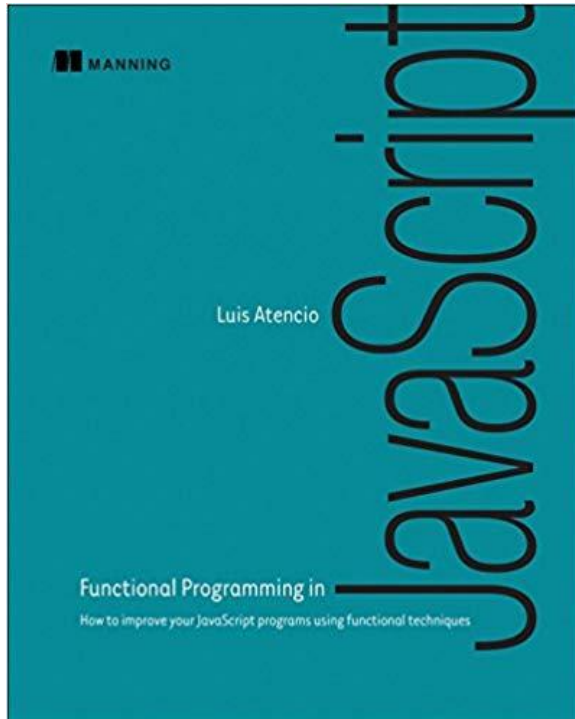
You'll learn to create all sorts of fun things, like insult generators, a hangman game, and much more.

In the process, you'll develop a highly in-demand skill.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #29 Functional Programming in JavaScript

By Luis Atencio



You'll learn to write code that is more succinct and easier to maintain than traditional Object-Oriented code.

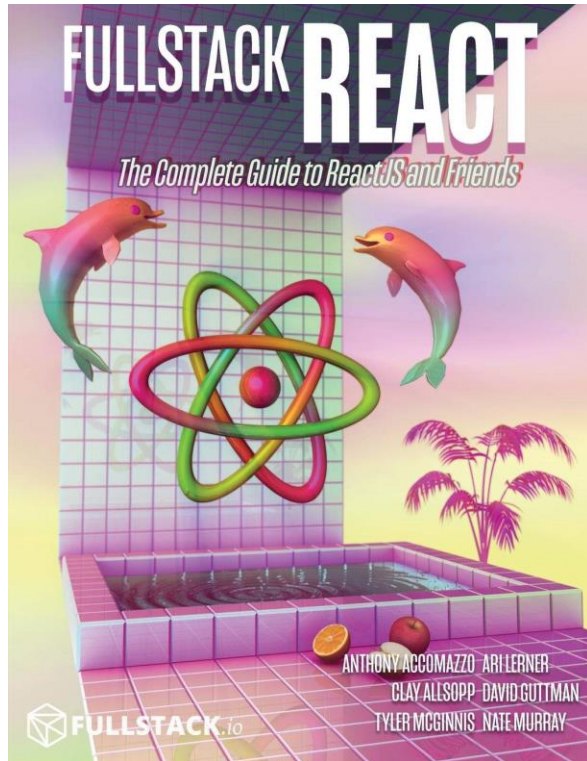
Note - the writing style is a little confusing. It feels a little rushed in places. There are lots of typos in the code, which is confusing when it doesn't work.

In saying that, this book is a very good introduction to functional programming with Javascript.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)

## #30 Fullstack React: The Complete Guide to ReactJS and Friends

By Accomazzo Anthony, Murray Nathaniel, and Lerner Ari



This is a very thorough resource for learning best practices for full-stack development with ReactJS

You'll get lot's of practice by following along with the many coding examples.

The book is the size of an oversized college textbook. Too big to carry around under your arm. Pages tend to stick together, which can be annoying. There are some formatting mistakes. And, the structure of the book is confusing. The Redux section is quite difficult to understand.

I do not recommend this book unless you are already a competent Javascript developer. But it is a very good reference for developing full-stack React apps.

[Available in print and Kindle.](#)