

Lesson 7: APIs and Using Functions with Parameters

Adapted using code.org curriculum

Objectives: You will be able too...

- Use parameters to provide different values as input to procedures when they are called in a program
- Use API documentation to assist in writing programs
- Define an API as the set of commands made available by a programming language

Getting Started:

- So far in this unit we have been exploring programming by drawing turtle art with only a few commands
- It will probably not surprise you to learn that there are many more commands included in most programming languages.
- In this class we will use JavaScript included in the AppLab
- Most programming languages include hundreds to thousands of commands

Getting Started:

- Do you think programmers memorize all of the commands in a programming language?
- If not, how is anyone ever able to use an entire programming language?

Activity: Learning the API and Using Functions with Parameters

- Today we are going to be learning how to read documentation
- Before you ask me or a classmate for help today, I want you to read through the documentation, try the examples, talk with friends, and then talk to me.
- It may be slower going today, but in the long term it will make you much more confident programmers
- So, open up code studio and complete stage 7

Vocabulary

- API – a collection of commands made available to a programmer
- Documentation – a description of the behavior of a command, function, library, API, etc.
- Library – a collection of commands/functions, typically with a shared purpose
- Parameter – an extra piece of information that you pass to a function to customize it for a specific need
 - Example: changing the distance to `moveForward(3)`