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# JSON-LD 1.1 – A JSON-based Serialization for Linked Data (W3C Working Draft)

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► **To cite this version:**

Gregg Kellogg, Pierre-Antoine Champin, Dave Longley. JSON-LD 1.1 – A JSON-based Serialization for Linked Data (W3C Working Draft). [Technical Report] W3C. 2019. hal-02141614v1

**HAL Id: hal-02141614**

**<https://hal.science/hal-02141614v1>**

Submitted on 28 May 2019 (v1), last revised 28 Jan 2020 (v2)

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# JSON-LD 1.1

A JSON-based Serialization for Linked Data



W3C Working Draft 10 May 2019

**This version:**

<https://www.w3.org/TR/2019/WD-json-ld11-20190510/>

**Latest published version:**

<https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld11/>

**Latest editor's draft:**

<https://w3c.github.io/json-ld-syntax/>

**Previous version:**

<https://www.w3.org/TR/2018/WD-json-ld11-20181214/>

**Latest Recommendation:**

<https://www.w3.org/TR/2014/REC-json-ld-20140116/>

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## Abstract

JSON is a useful data serialization and messaging format. This specification defines JSON-LD, a JSON-based format to serialize Linked Data. The syntax is designed to easily integrate into deployed systems that already use JSON, and provides a smooth upgrade path from JSON to JSON-LD. It is primarily intended to be a way to use Linked Data in Web-based programming environments, to build interoperable Web services, and to store Linked Data in JSON-based storage engines.

## Status of This Document

*This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. A list of current [W3C publications](#) and the latest revision of this technical report can be found in the [W3C technical reports index](#) at <https://www.w3.org/TR/>.*

This document has been developed by the [JSON-LD Working Group](#) and was derived from the [JSON-LD Community Group's Final Report](#).

There is a [live JSON-LD playground](#) that is capable of demonstrating the features described in this document.

This document was published by the [JSON-LD Working Group](#) as a Working Draft. This document is intended to become a [W3C Recommendation](#).

[GitHub Issues](#) are preferred for discussion of this specification. Alternatively, you can send comments to our mailing list. Please send them to [public-json-ld-wg@w3.org](mailto:public-json-ld-wg@w3.org) ([archives](#)).

Publication as a Working Draft does not imply endorsement by the [W3C Membership](#). This is a draft document and may be updated, replaced or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to cite this document as other than work in progress.

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This document is governed by the [1 March 2019 W3C Process Document](#).

## § Set of Documents

This document is one of three JSON-LD 1.1 Recommendations produced by the [JSON-LD Working Group](#):

- [JSON-LD 1.1](#)
- [JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API](#)
- [JSON-LD 1.1 Framing](#)

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## § 1. Introduction

*This section is non-normative.*

Linked Data [[LINKED-DATA](#)] is a way to create a network of standards-based machine interpretable data across different documents and Web sites. It allows an application to start at one piece of Linked Data, and follow embedded links to other pieces of Linked Data that are hosted on different sites across the Web.

JSON-LD is a lightweight syntax to serialize Linked Data in JSON [[RFC8259](#)]. Its design allows existing JSON to be interpreted as Linked Data with minimal changes. JSON-LD is primarily intended to be a way to use Linked Data in Web-based programming environments, to build interoperable Web services, and to store Linked Data in JSON-based storage engines. Since JSON-LD is 100% compatible with JSON, the large number of JSON parsers and libraries available today can be reused. In addition to all the features JSON provides, JSON-LD introduces:

- a universal identifier mechanism for [JSON objects](#) via the use of [IRIs](#),
- a way to disambiguate keys shared among different JSON documents by mapping them to [IRIs](#) via a [context](#),
- a mechanism in which a value in a [JSON object](#) may refer to a [resource](#) on a different site on the Web,
- the ability to annotate [strings](#) with their language,
- a way to associate datatypes with values such as dates and times,
- and a facility to express one or more directed graphs, such as a social network, in a single document.

JSON-LD is designed to be usable directly as JSON, with no knowledge of RDF [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)]. It is also designed to be usable as RDF, if desired, for use with other Linked Data technologies like SPARQL [[SPARQL11-OVERVIEW](#)]. Developers who require any of the facilities listed above or need to serialize an RDF [Graph](#) or [Dataset](#) in a JSON-based syntax will find JSON-LD of interest. People intending to use JSON-LD with RDF tools will find it can be used as another RDF syntax, as with [[Turtle](#)] and [[TriG](#)]. Complete details of how JSON-LD relates to RDF are in section [§ 10. Relationship to RDF](#).

The syntax is designed to not disturb already deployed systems running on JSON, but provide a smooth upgrade path from JSON to JSON-LD. Since the shape of such data varies wildly, JSON-LD features mechanisms to reshape documents into a deterministic structure which simplifies their processing.

## § 1.1 How to Read this Document

*This section is non-normative.*

This document is a detailed specification for a serialization of Linked Data in JSON. The document is primarily intended for the following audiences:

- Software developers who want to encode Linked Data in a variety of programming languages that can use JSON
- Software developers who want to convert existing JSON to JSON-LD
- Software developers who want to understand the design decisions and language syntax for JSON-LD
- Software developers who want to implement processors and APIs for JSON-LD



- Software developers who want to generate or consume Linked Data, an RDF [graph](#), or an [RDF Dataset](#) in a JSON syntax

A companion document, the JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)], specifies how to work with JSON-LD at a higher level by providing a standard library interface for common JSON-LD operations.

To understand the basics in this specification you must first be familiar with [JSON](#), which is detailed in [[RFC8259](#)].

This document almost exclusively uses the term [IRI \(Internationalized Resource Indicator\)](#) when discussing hyperlinks. Many Web developers are more familiar with the URL ([Uniform Resource Locator](#)) terminology. The document also uses, albeit rarely, the URI ([Uniform Resource Indicator](#)) terminology. While these terms are often used interchangeably among technical communities, they do have important distinctions from one another and the specification goes to great lengths to try and use the proper terminology at all times.

## § 1.2 Contributing

*This section is non-normative.*

There are a number of ways that one may participate in the development of this specification:

- Technical discussion typically occurs on the working group mailing list: [public-json-ld-wg@w3.org](mailto:public-json-ld-wg@w3.org)
- The working group uses [#json-ld](#) IRC channel is available for real-time discussion on [irc.w3.org](http://irc.w3.org).
- The [#json-ld](#) IRC channel is also available for real-time discussion on [irc.freenode.net](http://irc.freenode.net).

## § 1.3 Typographical conventions

*This section is non-normative.*

The following typographic conventions are used in this specification:

### **markup**

Markup (elements, attributes, properties), machine processable values

(string, characters, media types), property name, or a file name is in red-orange monospace font.

### **variable**

A variable in pseudo-code or in an algorithm description is in italics.

### **definition**

A definition of a term, to be used elsewhere in this or other specifications, is in bold and italics.

### **definition reference**

A reference to a definition *in this document* is underlined and is also an active link to the definition itself.

### **markup definition reference**

A reference to a definition *in this document*, when the reference itself is also a markup, is underlined, red-orange monospace font, and is also an active link to the definition itself.

### **external definition reference**

A reference to a definition *in another document* is underlined, in italics, and is also an active link to the definition itself.

### **markup external definition reference**

A reference to a definition *in another document*, when the reference itself is also a markup, is underlined, in italics red-orange monospace font, and is also an active link to the definition itself.

### **hyperlink**

A hyperlink is underlined and in blue.

### **[reference]**

A document reference (normative or informative) is enclosed in square brackets and links to the references section.

### **Changes from Recommendation**

Sections or phrases changed from the previous Recommendation are highlighted.

### NOTE

Notes are in light green boxes with a green left border and with a "Note" header in green. Notes are always informative.

## EXAMPLE 1

Examples are **in** light khaki boxes, **with** khaki left border, and **with** a numbered "Example" header **in** khaki. Examples are always informative. The content **of** the example is **in** mo

Examples may have tabbed navigation buttons to show the results **of** transforming an example into other representa

## § 1.4 Terminology

This document uses the following terms as defined in JSON [RFC8259]. Refer to the [JSON Grammar section](#) in [RFC8259] for formal definitions.

### **array**

In the JSON serialization, an array structure is represented as square brackets surrounding zero or more values. Values are separated by commas. In the [internal representation](#), an array is an *ordered* collection of zero or more values. While JSON-LD uses the same array representation as JSON, the collection is *unordered* by default. While order is preserved in regular JSON arrays, it is not in regular JSON-LD arrays unless specifically defined (see [Sets and Lists](#) in the JSON-LD Syntax specification [JSON-LD11]).

### **JSON object**

In the JSON serialization, an [object](#) structure is represented as a pair of curly brackets surrounding zero or more members composed of name-value pairs. A name is a [string](#). A single colon comes after each name, separating the name from the value. A single comma separates a value from a following name. In JSON-LD the names in an object *MUST* be unique. In the [internal representation](#) a [JSON object](#) is equivalent to a [dictionary](#) (see [WEBIDL]), composed of [dictionary members](#) with key-value pairs.

### **JSON-LD internal representation**

The JSON-LD internal representation is the result of transforming a JSON syntactic structure into the core data structures suitable for direct processing: [arrays](#), [dictionaries](#), [strings](#), [numbers](#), [booleans](#), and [null](#).

### **null**

The use of the [null](#) value within JSON-LD is used to ignore or reset values. A [dictionary member](#) in the `@context` where the value, or the `@id` of the value, is `null`, explicitly decouples a term's association with an [IRI](#).

A [dictionary member](#) in the body of a [JSON-LD document](#) whose value is `null` has the same meaning as if the [dictionary member](#) was not defined. If `@value`, `@list`, or `@set` is set to `null` in expanded form, then the entire [JSON object](#) is ignored.

### **number**

In the JSON serialization, a [number](#) is similar to that used in most programming languages, except that the octal and hexadecimal formats are not used and that leading zeros are not allowed. In the [internal representation](#), a [number](#) is equivalent to either a [long](#) or [double](#), depending on if the number has a non-zero fractional part (see [\[WEBIDL\]](#)).

### **string**

A [string](#) is a sequence of zero or more Unicode (UTF-8) characters, wrapped in double quotes, using backslash escapes (if necessary). A character is represented as a single character string.

### **true and false**

[Values](#) that are used to express one of two possible [boolean](#) states.

Furthermore, the following terminology is used throughout this document:

### **absolute IRI**

An [absolute IRI](#) is defined in [\[RFC3987\]](#) containing a *scheme* along with a *path* and optional *query* and fragment segments.

### **active context**

A [context](#) that is used to resolve [terms](#) while the processing algorithm is running.

### **base IRI**

The [base IRI](#) is an [absolute IRI](#) established in the [context](#), or is based on the [JSON-LD document](#) location. The [base IRI](#) is used to turn [relative IRIs](#) into [absolute IRIs](#).

### **blank node**

A [node](#) in a [graph](#) that is neither an [IRI](#), nor a [JSON-LD value](#), nor a [list](#). A [blank node](#) does not contain a de-referenceable identifier because it is either ephemeral in nature or does not contain information that needs to be linked to from outside of the [linked data graph](#). A blank node is assigned an identifier starting with the prefix `_:`.

### **blank node identifier**

A [blank node identifier](#) is a string that can be used as an identifier for a [blank node](#) within the scope of a JSON-LD document. Blank node identifiers begin with `_:`.

### **compact IRI**

A compact [IRI](#) has the form of [prefix:suffix](#) and is used as a way of expressing an [IRI](#) without needing to define separate [term](#) definitions for each [IRI](#) contained within a common vocabulary identified by [prefix](#).

### **context**

A set of rules for interpreting a [JSON-LD document](#) as specified in the [The Context](#) section of the JSON-LD Syntax specification [[JSON-LD11](#)].

### **default graph**

The [default graph](#) is the only graph in a JSON-LD document which has no [graph name](#). When executing an algorithm, the graph where data should be placed if a [named graph](#) is not specified.

### **default language**

The default language is set in the [context](#) using the [@language](#) key whose value *MUST* be a [string](#) representing a [[BCP47](#)] language code or `null`.

### **default object**

A [default object](#) is a [dictionary](#) that has a [@default](#) key.

### **edge**

Every [edge](#) has a direction associated with it and is labeled with an [IRI](#) or a [blank node identifier](#). Within the JSON-LD syntax these edge labels are called [properties](#). Whenever possible, an [edge](#) should be labeled with an [IRI](#).

#### **(FEATURE AT RISK) ISSUE**

The use of [blank node identifiers](#) to label properties is obsolete, and may be removed in a future version of JSON-LD.

### **embedded context**

An embedded [context](#) is a [dictionary](#) composed of a combination of [term definitions](#), a [vocabulary mapping](#), a [base IRI](#) and [default language](#). An [embedded context](#) may appear as part of a [node object](#) or [value object](#) using the [@context](#) [member](#).

### **expanded term definition**

An expanded term definition is a [term definition](#) where the value is a [dictionary](#) containing one or more [keyword](#) keys to define the associated [absolute IRI](#), if this is a reverse property, the type associated with string values, and a container mapping.

### **frame**

A [JSON-LD document](#), which describes the form for transforming another [JSON-LD document](#) using matching and embedding rules. A frame document allows additional keywords and certain [dictionary members](#) to describe the matching and transforming process.

### **frame object**

A frame object is a [dictionary](#) element within a [frame](#) which represents a specific portion of the [frame](#) matching either a [node object](#) or a [value object](#) in the input.

### **graph name**

The [IRI](#) or [blank node](#) identifying a [named graph](#).

### **graph object**

A [graph object](#) represents a [named graph](#) as the value of a [dictionary member](#) within a [node object](#). When expanded, a graph object *MUST* have an [@graph member](#), and *MAY* also have [@id](#), and [@index members](#). A **simple graph object** is a [graph object](#) which does not have an [@id member](#). Note that [node objects](#) may have a [@graph member](#), but are not considered [graph objects](#) if they include any other [members](#). A top-level object consisting of [@graph](#) is also not a [graph object](#). Note that a [node object](#) may also represent a [named graph](#) if it includes other properties.

### **id map**

An [id map](#) is a [dictionary](#) value of a [term](#) defined with [@container](#) set to [@id](#). The values of the [id map](#) *MUST* be [node objects](#), and its keys are interpreted as [IRIs](#) representing the [@id](#) of the associated [node object](#). If a value in the [id map](#) contains a key expanding to [@id](#), its value *MUST* be equivalent to the referencing key in the [id map](#).

### **implicitly named graph**

A [named graph](#) created from the value of a [dictionary member](#) having an [expanded term definition](#) where [@container](#) is set to [@graph](#).

### **index map**

An [index map](#) is a [dictionary](#) value of a [term](#) defined with [@container](#) set to [@index](#), whose values *MUST* be any of the following types: [string](#), [number](#), [true](#), [false](#), [null](#), [node object](#), [value object](#), [list object](#), [set object](#), or an [array](#) of zero or more of the above possibilities.

### **IRI**

An [Internationalized Resource Identifier](#) as described in [[RFC3987](#)].

### **JSON literal**

A [JSON literal](#) is a [typed literal](#) where the associated [IRI](#) is `rdf:JSON`. In the [value object](#) representation, the value of [@type](#) is [@json](#). JSON literals represent values which are valid JSON [[RFC8259](#)]. See [JSON datatype](#) in [[JSON-LD11](#)].

### **JSON-LD document**

A [JSON-LD document](#) is a serialization of a collection of [graphs](#) and comprises exactly one [default graph](#) and zero or more [named graphs](#).

### **JSON-LD Processor**

A [JSON-LD Processor](#) is a system which can perform the algorithms

defined in [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#).

### **JSON-LD value**

A [JSON-LD value](#) is a [string](#), a [number](#), [true](#) or [false](#), a [typed value](#), or a [language-tagged string](#).

### **keyword**

A [string](#) that is specific to JSON-LD, specified in the JSON-LD Syntax specification [\[JSON-LD11\]](#) in the section titled [Syntax Tokens and Keywords](#).

### **language map**

An [language map](#) is a [dictionary](#) value of a [term](#) defined with [@container](#) set to [@language](#), whose keys *MUST* be [strings](#) representing [\[BCP47\]](#) language codes and the values *MUST* be any of the following types: [null](#), [string](#), or an [array](#) of zero or more of the above possibilities.

### **language-tagged string**

A [language-tagged string](#) consists of a string and a non-empty language tag as defined by [\[BCP47\]](#). The *language tag* *MUST* be well-formed according to [section 2.2.9 Classes of Conformance](#) of [\[BCP47\]](#), and is normalized to lowercase.

### **linked data graph**

A labeled directed [graph](#), i.e., a set of [nodes](#) connected by [edges](#), as specified in the [Data Model](#) section of the JSON-LD specification [\[JSON-LD11\]](#). A [linked data graph](#) is a generalized representation of an [RDF graph](#) as defined in [\[RDF11-CONCEPTS\]](#).

### **list**

A [list](#) is an ordered sequence of [IRIs](#), [blank nodes](#), and [JSON-LD values](#). See [RDF collection](#) in [\[RDF-SCHEMA\]](#).

### **list object**

A [list object](#) is a [dictionary](#) that has a [@list](#) key. It may also have an [@index](#) key, but no other members.

### **literal**

An [object](#) expressed as a value such as a string, number or in expanded form.

### **local context**

A [context](#) that is specified with a [dictionary](#), specified via the [@context](#) [keyword](#).

### **named graph**

A [named graph](#) is a [linked data graph](#) that is identified by an [IRI](#) or [blank node](#).

### **nested property**

A [nested property](#) is a key in a [node object](#) whose value is a [dictionary](#)

containing [members](#) which are treated as if they were values of the [node object](#). The [nested property](#) itself is semantically meaningless and used only to create a sub-structure within a [node object](#).

### **node**

Every [node](#) is an [IRI](#), a [blank node](#), a [JSON-LD value](#), or a [list](#). A piece of information that is represented in a [linked data graph](#).

### **node object**

A [node object](#) represents zero or more [properties](#) of a [node](#) in the [graph](#) serialized by the [JSON-LD document](#). A [dictionary](#) is a [node object](#) if it exists outside of the [JSON-LD context](#) and:

- it does not contain the [@value](#), [@list](#), or [@set](#) keywords, or
- it is not the top-most [dictionary](#) in the [JSON-LD document](#) consisting of no other [members](#) than [@graph](#) and [@context](#).

The [members](#) of a [node object](#) whose keys are not keywords are also called [properties](#) of the [node object](#).

### **object**

An [object](#) is a [node](#) in a [linked data graph](#) with at least one incoming edge. See [RDF object](#) in [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)].

### **prefix**

A [prefix](#) is the first component of a [compact IRI](#) which comes from a [term](#) that maps to a string that, when prepended to the suffix of the [compact IRI](#), results in an [absolute IRI](#).

### **processing mode**

The processing mode defines how a [JSON-LD document](#) is processed. By default, all documents are assumed to be conformant with [JSON-LD 1.0](#) [[JSON-LD](#)]. By defining a different version using the [@version member](#) in a [context](#), or via explicit API option, other processing modes can be accessed. This specification defines extensions for the [json-ld-1.1 processing mode](#).

### **property**

The [IRI](#) label of an edge in a [linked data graph](#). See [RDF predicate](#) in [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)].

### **RDF dataset**

A [dataset](#) as specified by [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)] representing a collection of [RDF graphs](#).

### **RDF resource**

A [resource](#) as specified by [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)].

### **RDF triple**

A [triple](#) as specified by [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)].



### **relative IRI**

A relative IRI is an IRI that is relative to some other absolute IRI, typically the base IRI of the document. Note that properties, values of @type, and values of terms defined to be *vocabulary relative* are resolved relative to the vocabulary mapping, not the base IRI.

### **scoped context**

A scoped context is part of an expanded term definition using the @context member. It has the same form as an embedded context.

### **set object**

A set object is a dictionary that has an @set member. It may also have an @index key, but no other members.

### **subject**

A subject is a node in a linked data graph with at least one outgoing edge, related to an object node through a property. See *RDF subject* in [RDF11-CONCEPTS].

### **term**

A term is a short word defined in a context that MAY be expanded to an IRI.

### **term definition**

A term definition is an entry in a context, where the key defines a term which may be used within a dictionary as a key, type, or elsewhere that a string is interpreted as a vocabulary item. Its value is either a string (*simple term definition*), expanding to an absolute IRI, or an expanded term definition.

### **type map**

An type map is a dictionary value of a term defined with @container set to @type, whose keys are interpreted as IRIs representing the @type of the associated node object; the value MUST be a node object, or array of node objects. If the value contains a term expanding to @type, its values are merged with the map value when expanding.

### **typed literal**

A typed literal is a literal with an associated IRI which indicates the literal's datatype. See *RDF literal* in [RDF11-CONCEPTS].

### **typed value**

A typed value consists of a value, which is a string, and a type, which is an IRI.

### **value object**

A value object is a dictionary that has an @value member.

### **vocabulary mapping**

The vocabulary mapping is set in the context using the @vocab key whose

value *MUST* be an [IRI](#) or `null`.

## § 1.5 Design Goals and Rationale

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON-LD satisfies the following design goals:

### **Simplicity**

No extra processors or software libraries are necessary to use JSON-LD in its most basic form. The language provides developers with a very easy learning curve. Developers only need to know JSON and two [keywords](#) (`@context` and `@id`) to use the basic functionality in JSON-LD.

### **Compatibility**

A JSON-LD document is always a valid JSON document. This ensures that all of the standard JSON libraries work seamlessly with JSON-LD documents.

### **Expressiveness**

The syntax serializes labeled directed graphs. This ensures that almost every real world data model can be expressed.

### **Terseness**

The JSON-LD syntax is very terse and human readable, requiring as little effort as possible from the developer.

### **Zero Edits, most of the time**

JSON-LD ensures a smooth and simple transition from existing JSON-based systems. In many cases, zero edits to the JSON document and the addition of one line to the HTTP response should suffice (see [§ 6. Interpreting JSON as JSON-LD](#)). This allows organizations that have already deployed large JSON-based infrastructure to use JSON-LD's features in a way that is not disruptive to their day-to-day operations and is transparent to their current customers. However, there are times where mapping JSON to a graph representation is a complex undertaking. In these instances, rather than extending JSON-LD to support esoteric use cases, we chose not to support the use case. While Zero Edits is a design goal, it is not always possible without adding great complexity to the language. JSON-LD focuses on simplicity when possible.

### **Usable as RDF**

JSON-LD is usable by developers as idiomatic JSON, with no need to understand RDF [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)]. JSON-LD is also usable as RDF, so people intending to use JSON-LD with RDF tools will find it can be used like any other RDF syntax. Complete details of how JSON-LD relates to

RDF are in section [§ 10. Relationship to RDF](#).

## § 1.6 Data Model Overview

*This section is non-normative.*

Generally speaking, the data model described by a [JSON-LD document](#) is a labeled, directed [graph](#). The graph contains [nodes](#), which are connected by [edges](#). A [node](#) is typically data such as a [string](#), [number](#), [typed values](#) (like dates and times) or an [IRI](#).

Within a directed graph, nodes may be *unnamed*, i.e., not identified by an [IRI](#) or representing data such as [strings](#) or [numbers](#). Such nodes are called [blank nodes](#), and may be identified using a [blank node identifier](#). These identifiers may be required to represent a fully connected graph using a tree structure, such as JSON, but otherwise have no intrinsic meaning.

This simple data model is incredibly flexible and powerful, capable of modeling almost any kind of data. For a deeper explanation of the data model, see section [§ 8. Data Model](#).

Developers who are familiar with Linked Data technologies will recognize the data model as the RDF Data Model. To dive deeper into how JSON-LD and RDF are related, see section [§ 10. Relationship to RDF](#).

At the surface level, a [JSON-LD document](#) is simply [JSON](#), detailed in [\[RFC8259\]](#). For the purpose of describing the core data structures, this is limited to [arrays](#), [dictionaries](#) (the parsed version of a [JSON Object](#)), [strings](#), [numbers](#), [booleans](#), and [null](#), called the [JSON-LD internal representation](#). This allows surface syntaxes other than JSON to be manipulated using the same algorithms, when the syntax maps to equivalent core data structures.

### NOTE

Although not discussed in this specification, parallel work using [YAML](#) [\[YAML\]](#) and binary representations such as [CBOR](#) [\[RFC7049\]](#) could be used to map into the [internal representation](#), allowing the JSON-LD 1.1 API [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#) to operate as if the source was a JSON document.

## § 1.7 Syntax Tokens and Keywords

JSON-LD specifies a number of syntax tokens and [keywords](#) that are a core part of the language:

:

The separator for JSON keys and values that use [compact IRIs](#).

#### **@base**

Used to set the [base IRI](#) against which to resolve those [relative IRIs](#) interpreted relative to the document. This keyword is described in [§ 4.1.3 Base IRI](#).

#### **@container**

Used to set the default container type for a [term](#). This keyword is described in the following sections:

- [§ 4.3 Value Ordering](#),
- [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#),
- [§ 4.6.2 Language Indexing](#),
- [§ 4.6.3 Node Identifier Indexing](#),
- [§ 4.6.4 Node Type Indexing](#)
- [§ 4.8 Named Graphs](#),
- [§ 4.8.3 Named Graph Indexing](#), and
- [§ 4.8.2 Named Graph Data Indexing](#)

#### **@context**

Used to define the short-hand names that are used throughout a JSON-LD document. These short-hand names are called [terms](#) and help developers to express specific identifiers in a compact manner. The **@context** keyword is described in detail in [§ 3.1 The Context](#).

#### **@graph**

Used to express a [graph](#). This keyword is described in [§ 4.8 Named Graphs](#).

#### **@id**

Used to uniquely identify [node objects](#) that are being described in the document with [IRIs](#) or [blank node identifiers](#). This keyword is described in [§ 3.3 Node Identifiers](#).

#### **@index**

Used to specify that a container is used to index information and that processing should continue deeper into a JSON data structure. This keyword is described in [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#).

#### **@json**

Used as the **@type** value of a [JSON literal](#). This keyword is described in [§ 4.2.2 JSON Literals](#).

### **@language**

Used to specify the language for a particular string value or the default language of a JSON-LD document. This keyword is described in [§ 4.2.4 String Internationalization](#).

### **@list**

Used to express an ordered set of data. This keyword is described in [§ 4.3.1 Lists](#).

### **@nest**

Collects a set of [nested properties](#) within a [node object](#).

### **@none**

Used as an index value in an [index map](#), [id map](#), [language map](#), [type map](#), or elsewhere where a dictionary is used to index into other values.

### **@prefix**

With the value [true](#), allows this [term](#) to be used to construct a [compact IRI](#) when compacting.

### **@reverse**

Used to express reverse properties. This keyword is described in [§ 4.7 Reverse Properties](#).

### **@set**

Used to express an unordered set of data and to ensure that values are always represented as arrays. This keyword is described in [§ 4.3.2 Sets](#).

### **@type**

Used to set the type of a [node](#) or the datatype of a [typed value](#). This keyword is described further in [§ 3.5 Specifying the Type](#) and [§ 4.2.1 Typed Values](#).

#### NOTE

The use of **@type** to define a type for both [node objects](#) and [value objects](#) addresses the basic need to type data, be it a literal value or a more complicated resource. Experts may find the overloaded use of the **@type** keyword for both purposes concerning, but should note that Web developer usage of this feature over multiple years has not resulted in its misuse due to the far less frequent use of **@type** to express typed literal values.

### **@value**

Used to specify the data that is associated with a particular [property](#) in the graph. This keyword is described in [§ 4.2.4 String Internationalization](#) and [§ 4.2.1 Typed Values](#).

### **@version**

Used in a [context definition](#) to set the [processing mode](#). New features

since [JSON-LD 1.0](#) [JSON-LD] described in this specification are only available when [processing mode](#) has been explicitly set to `json-ld-1.1`.

### @vocab

Used to expand properties and values in @type with a common prefix [IRI](#). This keyword is described in [§ 4.1.2 Default Vocabulary](#).

All keys, [keywords](#), and values in JSON-LD are case-sensitive.

## § 2. Conformance

As well as sections marked as non-normative, all authoring guidelines, diagrams, examples, and notes in this specification are non-normative. Everything else in this specification is normative.

The key words *MAY*, *MUST*, *MUST NOT*, *RECOMMENDED*, *SHOULD*, and *SHOULD NOT* are to be interpreted as described in [\[RFC2119\]](#).

A [JSON-LD document](#) complies with this specification if it follows the normative statements in appendix [§ 9. JSON-LD Grammar](#). JSON documents can be interpreted as JSON-LD by following the normative statements in [§ 6. Interpreting JSON as JSON-LD](#). For convenience, normative statements for documents are often phrased as statements on the properties of the document.

This specification makes use of the following namespace prefixes:

Prefix	IRI
dc11	<a href="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/">http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/</a>
dcterms	<a href="http://purl.org/dc/terms/">http://purl.org/dc/terms/</a>
cred	<a href="https://w3id.org/credentials#">https://w3id.org/credentials#</a>
foaf	<a href="http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/</a>
geojson	<a href="https://purl.org/geojson/vocab#">https://purl.org/geojson/vocab#</a>
prov	<a href="http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#">http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#</a>
rdf	<a href="http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#">http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#</a>
schema	<a href="http://schema.org/">http://schema.org/</a>
skos	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#">http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#</a>
xsd	<a href="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#">http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#</a>

These are used within this document as part of a [compact IRI](#) as a shorthand

for the resulting [absolute IRI](#), such as `dcterms:title` used to represent <http://purl.org/dc/terms/title>.

## § 2.1 Processor Levels

JSON-LD mostly uses the JSON syntax [[RFC8259](#)] along with various micro-syntaxes based on XML Schema datatypes [[XMLSCHEMA11-2](#)]. However, it has become increasingly common to include JSON within a [script element](#) within an HTML document [[HTML](#)], as described in [§ 7. Embedding JSON-LD in HTML Documents](#). As not all processors operate in an environment which can include HTML, this specification describes various categories of JSON-LD processors.

A **pure JSON Processor** only requires the use of a JSON processor and is restricted to processing documents retrieved with a JSON content type (e.g., `application/ld+json` or other JSON type).

A **full Processor** is capable of processing JSON-LD embedded in HTML, in addition to the capabilities of a [pure JSON Processor](#).

### § 2.1.1 Additional Processor Levels

*This section is non-normative.*

In addition to the normatively defined processor levels, an additional processor level is defined for reference.

A **event-based JSON Processor** processes a stream of characters expecting an event after each syntactic element is encountered. Such processors are sensitive to the order of the members of [JSON objects](#), which can have a performance impact if the members of [JSON objects](#) are encountered in an unexpected order. An [event-based JSON Processor](#) may process JSON-LD embedded in HTML.

#### NOTE

An [event-based JSON Processor](#) may be sensitive to processing certain keywords in order, including `@context`, `@id`, and `@type`.

## § 3. Basic Concepts

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON [[RFC8259](#)] is a lightweight, language-independent data interchange format. It is easy to parse and easy to generate. However, it is difficult to integrate JSON from different sources as the data may contain keys that conflict with other data sources. Furthermore, JSON has no built-in support for hyperlinks, which are a fundamental building block on the Web. Let's start by looking at an example that we will be using for the rest of this section:

#### EXAMPLE 2: Sample JSON document

```
{
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
}
```

It's obvious to humans that the data is about a person whose **name** is "Manu Sporny" and that the **homepage** property contains the URL of that person's homepage. A machine doesn't have such an intuitive understanding and sometimes, even for humans, it is difficult to resolve ambiguities in such representations. This problem can be solved by using unambiguous identifiers to denote the different concepts instead of tokens such as "name", "homepage", etc.

Linked Data, and the Web in general, uses [IRIs](#) ([Internationalized Resource Identifiers](#) as described in [[RFC3987](#)]) for unambiguous identification. The idea is to use [IRIs](#) to assign unambiguous identifiers to data that may be of use to other developers. It is useful for [terms](#), like **name** and **homepage**, to expand to [IRIs](#) so that developers don't accidentally step on each other's terms. Furthermore, developers and machines are able to use this [IRI](#) (by using a web browser, for instance) to go to the term and get a definition of what the term means. This process is known as [IRI](#) dereferencing.

Leveraging the popular [schema.org vocabulary](#), the example above could be unambiguously expressed as follows:



**EXAMPLE 3: Sample JSON-LD document using full IRIs instead of terms**

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "http://schema.org/name": "Manu Sporny",
  "http://schema.org/url": {
    "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/"
    ↑ The '@id' keyword means 'This value is an identifier that is an I
  },
  "http://schema.org/image": {
    "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
  }
}

```

In the example above, every property is unambiguously identified by an [IRI](#) and all values representing [IRIs](#) are explicitly marked as such by the `@id` [keyword](#). While this is a valid JSON-LD document that is very specific about its data, the document is also overly verbose and difficult to work with for human developers. To address this issue, JSON-LD introduces the notion of a [context](#) as described in the next section.

This section only covers the most basic features of JSON-LD. More advanced features, including [typed values](#), [indexed values](#), and [named graphs](#), can be found in [§ 4. Advanced Concepts](#).

## § 3.1 The Context

*This section is non-normative.*

When two people communicate with one another, the conversation takes place in a shared environment, typically called "the context of the conversation". This shared context allows the individuals to use shortcut terms, like the first name of a mutual friend, to communicate more quickly but without losing accuracy. A context in JSON-LD works in the same way. It allows two applications to use shortcut terms to communicate with one another more efficiently, but without losing accuracy.

Simply speaking, a [context](#) is used to map [terms](#) to [IRIs](#). [Terms](#) are case sensitive and any valid [string](#) that is not a reserved JSON-LD [keyword](#) can be used as a [term](#).

For the sample document in the previous section, a [context](#) would look

something like this:

**EXAMPLE 4:** Context for the sample document in the previous section

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://schema.org/name",
    ↑ This means that 'name' is shorthand for 'http://schema.org/name'
    "image": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/image",
      ↑ This means that 'image' is shorthand for 'http://schema.org/ima
      "@type": "@id"
      ↑ This means that a string value associated with 'image'
        should be interpreted as an identifier that is an IRI
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/url",
      ↑ This means that 'homepage' is shorthand for 'http://schema.org/
      "@type": "@id"
      ↑ This means that a string value associated with 'homepage'
        should be interpreted as an identifier that is an IRI
    }
  }
}
```

Context

As the [context](#) above shows, the value of a [term definition](#) can either be a simple string, mapping the [term](#) to an [IRI](#), or a [dictionary](#).

A [context](#) is introduced using a [member](#) with the key `@context` and may appear within a [node object](#) or a [value object](#).

When a [member](#) with a [term](#) key has a [dictionary](#) value, the [dictionary](#) is called an [expanded term definition](#). The example above specifies that the values of `image` and `homepage`, if they are strings, are to be interpreted as [IRIs](#). [Expanded term definitions](#) also allow terms to be used for [index maps](#) and to specify whether [array](#) values are to be interpreted as [sets](#) or [lists](#). [Expanded term definitions](#) may be defined using [absolute](#) or [compact IRIs](#) as keys, which is mainly used to associate type or language information with an [absolute](#) or [compact IRI](#).

[Contexts](#) can either be directly embedded into the document (an [embedded context](#)) or be referenced using a URL. Assuming the context document in the previous example can be retrieved at <https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld>, it can be referenced by adding a single line and allows a

JSON-LD document to be expressed much more concisely as shown in the example below:

#### EXAMPLE 5: Referencing a JSON-LD context

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
}
```

The referenced context not only specifies how the terms map to [IRIs](#) in the Schema.org vocabulary but also specifies that string values associated with the `homepage` and `image` property can be interpreted as an [IRI](#) ("`@type`": "`@id`", see [§ 3.2 IRIs](#) for more details). This information allows developers to re-use each other's data without having to agree to how their data will interoperate on a site-by-site basis. External JSON-LD context documents may contain extra information located outside of the `@context` key, such as documentation about the [terms](#) declared in the document. Information contained outside of the `@context` value is ignored when the document is used as an external **JSON-LD context document**.

JSON documents can be interpreted as JSON-LD without having to be modified by referencing a [context](#) via an [HTTP Link Header](#) as described in [§ 6. Interpreting JSON as JSON-LD](#). It is also possible to apply a custom context using the JSON-LD 1.1 API [[JSON-LD11-API](#)].

In [JSON-LD documents](#), [contexts](#) may also be specified inline. This has the advantage that documents can be processed even in the absence of a connection to the Web. Ultimately, this is a modeling decision and different use cases may require different handling.

**EXAMPLE 6: In-line context definition**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://schema.org/name",
    "image": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/image",
      "@type": "@id"
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/url",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "image": "http://manu.sporny.org/images/manu.png"
}

```

This section only covers the most basic features of the JSON-LD Context. The Context can also be used to help interpret other more complex JSON data structures, such as [indexed values](#), [ordered values](#), and [nested properties](#). More advanced features related to the JSON-LD Context are covered in [§ 4. Advanced Concepts](#).

## § 3.2 IRIs

*This section is non-normative.*

[IRIs](#) ([Internationalized Resource Identifiers](#) [[RFC3987](#)]) are fundamental to Linked Data as that is how most [nodes](#) and [properties](#) are identified. In JSON-LD, IRIs may be represented as an [absolute IRI](#) or a [relative IRI](#). An [absolute IRI](#) is defined in [[RFC3987](#)] as containing a *scheme* along with *path* and optional *query* and *fragment* segments. A [relative IRI](#) is an [IRI](#) that is relative to some other [absolute IRI](#). In JSON-LD, with exceptions that are as described below, all [relative IRIs](#) are resolved relative to the [base IRI](#).

## NOTE

As noted in [§ 1.1 How to Read this Document](#), IRIs can often be confused with URLs ([Uniform Resource Locators](#)), the primary distinction is that a URL *locates* a resource on the web, an [IRI](#) *identifies* a resource. While it is a good practice for resource identifiers to be dereferenceable, sometimes this is not practical. In particular, note the [\[URN\]](#) scheme for Uniform Resource Names, such as [UUID](#). An example UUID is `urn:uuid:f81d4fae-7dec-11d0-a765-00a0c91e6bf6`.

## NOTE

[Properties](#), values of [@type](#), and values of [properties](#) with a [term definition](#) that defines them as being relative to the [vocabulary mapping](#), may have the form of a [relative IRI](#), but are resolved using the [vocabulary mapping](#), and not the [base IRI](#).

A [string](#) is interpreted as an [IRI](#) when it is the value of a [dictionary member](#) with the key [@id](#):

### [EXAMPLE 7](#): Values of [@id](#) are interpreted as IRI

```
{  
  ...  
  "homepage": { "@id": "http://example.com/" }  
  ...  
}
```

Values that are interpreted as [IRIs](#), can also be expressed as [relative IRIs](#). For example, assuming that the following document is located at <http://example.com/about/>, the [relative IRI](#) `../` would expand to <http://example.com/> (for more information on where [relative IRIs](#) can be used, please refer to section [§ 9. JSON-LD Grammar](#)).

### EXAMPLE 8: IRIs can be relative

```
{
  ...
  "homepage": { "@id": "../" }
  ...
}
```

Absolute IRIs can be expressed directly in the key position like so:

### EXAMPLE 9: IRI as a key

```
{
  ...
  "http://schema.org/name": "Manu Sporny",
  ...
}
```

In the example above, the key `http://schema.org/name` is interpreted as an absolute IRI.

Term-to-IRI expansion occurs if the key matches a term defined within the active context:

### EXAMPLE 10: Term expansion from context definition

**Original**   **Expanded**   **Statements**   **Turtle**   [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://schema.org/name"
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "status": "trollin'"
}
```

JSON keys that do not expand to an IRI, such as `status` in the example above, are not Linked Data and thus ignored when processed.

If type coercion rules are specified in the `@context` for a particular term or property IRI, an IRI is generated:

## EXAMPLE 11: Type coercion

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/url",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
    ...
  },
  ...
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/"
  ...
}

```

In the example above, since the value `http://manu.sporny.org/` is expressed as a JSON [string](#), the type [coercion](#) rules will transform the value into an [IRI](#) when processing the data. See [§ 4.2.3 Type Coercion](#) for more details about this feature.

In summary, [IRIs](#) can be expressed in a variety of different ways in JSON-LD:

1. [Dictionary members](#) that have a key mapping to a [term](#) in the [active context](#) expand to an [IRI](#) (only applies outside of the [context definition](#)).
2. An [IRI](#) is generated for the [string](#) value specified using `@id` or `@type`.
3. An [IRI](#) is generated for the [string](#) value of any key for which there are [coercion](#) rules that contain an `@type` key that is set to a value of `@id` or `@vocab`.

This section only covers the most basic features associated with IRIs in JSON-LD. More advanced features related to IRIs are covered in section [§ 4. Advanced Concepts](#).

### § 3.3 Node Identifiers

*This section is non-normative.*

To be able to externally reference [nodes](#) in a [graph](#), it is important that [nodes](#) have an identifier. [IRIs](#) are a fundamental concept of Linked Data, for [nodes](#) to be truly linked, dereferencing the identifier should result in a

representation of that [node](#). This may allow an application to retrieve further information about a [node](#).

In JSON-LD, a [node](#) is identified using the [@id keyword](#):

#### EXAMPLE 12: Identifying a node

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "name": "http://schema.org/name"
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  ...
}
```

The example above contains a [node object](#) identified by the [IRI](#) <http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/>.

This section only covers the most basic features associated with node identifiers in JSON-LD. More advanced features related to node identifiers are covered in section [§ 4. Advanced Concepts](#).

## § 3.4 Uses of JSON Objects

As a syntax, JSON has only a limited number of syntactic elements:

- [Numbers](#), which describe literal numeric values,
- [Strings](#), which may describe literal string values, or be used as the keys in a [JSON object](#).
- [Boolean](#) `true` and `false`, which describe literal boolean values,
- `null`, which describes the absence of a value,
- [Arrays](#), which describe an ordered set of values of any type, and
- [JSON objects](#), which provide a set of [dictionary members](#), relating keys with values.

The JSON-LD data model allows for a richer set of resources, based on the RDF data model. The data model is described more fully in [§ 8. Data Model](#). JSON-LD uses JSON objects to describe various resources, along with the



relationships between these resources:

### **Node objects**

Node objects are used to define nodes in the [linked data graph](#) which may have both incoming and outgoing edges. Node objects are principle structure for defining [resources](#) having [properties](#). See [§ 9.2 Node Objects](#) for the normative definition.

### **Value objects**

Value objects are used for describing literal nodes in a [linked data graph](#) which may have only incoming edges. In JSON, some literal nodes may be described without the use of a [JSON object](#) (e.g., [numbers](#), [strings](#), and [boolean](#) values), but in the [expanded form](#), all literal nodes are described using [value objects](#). See [§ 4.2 Describing Values](#) for more information, and [§ 9.5 Value Objects](#) for the normative definition.

### **List Objects and Set objects**

#### **Map Objects**

JSON-LD uses various forms of [dictionaries](#) as ways to more easily access values of a [property](#).

#### **Language Maps**

Allows multiple values differing in their associated language to be indexed by [language tag](#). See [§ 4.6.2 Language Indexing](#) for more information, and [§ 9.8 Language Maps](#) for the normative definition.

#### **Index Maps**

Allows multiple values ([node objects](#) or [value objects](#)) to be indexed by an associated [@index](#). See [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#) for more information, and [§ 9.9 Index Maps](#) for the normative definition.

#### **Id Maps**

Allows multiple [node objects](#) to be indexed by an associated [@id](#). See [§ 4.6.3 Node Identifier Indexing](#) for more information, and [§ 9.11 Id Maps](#) for the normative definition.

#### **Type Maps**

Allows multiple [node objects](#) to be indexed by an associated [@type](#). See [§ 4.6.4 Node Type Indexing](#) for more information, and [§ 9.12 Type Maps](#) for the normative definition.

#### **Named Graph Indexing**

Allows multiple [named graphs](#) to be indexed by an associated [graph name](#). See [§ 4.8.3 Named Graph Indexing](#) for more information.

### **Graph objects**

A [graph object](#) is much like a [node object](#), except that it defines a [named graph](#). See [§ 4.8 Named Graphs](#) for more information, and [§ 9.4 Graph Objects](#) for the normative definition. A [node object](#) may also describe a

[named graph](#), in addition to other properties defined on the node. The notable difference is that a [graph object](#) only describes a [named graph](#).

### Context Definitions

A Context Definition uses the [JSON object](#) form, but is not itself data in a [linked data graph](#). A Context Definition also may contain expanded term definitions, which are also represented using JSON objects. See [§ 3.1 The Context](#), [§ 4.1 Advanced Context Usage](#) for more information, and [§ 9.14 Context Definitions](#) for the normative definition.

## § 3.5 Specifying the Type

*This section is non-normative.*

In Linked Data, it is common to specify the type of a graph node; in many cases, this can be inferred based on the properties used within a given [node object](#), or the property for which a node is a value. For example, in the *schema.org* vocabulary, the *givenName* property is associated with a *Person*. Therefore, one may reason that if a [node object](#) contains the property *givenName*, that the type is a *Person*; making this explicit with [@type](#) helps to clarify the association.

The type of a particular [node](#) can be specified using the [@type keyword](#). In Linked Data, types are uniquely identified with an [IRI](#).

#### EXAMPLE 13: Specifying the type for a node

Original   Expanded   Statements   Turtle   Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "givenName": "http://schema.org/givenName",
    "familyName": "http://schema.org/familyName"
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "@type": "http://schema.org/Person",
  "givenName": "Markus",
  "familyName": "Lanthaler",
  ...
}
```

A node can be assigned more than one type by using an [array](#):

**EXAMPLE 14: Specifying multiple types for a node**

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  ...
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "@type": [
    "http://schema.org/Person",
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person"
  ],
  ...
}
```

The value of a `@type` key may also be a [term](#) defined in the [active context](#):

**EXAMPLE 15: Using a term to specify the type**

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "Person": "http://schema.org/Person"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Person",
  ...
}
```

In addition to setting the type of nodes, `@type` can also be used to set the type of a value to create a [typed value](#). This use of `@type` is similar to that used to define the type of a [node object](#), but value objects are restricted to having just a single type. The use of `@type` to create typed values is discussed more fully in [§ 4.2.1 Typed Values](#).

Typed values can also be defined implicitly, by specifying `@type` in an expanded term definition. This is covered more fully in [§ 4.2.3 Type Coercion](#).

## § 4. Advanced Concepts

JSON-LD has a number of features that provide functionality above and beyond the core functionality described above. JSON can be used to express data using such structures, and the features described in this section can be

used to interpret a variety of different JSON structures as Linked Data. A JSON-LD processor will make use of provided and embedded contexts to interpret property values in a number of different idiomatic ways.

### Describing values

One pattern in JSON is for the value of a property to be a string. Often times, this string actually represents some other typed value, for example an [IRI](#), a date, or a string in some specific language. See [§ 4.2 Describing Values](#) for details on how to describe such value typing.

### Value ordering

In JSON, a property with an array value implies an implicit order; arrays in JSON-LD do not convey any ordering of the contained elements by default, unless defined using embedded structures or through a context definition. See [§ 4.3 Value Ordering](#) for a further discussion.

### Property nesting

Another JSON idiom often found in APIs is to use an intermediate object to represent the properties of an object; in JSON-LD these are referred to as [nested properties](#) and are described in [§ 4.4 Nested Properties](#).

### Referencing objects

Linked Data is all about describing the relationships between different resources. Sometimes these relationships are between resources defined in different documents described on the web, sometimes the resources are described within the same document.

#### EXAMPLE 16: Referencing Objects on the Web

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "knows": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
}
```

In this case, a document residing at <http://manu.sporny.org/about> may contain the example above, and reference another document at <https://greggkellogg.net/foaf> which could include a similar

representation.

A common idiom found in JSON usage is objects being specified as the value of other objects, called object [embedding](#) in JSON-LD; for example, a friend specified as an object value of a *Person*:

#### EXAMPLE 17: Embedding Objects

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "knows": {
    "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
  }
}
```

See [§ 4.5 Embedding](#) details these relationships.

### Indexed values

Another common idiom in JSON is to use an intermediate object to represent property values via indexing. JSON-LD allows data to be indexed in a number of different ways, as detailed in [§ 4.6 Indexed Values](#).

### Reverse Properties

JSON-LD serializes directed [graphs](#). That means that every [property](#) points from a [node](#) to another [node](#) or [value](#). However, in some cases, it is desirable to serialize in the reverse direction, as detailed in [§ 4.7 Reverse Properties](#).

The following sections describe such advanced functionality in more detail.

## § 4.1 Advanced Context Usage

*This section is non-normative.*

Section [§ 3.1 The Context](#) introduced the basics of what makes JSON-LD

work. This section expands on the basic principles of the [context](#) and demonstrates how more advanced use cases can be achieved using JSON-LD.

In general, contexts may be used any time a [dictionary](#) is defined. The only time that one cannot express a context is as a direct child of another context definition (other than as part of an [expanded term definition](#)). For example, a [JSON-LD document](#) may have the form of an [array](#) composed of one or more [node objects](#), which use a context definition in each top-level [node object](#):

#### EXAMPLE 18: Using multiple contexts

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
[
  {
    "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
    "name": "Manu Sporny",
    "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
    "depiction": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/manusporny"
  }, {
    "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/place.jsonld",
    "name": "The Empire State Building",
    "description": "The Empire State Building is a 102-story landmark i
    "geo": {
      "latitude": "40.75",
      "longitude": "73.98"
    }
  }
]
```

The outer array is standard for a document in [expanded document form](#) and [flattened document form](#), and may be necessary when describing a disconnected graph, where nodes may not reference each other. In such cases, using a top-level dictionary with a [@graph](#) property can be useful for saving the repetition of [@context](#). See [§ 4.5 Embedding](#) for more.

**EXAMPLE 19: Describing disconnected nodes with @graph**[Original](#)[Expanded](#)[Statements](#)[Turtle](#)[Open in playground](#)

```

{
  "@context": [
    "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
    "https://json-ld.org/contexts/place.jsonld",
    {"title": "http://purl.org/dc/terms/title"}
  ],
  "@graph": [{
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": "Manu Sporny",
    "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
    "depiction": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/manusporny"
  }, {
    "title": "The Empire State Building",
    "description": "The Empire State Building is a 102-story landmark i
    "geo": {
      "latitude": "40.75",
      "longitude": "73.98"
    }
  }
  ]
}

```

Duplicate context [terms](#) are overridden using a most-recently-defined-wins mechanism.

**EXAMPLE 20: Embedded contexts within node objects**[Original](#)[Expanded](#)[Statements](#)[Turtle](#)[Open in playground](#)

```

{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://example.com/person#name",
    "details": "http://example.com/person#details"
  },
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  ...
  "details": {
    "@context": {
      "name": "http://example.com/organization#name"
    },
    "name": "Graz University of Technology"
  }
}

```

In the example above, the **name** [term](#) is overridden in the more deeply nested **details** structure, which uses its own [embedded context](#). Note that this is rarely a good authoring practice and is typically used when working with legacy applications that depend on a specific structure of the [dictionary](#). If a [term](#) is redefined within a context, all previous rules associated with the previous definition are removed. If a [term](#) is redefined to **null**, the [term](#) is effectively removed from the list of [terms](#) defined in the [active context](#).

Multiple contexts may be combined using an [array](#), which is processed in order. The set of contexts defined within a specific [dictionary](#) are referred to as [local contexts](#). The [active context](#) refers to the accumulation of [local contexts](#) that are in scope at a specific point within the document. Setting a [local context](#) to **null** effectively resets the [active context](#) to an empty context, without [term definitions](#), [default language](#), or other things defined within previous contexts. The following example specifies an external context and then layers an [embedded context](#) on top of the external context:

#### EXAMPLE 21: Combining external and local contexts

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": [
    "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
    {
      "pic": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/depiction"
    }
  ],
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/",
  "pic": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/manusporny"
}
```

#### NOTE

When possible, the [context](#) definition should be put at the top of a JSON-LD document. This makes the document easier to read and might make streaming parsers more efficient. Documents that do not have the [context](#) at the top are still conformant JSON-LD.



**NOTE**

To avoid forward-compatibility issues, [terms](#) starting with an @ character are to be avoided as they might be used as [keyword](#) in future versions of JSON-LD. Terms starting with an @ character that are not [JSON-LD 1.1 keywords](#) are treated as any other term, i.e., they are ignored unless mapped to an [IRI](#). Furthermore, the use of empty [terms](#) ("" ) is not allowed as not all programming languages are able to handle empty JSON keys.

**§ 4.1.1 JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Mode**

*This section is non-normative.*

New features defined in JSON-LD 1.1 are available when the [processing mode](#) is set to `json-ld-1.1`. This may be set using the [@version member](#) in a [context](#) set to the value `1.1` as a [number](#), or through an API option.

**EXAMPLE 22: Setting @version in context**

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    ...
  },
  ...
}
```

The first [context](#) encountered when processing a document which contains [@version](#) determines the [processing mode](#), unless it is defined explicitly through an API option. This means that if `"@version": 1.1` is encountered after processing a context without [@version](#), the former will be interpreted as having had `"@version": 1.1` defined within it.

**NOTE**

Setting the [processing mode](#) explicitly for JSON-LD 1.1 is necessary so that a JSON-LD 1.0 processor does not attempt to process a JSON-LD 1.1 document and silently produce different results.

## § 4.1.2 Default Vocabulary

*This section is non-normative.*

At times, all properties and types may come from the same vocabulary. JSON-LD's `@vocab` keyword allows an author to set a common prefix which is used as the [vocabulary mapping](#) and is used for all properties and types that do not match a [term](#) and are neither a [compact IRI](#) nor an [absolute IRI](#) (i.e., they do not contain a colon).

### EXAMPLE 23: Using a default vocabulary

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats"
  ...
}
```

If `@vocab` is used but certain keys in an [dictionary](#) should not be expanded using the vocabulary [IRI](#), a [term](#) can be explicitly set to [null](#) in the [context](#). For instance, in the example below the `databaseId` [member](#) would not expand to an [IRI](#) causing the property to be dropped when expanding.

### EXAMPLE 24: Using the null keyword to ignore data

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "databaseId": null
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats",
  "databaseId": "23987520"
}
```

Since `json-ld-1.1`, the [vocabulary mapping](#) in a [local context](#) can be set to the

a [relative IRI](#), which is concatenated to any [vocabulary mapping](#) in the [active context](#) (see [§ 4.1.2.1 Using the Document Base for the Default Vocabulary](#) for how this applies if there is no [vocabulary mapping](#) in the [active context](#)).

#### EXAMPLE 25: Using a default vocabulary relative to a previous default vocabulary

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": [{
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/"
  }, {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@vocab": "vocab/"
  }],
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats"
  ...
}
```

#### § 4.1.2.1 Using the Document Base for the Default Vocabulary

In some cases, vocabulary terms are defined directly within the document itself, rather than in an external vocabulary. Since [json-ld-1.1](#), the [vocabulary mapping](#) in a [local context](#) can be set to a [relative IRI](#), which is, if there is no vocabulary mapping in scope, resolved against the [base IRI](#). This causes terms which are expanded relative to the vocabulary, such as the keys of [node objects](#), to be based on the [base IRI](#) to create [absolute IRIs](#).

**EXAMPLE 26:** Using "#" as the vocabulary mapping

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@base": "http://example/document",
    "@vocab": "#"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats"
  ...
}
```

If this document were located at <http://example/document>, it would expand as follows:

**EXAMPLE 27:** Using "" as the vocabulary mapping (expanded)

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": ["http://example/document#Restaurant"],
  "http://example/document#name": [{"@value": "Brew Eats"}]
}]
```

**§ 4.1.3 Base IRI**

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON-LD allows [IRIs](#) to be specified in a relative form which is resolved against the document base according [section 5.1 Establishing a Base URI of \[RFC3986\]](#). The [base IRI](#) may be explicitly set with a [context](#) using the `@base` keyword.

For example, if a JSON-LD document was retrieved from <http://example.com/document.jsonld>, relative IRIs would resolve against that [IRI](#):

### EXAMPLE 28: Use a relative IRI as node identifier

```
{
  "@context": {
    "label": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label"
  },
  "@id": "",
  "label": "Just a simple document"
}
```

This document uses an empty `@id`, which resolves to the document base. However, if the document is moved to a different location, the [IRI](#) would change. To prevent this without having to use an [absolute IRI](#), a [context](#) may define an `@base` mapping, to overwrite the [base IRI](#) for the document.

### EXAMPLE 29: Setting the document base in a document

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@base": "http://example.com/document.jsonld",
    "label": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label"
  },
  "@id": "",
  "label": "Just a simple document"
}
```

Setting `@base` to [null](#) will prevent [relative IRIs](#) from being expanded to [absolute IRIs](#).

Please note that the `@base` will be ignored if used in external contexts.

## § 4.1.4 Compact IRIs

*This section is non-normative.*

A [compact IRI](#) is a way of expressing an [IRI](#) using a *prefix* and *suffix* separated by a colon (:). The [prefix](#) is a [term](#) taken from the [active context](#) and is a short string identifying a particular [IRI](#) in a JSON-LD document. For example, the prefix `foaf` may be used as a shorthand for the Friend-of-a-Friend vocabulary, which is identified using the [IRI](#) `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/`. A developer may append any of the FOAF vocabulary terms to the

end of the prefix to specify a short-hand version of the [absolute IRI](#) for the vocabulary term. For example, `foaf:name` would be expanded to the [IRI](#) `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name`.

### EXAMPLE 30: Prefix expansion

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
<pre>{   "@context": {     "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"     ...   },   "@type": "foaf:Person",   "foaf:name": "Dave Longley",   ... }</pre>				

In the example above, `foaf:name` expands to the [IRI](#) `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name` and `foaf:Person` expands to `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person`.

[Prefixes](#) are expanded when the form of the value is a [compact IRI](#) represented as a `prefix:suffix` combination, the *prefix* matches a [term](#) defined within the [active context](#), and the *suffix* does not begin with two slashes (`//`). The [compact IRI](#) is expanded by concatenating the [IRI](#) mapped to the *prefix* to the (possibly empty) *suffix*. If the *prefix* is not defined in the [active context](#), or the suffix begins with two slashes (such as in `http://example.com`), the value is interpreted as [absolute IRI](#) instead. If the prefix is an underscore (`_`), the value is interpreted as [blank node identifier](#) instead.

It's also possible to use compact IRIs within the context as shown in the following example:

**EXAMPLE 31: Using vocabularies**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "foaf:homepage": { "@type": "@id" },
    "picture": { "@id": "foaf:depiction", "@type": "@id" }
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "@type": "foaf:Person",
  "foaf:name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  "foaf:homepage": "http://www.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "picture": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/markuslanthaler"
}

```

When operating with the default [processing mode](#) for JSON-LD 1.0 compatibility, terms may be chosen as [compact IRI](#) prefixes when compacting only if a [simple term definition](#) is used where the value ends with a URI [gen-delim](#) character (e.g, /, # and others, see [\[RFC3986\]](#)).

In JSON-LD 1.1, terms may be chosen as [compact IRI](#) prefixes when compacting only if a [simple term definition](#) is used where the value ends with a URI [gen-delim](#) character, or if their [expanded term definition](#) contains a [@prefix member](#) with the value [true](#).

**NOTE**

The term selection behavior for 1.0 processors was changed as a result of an errata against JSON-LD 1.0 reported [here](#). This does not affect the behavior of processing existing JSON-LD documents, but creates a slight change when compacting documents using [Compact IRIs](#).

The behavior when compacting can be illustrated by considering the following input document in expanded form:

### EXAMPLE 32: Expanded document used to illustrate compact IRI creation

```
[{
  "http://example.com/vocab/property": [{"@value": "property"}],
  "http://example.com/vocab/propertyOne": [{"@value": "propertyOne"}]
}]
```

Using the following context in the default 1.0 [processing mode](#) will now select the term *vocab* rather than *property*, even though the [IRI](#) associated with *property* captures more of the original [IRI](#).

### EXAMPLE 33: Compact IRI generation context (1.0)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "property": "http://example.com/vocab/property"
  }
}
```

Context

### EXAMPLE 34: Compact IRI generation term selection (1.0)

**Compacted**   **Statements**   **Turtle**   [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "property": "http://example.com/vocab/property"
  },
  "property": "property",
  "vocab:propertyOne": "propertyOne"
}
```

In the original [\[JSON-LD\]](#), the term selection algorithm would have selected *property*, creating the Compact [IRI](#) *property:One*. If the [processing mode](#) is *json-ld-1.1*, the original behavior can be made explicit using [@prefix](#):



**EXAMPLE 35: Compact IRI generation context (1.1)**

Context

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "property": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/vocab/property",
      "@prefix": true
    }
  }
}

```

**EXAMPLE 36: Compact IRI generation term selection (1.1)**

Compacted

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "property": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/vocab/property",
      "@prefix": true
    }
  },
  "property": "property",
  "property:One": "propertyOne"
}

```

In this case, the *property* term would not normally be usable as a prefix, both because it is defined with an [expanded term definition](#), and because its `@id` does not end in a [gen-delim](#) character. Adding `"@prefix": true` allows it to be used as the prefix portion of the [compact IRI](#) *property:One*.

**§ 4.1.5 Aliasing Keywords**

*This section is non-normative.*

Each of the JSON-LD [keywords](#), except for `@context`, may be aliased to application-specific keywords. This feature allows legacy JSON content to be utilized by JSON-LD by re-using JSON keys that already exist in legacy

documents. This feature also allows developers to design domain-specific implementations using only the JSON-LD [context](#).

#### EXAMPLE 37: Aliasing keywords

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "url": "@id",
    "a": "@type",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name"
  },
  "url": "http://example.com/about#gregg",
  "a": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
  "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
}
```

In the example above, the `@id` and `@type` [keywords](#) have been given the aliases `url` and `a`, respectively.

Other than for `@type`, properties of [expanded term definitions](#) where the term is a [keyword](#) are ignored. When processing mode is set to `json-ld-1.1`, there is an exception for `@type`; see [§ 4.3.3 Using @set with @type](#) for further details.

Since keywords cannot be redefined, they can also not be aliased to other keywords.

#### NOTE

Aliased keywords *MUST NOT* be used within a [context](#), itself.

### § 4.1.6 IRI Expansion within a Context

*This section is non-normative.*

In general, normal IRI expansion rules apply anywhere an IRI is expected (see [§ 3.2 IRIs](#)). Within a [context](#) definition, this can mean that terms defined within the context may also be used within that context as long as there are no circular dependencies. For example, it is common to use the `xsd` namespace when defining [typed values](#):

**EXAMPLE 38:** IRI expansion within a context

```
{
  "@context": {
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  ...
}
```

In this example, the `xsd` [term](#) is defined and used as a [prefix](#) for the `@type` coercion of the `age` property.

[Terms](#) may also be used when defining the [IRI](#) of another [term](#):

**EXAMPLE 39:** Using a term to define the IRI of another term within a context

```
{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "foaf:name",
    "age": {
      "@id": "foaf:age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "foaf:homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  ...
}
```

[Compact IRIs](#) and [IRIs](#) may be used on the left-hand side of a [term](#) definition.

**EXAMPLE 40:** Using a compact IRI as a term

```

{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "foaf:name",
    "foaf:age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "foaf:homepage": {
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  ...
}

```

In this example, the [compact IRI](#) form is used in two different ways. In the first approach, `foaf:age` declares both the [IRI](#) for the [term](#) (using short-form) as well as the `@type` associated with the [term](#). In the second approach, only the `@type` associated with the [term](#) is specified. The full [IRI](#) for `foaf:homepage` is determined by looking up the `foaf` [prefix](#) in the [context](#).

**Warning**

If a [compact IRI](#) is used as a [term](#), it must expand to the value that [compact IRI](#) would have on its own when expanded. This represents a change to the original 1.0 algorithm to prevent terms from expanding to a different [absolute IRI](#), which could lead to undesired results.

**EXAMPLE 41: Illegal Aliasing of a compact IRI to a different absolute IRI**

```

{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "foaf:name",
    "foaf:age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "foaf:homepage": {
      "@id": "http://schema.org/url",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  ...
}

```

Absolute IRIs may also be used in the key position in a context:

**EXAMPLE 42: Associating context definitions with absolute IRIs**

```

{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "foaf:name",
    "foaf:age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage": {
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  ...
}

```

In order for the absolute IRI to match above, the absolute IRI needs to be used in the JSON-LD document. Also note that `foaf:homepage` will not use the `{ "@type": "@id" }` declaration because `foaf:homepage` is not the same as `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage`. That is, terms are looked up in a context using direct string comparison before the prefix lookup mechanism is

applied.



#### Warning

Neither a [compact IRI](#) nor an [absolute IRI](#) may expand to some other unrelated [IRI](#). This represents a change to the original 1.0 algorithm which allowed this behavior but discouraged it.

The only other exception for using terms in the [context](#) is that circular definitions are not allowed. That is, a definition of *term1* cannot depend on the definition of *term2* if *term2* also depends on *term1*. For example, the following [context](#) definition is illegal:

#### **EXAMPLE 43:** Illegal circular definition of terms within a context

```
{
  "@context": {
    "term1": "term2:foo",
    "term2": "term1:bar"
  },
  ...
}
```

### § 4.1.7 Scoped Contexts

*This section is non-normative.*

An [expanded term definition](#) can include a [@context](#) property, which defines a [context](#) (a [scoped context](#)) for [values](#) of properties defined using that [term](#). This allows values to use [term definitions](#), [base IRI](#), [vocabulary mapping](#) or [default language](#) which is different from the [node object](#) they are contained in, as if the [context](#) was specified within the value itself.

### EXAMPLE 44: Defining an @context within a term definition

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "name": "http://schema.org/name",
    "interest": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/interest",
      "@context": {"@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"}
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "interest": {
    "@id": "https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld11/",
    "name": "JSON-LD",
    "topic": "Linking Data"
  }
}
```

In this case, the social profile is defined using the schema.org vocabulary, but interest is imported from FOAF, and is used to define a node describing one of Manu's interests where those properties now come from the FOAF vocabulary.

Expanding this document, uses a combination of terms defined in the outer context, and those defined specifically for that term in a [scoped context](#).

Scoping can also be performed using a term used as a value of @type:

**EXAMPLE 45: Defining an @context within a term definition used on****@type**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "name": "http://schema.org/name",
    "interest": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/interest",
    "Person": "http://schema.org/Person",
    "Document": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Document",
      "@context": {"@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"}
    }
  },
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "interest": {
    "@id": "https://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld11/",
    "@type": "Document",
    "name": "JSON-LD",
    "topic": "Linking Data"
  }
}

```

Scoping on **@type** is useful when common properties are used to relate things of different types, where the vocabularies in use within different entities calls for different context scoping. For example, **hasPart/partOf** may be common terms used in a document, but mean different things depending on the context.

When expanding, each value of **@type** is considered (ordering them lexicographically) where that value is also a term in the active context having its own scoped context. If so, that scoped context is applied to the active context.

**NOTE**

The values of **@type** are unordered, so if multiple types are listed, the order that scoped contexts are applied is based on lexicographical ordering.

For example, consider the following semantically equivalent examples:



**EXAMPLE 46: Expansion using embedded and scoped contexts**

This example, shows how properties and types can define their own scoped contexts, which are included when expanding.

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/"
    "property": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/vocab/property",
      "@context": {
        "term1": "http://example.com/vocab/term1"
        ↑ Scoped context for "property" defines term1
      },
    },
    "Type1": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/vocab/Type1",
      "@context": {
        "term3": "http://example.com/vocab/term3"
        ↑ Scoped context for "Type1" defines term3
      },
    },
    "Type2": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/vocab/Type2",
      "@context": {
        "term4": "http://example.com/vocab/term4"
        ↑ Scoped context for "Type2" defines term4
      },
    },
  },
  "property": {
    "@context": {
      "term2": "http://example.com/vocab/term2"
      ↑ Embedded context defines term2
    },
    "@type": ["Type2", "Type1"],
    "term1": "a",
    "term2": "b",
    "term3": "c",
    "term4": "d",
  }
}
```

Contexts are processed depending on how they are defined. A scoped context for a property is processed first, followed by any embedded

context, followed lastly by the scoped contexts for any types, in the appropriate order. The previous example is logically equivalent to the following:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "property": "http://example.com/vocab/property",
    "Type1": "http://example.com/vocab/Type1",
    "Type2": "http://example.com/vocab/Type2",
  },
  "property": {
    "@context": [{
      "term1": "http://example.com/vocab/term1"
      ↑ Scoped context for "property" defines term1
    }, {
      "term2": "http://example.com/vocab/term2"
      ↑ Embedded context defines term2
    }, {
      "term3": "http://example.com/vocab/term3"
      ↑ Scoped context for "Type1" defines term3
    }, {
      "term4": "http://example.com/vocab/term4"
      ↑ Scoped context for "Type2" defines term4
    }
  ],
  "@type": ["Type2", "Type1"],
  "term1": "a",
  "term2": "b",
  "term3": "c",
  "term4": "d",
}
}
```

## NOTE

If a [term](#) defines a [scoped context](#), and then that term is later re-defined, the association of the context defined in the earlier [expanded term definition](#) is lost within the scope of that re-definition. This is consistent with [term definitions](#) of a term overriding previous term definitions from earlier less deeply nested definitions, as discussed in [§ 4.1 Advanced Context Usage](#).

## NOTE

[Scoped Contexts](#) are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

### § 4.1.8 Protected Term Definitions

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON-LD is used in many specifications as the specified data format. However, there is also a desire to allow some JSON-LD contents to be processed as plain JSON, without using any of the JSON-LD algorithms. Because JSON-LD is very flexible, some terms from the original format may be locally overridden through the use of embedded contexts, and take a different meaning for JSON-LD based implementations. On the other hand, "plain JSON" implementations may not be able to interpret these embedded contexts, and hence will still interpret those terms with their original meaning. To prevent this divergence of interpretation, JSON-LD 1.1 allows term definitions to be *protected*.

A ***protected term definition*** is a term definition with a member `@protected` set to `true`. It generally prevents further contexts from overriding this term definition, either through a new definition of the same term, or through clearing the context with `"@context": null`. Such attempts will raise an error and abort the processing (except in some specific situations described [below](#)).

**EXAMPLE 47:** A protected term definition can generally not be overridden

```
{
  "@context": [
    {
      "@version": 1.1,
      "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
      "knows": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows",
      "name": {
        "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
        "@protected": true
      }
    },
    {
      - this attempt will fail with an error
      "name": "http://schema.org/name"
    }
  ],
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "knows": {
    "@context": [
      - this attempt would also fail with an error
      null,
      "http://schema.org/"
    ],
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
  }
}
```

When all or most term definitions of a context need to be protected, it is possible to add a member `@protected` set to `true` to the context itself. It has the same effect as protecting each of its term definitions individually. Exceptions can be made by adding a member `@protected` set to `false` in some term definitions.

**EXAMPLE 48: A protected @context with an exception**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": [
    {
      "@version": 1.1,
      "@protected": true,
      "name": "http://schema.org/name",
      "member": "http://schema.org/member",
      "Person": {
        "@id": "http://schema.org/Person",
        "@protected": false
      }
    }
  ],
  "name": "Digital Bazaar",
  "member": {
    "@context": {
      - name is protected, so the following would fail with an error
      - "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
      - Person is not protected, and can be overridden
      "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person"
    },
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Manu Sporny"
  }
}

```

While protected terms can in general not be overridden, there is an exception to this rule: a property-[scoped context](#) is not affected by protection, and can therefore override protected terms, either with a new term definition, or by clearing the context with `"@context": null`.

The rationale is that "plain JSON" implementations, relying on a given specification, will only traverse properties defined by that specification. [Scoped contexts](#) belonging to the specified properties are part of the specification, so the "plain JSON" implementations are expected to be aware of the change of semantics they induce. [Scoped contexts](#) belonging to other properties apply to parts of the document that "plain JSON" implementations will ignore. In both cases, there is therefore no risk of diverging interpretations between JSON-LD-aware implementations and "plain JSON" implementations, so overriding is permitted.

**EXAMPLE 49: overriding permitted in property scoped context****Original****Expanded****Statements****Turtle**[Open in playground](#)

```

{
  "@context": [
    {
      - This context reflects the specification used by "plain JSON" in
      "@version": 1.1,
      "@protected": true,
      "Organization": "http://schema.org/Organization",
      "name": "http://schema.org/name",
      "employee": {
        "@id": "http://schema.org/employee",
        "@context": {
          "@protected": true,
          "name": "http://schema.org/familyName"
        }
        ↑ overrides the definition of "name"
      }
    },
    {
      - This context extends the previous one,
      - only JSON-LD-aware implementations are expected to use it
      "location": {
        "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/based_near",
        "@context": [
          null,
          ↑ clears the context entirely, including all protected terms
          { "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/" }
        ]
      }
    }
  ],
  "@type": "Organization",
  "name": "Digital Bazaar",
  "employee" : {
    "name": "Sporny"
  },
  "location": {
    "name": "Blacksburg, Virginia"
  }
}

```

## NOTE

By preventing terms from being overridden, protection also prevents any adaptation of a term (e.g., defining a more precise datatype, restricting the term's use to lists, etc.). This kind of adaptation is frequent with some general purpose contexts, for which protection would therefore hinder their usability. As a consequence, context publishers should use this feature with care.

## NOTE

Protected term definitions are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

## § 4.2 Describing Values

*This section is non-normative.*

Values are leaf nodes in a graph associated with scalar values such as [strings](#), dates, times, and other such atomic values.

### § 4.2.1 Typed Values

*This section is non-normative.*

A value with an associated type, also known as a [typed value](#), is indicated by associating a value with an [IRI](#) which indicates the value's type. Typed values may be expressed in JSON-LD in three ways:

1. By utilizing the `@type` [keyword](#) when defining a [term](#) within an `@context` section.
2. By utilizing a [value object](#).
3. By using a native JSON type such as [number](#), [true](#), or [false](#).

The first example uses the `@type` keyword to associate a type with a particular [term](#) in the `@context`:

**EXAMPLE 50: Expanded term definition with type coercion**

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "modified": {
      "@id": "http://purl.org/dc/terms/modified",
      "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#dateTime"
    }
  },
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.com/docs/1",
  "modified": "2010-05-29T14:17:39+02:00",
  ...
}
```

The *modified* key's value above is automatically interpreted as a *dateTime* value because of the information specified in the *@context*. The example tabs show how a [JSON-LD processor](#) will interpret the data.

The second example uses the expanded form of setting the type information in the body of a JSON-LD document:

**EXAMPLE 51: Expanded value with type**

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "modified": {
      "@id": "http://purl.org/dc/terms/modified"
    }
  },
  ...
  "modified": {
    "@value": "2010-05-29T14:17:39+02:00",
    "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#dateTime"
  }
  ...
}
```

Both examples above would generate the value `2010-05-29T14:17:39+02:00` with the type `http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#dateTime`. Note that it is also possible to use a [term](#) or a [compact IRI](#) to express the value of a type.



## NOTE

The `@type` keyword is also used to associate a type with a [node](#). The concept of a [node type](#) and a [value type](#) are different. For more on adding types to [nodes](#), see [§ 3.5 Specifying the Type](#).

A **node type** specifies the type of thing that is being described, like a person, place, event, or web page. A **value type** specifies the data type of a particular value, such as an integer, a floating point number, or a date.

## EXAMPLE 52: Example demonstrating the context-sensitivity for @type

```
{
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/posts#TripToWestVirginia",
  "@type": "http://schema.org/BlogPosting", ← This is a node type
  "http://purl.org/dc/terms/modified": {
    "@value": "2010-05-29T14:17:39+02:00",
    "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#dateTime" ← This is a v
  }
  ...
}
```

The first use of `@type` associates a [node type](#) (<http://schema.org/BlogPosting>) with the [node](#), which is expressed using the `@id` keyword. The second use of `@type` associates a [value type](#) (<http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#dateTime>) with the value expressed using the `@value` keyword. As a general rule, when `@value` and `@type` are used in the same [dictionary](#), the `@type` keyword is expressing a [value type](#). Otherwise, the `@type` keyword is expressing a [node type](#). The example above expresses the following data:

## EXAMPLE 53: Example demonstrating the context-sensitivity for @type (statements)

Original Turtle Open in playground

Subject	Property	Value
<a href="http://example.org/posts#TripToWestVirginia">http://example.org/posts#TripToWestVirginia</a>	<code>rdf:type</code>	<code>schema:BlogPosting</code>
<a href="http://example.org/posts#TripToWestVirginia">http://example.org/posts#TripToWestVirginia</a>	<code>dcterms:modified</code>	<code>2010-05-29T14:17:39+02:00</code>

## § 4.2.2 JSON Literals

*This section is non-normative.*

At times, it is useful to include JSON within JSON-LD that is not interpreted as JSON-LD. Generally, a JSON-LD processor will ignore properties which don't map to [IRIs](#), but this causes them to be excluded when performing various algorithmic transformations. But, when the data that is being described is, itself, JSON, it's important that it survive algorithmic transformations.



### Warning

JSON-LD is intended to allow native JSON to be interpreted through the use of a [context](#). The use of [JSON literals](#) creates blobs of data which are not available for interpretation. It is for use only in the rare cases that JSON cannot be represented as JSON-LD.

When a term is defined with `@type` set to `@json`, a JSON-LD processor will treat the value as a [JSON literal](#), rather than interpreting it further as JSON-LD. In the [expanded document form](#), such JSON will become the value of `@value` within a [value object](#) having `"@type": "@json"`.

When transformed into RDF, the JSON literal will have a lexical form based on a specific serialization of the JSON, as described in [Compaction algorithm](#) of [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#) and [the JSON datatype](#).

The following example shows an example of a [JSON Literal](#) contained as the value of a property. Note that the RDF results use a canonicalized form of the JSON to ensure interoperability between different processors. JSON canonicalization is described in [Data Round Tripping](#) in [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#).

## EXAMPLE 54: JSON Literal

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "e": {"@id": "http://example.com/vocab/json", "@type": "@json"}
  },
  "e": [
    56.0,
    {
      "d": true,
      "10": null,
      "1": [ ]
    }
  ]
}

```

## § 4.2.3 Type Coercion

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON-LD supports the coercion of [string](#) values to particular data types. Type **coercion** allows someone deploying JSON-LD to use [string](#) property values and have those values be interpreted as [typed values](#) by associating an [IRI](#) with the value in the expanded [value object](#) representation. Using type coercion, [string](#) value representation can be used without requiring the data type to be specified explicitly with each piece of data.

Type coercion is specified within an [expanded term definition](#) using the `@type` key. The value of this key expands to an [IRI](#). Alternatively, the [keyword](#) `@id` or `@vocab` may be used as value to indicate that within the body of a JSON-LD document, a [string](#) value of a [term](#) coerced to `@id` or `@vocab` is to be interpreted as an [IRI](#). The difference between `@id` and `@vocab` is how values are expanded to [absolute IRIs](#). `@vocab` first tries to expand the value by interpreting it as [term](#). If no matching [term](#) is found in the [active context](#), it tries to expand it as [compact IRI](#) or [absolute IRI](#) if there's a colon in the value; otherwise, it will expand the value using the [active context's vocabulary mapping](#), if present. Values coerced to `@id` in contrast are expanded as [compact IRI](#) or [absolute IRI](#) if a colon is present; otherwise, they are interpreted as [relative IRI](#).

## NOTE

The ability to coerce a value using a [term definition](#) is distinct from setting one or more types on a [node object](#), as the former does not result in new data being added to the graph, while the later manages node types through adding additional relationships to the graph.

[Terms](#) or [compact IRIs](#) used as the value of a `@type` key may be defined within the same context. This means that one may specify a [term](#) like `xsd` and then use `xsd:integer` within the same context definition.

The example below demonstrates how a JSON-LD author can coerce values to [typed values](#) and [IRIs](#).

## EXAMPLE 55: Expanded term definition with types

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/people#john",
  "name": "John Smith",
  "age": "41",
  "homepage": [
    "http://personal.example.org/",
    "http://work.example.com/jsmith/"
  ]
}
```

It is important to note that [terms](#) are only used in expansion for vocabulary-relative positions, such as for keys and values of [dictionary members](#). Values of `@id` are considered to be document-relative, and do not use term definitions for expansion. For example, consider the following:

**EXAMPLE 56: Term expansion for values, not identifiers**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@base": "http://example1.com/",
    "@vocab": "http://example2.com/",
    "fred": {"@type": "@vocab"}
  },
  "fred": [
    {"@id": "barney", "mnemonic": "the sidekick"},
    "barney"
  ]
}
```

The unexpected result is that "barney" expands to both <http://example1.com/barney> and <http://example2.com/barney>, depending where it is encountered. String values interpreted as [IRIs](#) because of the associated [term definitions](#) are typically considered to be document-relative. In some cases, it makes sense to interpret these relative to the vocabulary, prescribed using `"@type": "@vocab"` in the [term definition](#), though this can lead to unexpected consequences such as these.

In the previous example, "barney" appears twice, once as the value of `@id`, which is always interpreted as a document-relative [IRI](#), and once as the value of "fred", which is defined to be vocabulary-relative, thus the different expanded values.

For more on this see [§ 4.1.2 Default Vocabulary](#)

A variation on the previous example using `"@type": "@id"` instead of `@vocab` illustrates the behavior of interpreting "barney" relative to the document:

### EXAMPLE 57: Terms not expanded when document-relative

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@base": "http://example1.com/",
    "@vocab": "http://example2.com/",
    "fred": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "fred": [
    {"@id": "barney", "mnemonic": "the sidekick"},
    "barney"
  ]
}
```

#### NOTE

The triple [] **ex2:fred ex1:barney** . is emitted twice, but exists only once in an output dataset, as it is a duplicate triple.

Terms may also be defined using [absolute IRIs](#) or [compact IRIs](#). This allows coercion rules to be applied to keys which are not represented as a simple [term](#). For example:

**EXAMPLE 58: Term definitions using compact and absolute IRIs**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "foaf:age": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age",
      "@type": "xsd:integer"
    },
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage": {
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "foaf:name": "John Smith",
  "foaf:age": "41",
  "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage": [
    "http://personal.example.org/",
    "http://work.example.com/jsmith/"
  ]
}

```

In this case the `@id` definition in the term definition is optional. If it does exist, the [compact IRI](#) or [IRI](#) representing the term will always be expanded to [IRI](#) defined by the `@id` key—regardless of whether a prefix is defined or not.

Type coercion is always performed using the unexpanded value of the key. In the example above, that means that type coercion is done looking for `foaf:age` in the [active context](#) and not for the corresponding, expanded [IRI](#) `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/age`.

**NOTE**

Keys in the context are treated as [terms](#) for the purpose of expansion and value coercion. At times, this may result in multiple representations for the same expanded [IRI](#). For example, one could specify that `dog` and `cat` both expanded to `http://example.com/vocab#animal`. Doing this could be useful for establishing different type coercion or language specification rules. It also allows a [compact IRI](#) (or even an absolute [IRI](#)) to be defined as something else entirely. For example, one could specify that the [term](#) `http://example.org/zoo` should expand to `http://example.org/river`, but this usage is discouraged because it would lead to a great deal of confusion among developers attempting to understand the JSON-LD document.

**§ 4.2.4 String Internationalization**

*This section is non-normative.*

At times, it is important to annotate a [string](#) with its language. In JSON-LD this is possible in a variety of ways. First, it is possible to define a [default language](#) for a JSON-LD document by setting the `@language` key in the [context](#):

**EXAMPLE 59: Setting the default language of a JSON-LD document**

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://example.org/name",
    "occupation": "http://example.org/occupation",
    ...
    "@language": "ja"
  },
  "name": "花澄",
  "occupation": "科学者"
}
```

The example above would associate the `ja` language code with the two [strings](#) `花澄` and `科学者`. [Languages codes](#) are defined in [BCP47]. The [default language](#) applies to all [string](#) values that are not [type coerced](#).



To clear the [default language](#) for a subtree, `@language` can be set to `null` in a [local context](#) as follows:

#### EXAMPLE 60: Clearing default language

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "@language": "ja"
  },
  "name": "花澄",
  "details": {
    "@context": {
      "@language": null
    },
    "occupation": "Ninja"
  }
}
```

Second, it is possible to associate a language with a specific [term](#) using an [expanded term definition](#):

#### EXAMPLE 61: Expanded term definition with language

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "ex": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "@language": "ja",
    "name": { "@id": "ex:name", "@language": null },
    "occupation": { "@id": "ex:occupation" },
    "occupation_en": { "@id": "ex:occupation", "@language": "en" },
    "occupation_cs": { "@id": "ex:occupation", "@language": "cs" }
  },
  "name": "Yagyū Muneyoshi",
  "occupation": "忍者",
  "occupation_en": "Ninja",
  "occupation_cs": "Nindža",
  ...
}
```

The example above would associate 忍者 with the specified default language code `ja`, *Ninja* with the language code `en`, and *Nindža* with the language code `cs`. The value of `name`, *Yagyū Muneyoshi* wouldn't be associated with any

language code since `@language` was reset to `null` in the [expanded term definition](#).

#### NOTE

Language associations are only applied to plain [strings](#). [Typed values](#) or values that are subject to [type coercion](#) are not language tagged.

Just as in the example above, systems often need to express the value of a property in multiple languages. Typically, such systems also try to ensure that developers have a programmatically easy way to navigate the data structures for the language-specific data. In this case, [language maps](#) may be utilized.

#### [EXAMPLE 62](#): Language map expressing a property in three languages

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "occupation": { "@id": "ex:occupation", "@container": "@language" }
  },
  "name": "Yagyū Muneyoshi",
  "occupation": {
    "ja": "忍者",
    "en": "Ninja",
    "cs": "Nindža"
  }
  ...
}
```

The example above expresses exactly the same information as the previous example but consolidates all values in a single property. To access the value in a specific language in a programming language supporting dot-notation accessors for object properties, a developer may use the `property.language` pattern. For example, to access the occupation in English, a developer would use the following code snippet: `obj.occupation.en`.

Third, it is possible to override the [default language](#) by using a [value object](#):

### EXAMPLE 63: Overriding default language using an expanded value

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "@language": "ja"
  },
  "name": "花澄",
  "occupation": {
    "@value": "Scientist",
    "@language": "en"
  }
}
```

This makes it possible to specify a plain string by omitting the `@language` tag or setting it to `null` when expressing it using a [value object](#):

### EXAMPLE 64: Removing language information using an expanded value

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "@language": "ja"
  },
  "name": {
    "@value": "Frank"
  },
  "occupation": {
    "@value": "Ninja",
    "@language": "en"
  },
  "speciality": "手裏剣"
}
```

See § 9.8 [Language Maps](#) for a description of using [language maps](#) to set the language of mapped values.

## § 4.3 Value Ordering

*This section is non-normative.*

A JSON-LD author can express multiple values in a compact way by using [arrays](#). Since graphs do not describe ordering for links between nodes, arrays

in JSON-LD do not convey any ordering of the contained elements by default. This is exactly the opposite from regular JSON arrays, which are ordered by default. For example, consider the following simple document:

#### EXAMPLE 65: Multiple values with no inherent order

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {"foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"},
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "foaf:nick": [ "joe", "bob", "JB" ],
  ...
}
```

Multiple values may also be expressed using the expanded form:

#### EXAMPLE 66: Using an expanded form to set multiple values

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {"dcterms": "http://purl.org/dc/terms/"},
  "@id": "http://example.org/articles/8",
  "dcterms:title": [
    {
      "@value": "Das Kapital",
      "@language": "de"
    },
    {
      "@value": "Capital",
      "@language": "en"
    }
  ]
}
```

#### NOTE

The example shown above would generate a statement, again with no inherent order.

Although multiple values of a property are typically of the same type, JSON-LD places no restriction on this, and a property may have values of different

types:

### EXAMPLE 67: Multiple array values of different types

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {"schema": "http://schema.org/"},
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#michael",
  "schema:name": [
    "Michael",
    {"@value": "Mike"},
    {"@value": "Miguel", "@language": "es"},
    { "@id": "https://www.wikidata.org/wiki/Q4927524" },
    42
  ]
}
```

#### NOTE

When viewed as statements, the values have no inherent order.

## § 4.3.1 Lists

*This section is non-normative.*

As the notion of ordered collections is rather important in data modeling, it is useful to have specific language support. In JSON-LD, a list may be represented using the [@list](#) keyword as follows:

### EXAMPLE 68: An ordered collection of values in JSON-LD

Original Expanded Statements Turtle Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {"foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"},
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "foaf:nick": {
    "@list": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ]
  },
  ...
}
```

This describes the use of this [array](#) as being ordered, and order is maintained when processing a document. If every use of a given multi-valued property is a list, this may be abbreviated by setting `@container` to `@list` in the [context](#):

#### EXAMPLE 69: Specifying that a collection is ordered in the context

Original   Expanded   Statements   Turtle   Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "nick": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/nick",
      "@container": "@list"
    }
  },
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "nick": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ],
  ...
}
```

The implementation of [lists](#) in RDF depends on linking anonymous nodes together using the properties `rdf:first` and `rdf:rest`, with the end of the list defined as the resource `rdf:nil`, as the "statements" tab illustrates. This allows order to be represented within an unordered set of statements.

Both JSON-LD and Turtle provide shortcuts for representing ordered lists.

In JSON-LD 1.1, lists of lists, where the value of a [list object](#), may itself be a [list object](#), are fully supported.

Note that the `"@container": "@list"` definition recursively describes array values of lists as being, themselves, lists. For example, in [GeoJSON](#) (see [\[RFC7946\]](#)), *coordinates* are an ordered list of *positions*, which are represented as an array of two or more numbers:

### EXAMPLE 70: Coordinates expressed in GeoJSON

```
{
  "type": "Feature",
  "bbox": [-10.0, -10.0, 10.0, 10.0],
  "geometry": {
    "type": "Polygon",
    "coordinates": [
      [
        [-10.0, -10.0],
        [10.0, -10.0],
        [10.0, 10.0],
        [-10.0, -10.0]
      ]
    ]
  }
  //...
}
```

For these examples, it's important that values expressed within *bbox* and *coordinates* maintain their order, which requires the use of embedded list structures. In JSON-LD 1.1, we can express this using recursive lists, by simply adding the appropriate context definition:

## EXAMPLE 71: Coordinates expressed in JSON-LD

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "https://purl.org/geojson/vocab#",
    "type": "@type",
    "bbox": {"@container": "@list"},
    "coordinates": {"@container": "@list"}
  },
  "type": "Feature",
  "bbox": [-10.0, -10.0, 10.0, 10.0],
  "geometry": {
    "type": "Polygon",
    "coordinates": [
      [
        [-10.0, -10.0],
        [10.0, -10.0],
        [10.0, 10.0],
        [-10.0, 10.0]
      ]
    ]
  }
}
//...
}

```

Note that *coordinates* includes three levels of lists.

Values of terms associated with an `@list` container are always represented in the form of an [array](#), even if there is just a single value or no value at all.

### § 4.3.2 Sets

*This section is non-normative.*

While `@list` is used to describe *ordered lists*, the `@set` keyword is used to describe *unordered sets*. The use of `@set` in the body of a JSON-LD document is optimized away when processing the document, as it is just syntactic sugar. However, `@set` is helpful when used within the context of a document. Values of terms associated with an `@set` container are always represented in the form of an [array](#), even if there is just a single value that would otherwise be optimized to a non-array form in compact form (see [§ 5.2 Compacted](#)



[Document Form](#)). This makes post-processing of JSON-LD documents easier as the data is always in array form, even if the array only contains a single value.

#### EXAMPLE 72: An unordered collection of values in JSON-LD

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {"foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"},
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "foaf:nick": {
    "@set": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ]
  },
  ...
}
```

This describes the use of this [array](#) as being unordered, and order may change when processing a document. By default, arrays of values are unordered, but this may be made explicit by setting `@container` to `@set` in the [context](#):

#### EXAMPLE 73: Specifying that a collection is unordered in the context

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    ...
    "nick": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/nick",
      "@container": "@set"
    }
  },
  ...
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "nick": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ],
  ...
}
```

Since JSON-LD 1.1, the `@set` keyword may be combined with other container specifications within an expanded term definition to similarly cause compacted values of indexes to be consistently represented using arrays. See [§ 4.6 Indexed Values](#) for a further discussion.

### § 4.3.3 Using @set with @type

*This section is non-normative.*

When [processing mode](#) is set to `json-ld-1.1`, `@type` may be used with an [expanded term definition](#) with `@container` set to `@set`; no other members may be set within such an [expanded term definition](#). This is used by the [Compaction algorithm](#) to ensure that the values of `@type` (or an alias) are always represented in an [array](#).

#### **EXAMPLE 74:** Setting @container: @set on @type

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@type": {"@container": "@set"}
  },
  "@type": ["http://example.org/type"]
}
```

## § 4.4 Nested Properties

*This section is non-normative.*

Many JSON APIs separate properties from their entities using an intermediate object; in JSON-LD these are called [nested properties](#). For example, a set of possible labels may be grouped under a common property:

**EXAMPLE 75: Nested properties**

<b>Original</b>	<b>Expanded</b>	<b>Statements</b>	<b>Turtle</b>	Open in playground
-----------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "skos": "http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#",
    "labels": "@nest",
    "main_label": {"@id": "skos:prefLabel"},
    "other_label": {"@id": "skos:altLabel"},
    "homepage": {"@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage", "@type":
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/myresource",
  "homepage": "http://example.org",
  "labels": {
    "main_label": "This is the main label for my resource",
    "other_label": "This is the other label"
  }
}
```

By defining *labels* using the [keyword @nest](#), a [JSON-LD processor](#) will ignore the nesting created by using the *labels* property and process the contents as if it were declared directly within containing object. In this case, the *labels* property is semantically meaningless. Defining it as equivalent to [@nest](#) causes it to be ignored when expanding, making it equivalent to the following:

**EXAMPLE 76: Nested properties folded into containing object**

<b>Original</b>	<b>Expanded</b>	<b>Statements</b>	<b>Turtle</b>	Open in playground
-----------------	-----------------	-------------------	---------------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": {
    "skos": "http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#",
    "main_label": {"@id": "skos:prefLabel"},
    "other_label": {"@id": "skos:altLabel"},
    "homepage": {"@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage", "@type":
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/myresource",
  "homepage": "http://example.org",
  "main_label": "This is the main label for my resource",
  "other_label": "This is the other label"
}
```

Similarly, [term definitions](#) may contain a `@nest` property referencing a term aliased to `@nest` which will cause such properties to be nested under that aliased term when compacting. In the example below, both `main_label` and `other_label` are defined with `"@nest": "labels"`, which will cause them to be serialized under `labels` when compacting.

#### EXAMPLE 77: Defining property nesting

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "skos": "http://www.w3.org/2004/02/skos/core#",
    "labels": "@nest",
    "main_label": {"@id": "skos:prefLabel", "@nest": "labels"},
    "other_label": {"@id": "skos:altLabel", "@nest": "labels"},
    "homepage": {"@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage", "@type":
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/myresource",
  "homepage": "http://example.org",
  "labels": {
    "main_label": "This is the main label for my resource",
    "other_label": "This is the other label"
  }
}
```

#### NOTE

[Nested properties](#) are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

## § 4.5 Embedding

*This section is non-normative.*

**Embedding** is a JSON-LD feature that allows an author to use [node objects](#) as [property](#) values. This is a commonly used mechanism for creating a parent-child relationship between two [nodes](#).

Without embedding, [node objects](#) can be linked by referencing the identifier of another [node object](#). For example:

**EXAMPLE 78: Referencing node objects**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "knows": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@graph": [{
    "name": "Manu Sporny",
    "@type": "Person",
    "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
  }, {
    "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
  }]
}

```

The previous example describes two [node objects](#), for Manu and Gregg, with the `knows` property defined to treat string values as identifiers. [Embedding](#) allows the [node object](#) for Gregg to be *embedded* as a value of the `knows` property:

**EXAMPLE 79: Embedding a node object as property value of another node object**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "knows": {
    "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
  }
}

```

A [node object](#), like the one used above, may be used in any value position in the body of a JSON-LD document. Note that [type coercion](#) of the `knows`

property is not required, as the value is not a string.

While it is considered a best practice to identify nodes in a graph, at times this is impractical. In the data model, nodes without an explicit identifier are called [blank nodes](#), which can be represented in a serialization such as JSON-LD using a [blank node identifier](#). In the previous example, the top-level node for *Manu* does not have an identifier, and does not need one to describe it within the data model. However, if we were to want to describe a *knows* relationship from Gregg to Manu, we would need to introduce a [blank node identifier](#) (here `_:b0`).

#### EXAMPLE 80: Referencing an unidentified node

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "_:b0",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "knows": {
    "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
    "knows": {"@id": "_:b0"}
  }
}
```

[Blank node identifiers](#) may be automatically introduced by algorithms such as [flattening](#), but they are also useful for authors to describe such relationships directly.

### § 4.5.1 Identifying Blank Nodes

*This section is non-normative.*

At times, it becomes necessary to be able to express information without being able to uniquely identify the [node](#) with an [IRI](#). This type of node is called a [blank node](#). JSON-LD does not require all nodes to be identified using `@id`. However, some graph topologies may require identifiers to be serializable. Graphs containing loops, e.g., cannot be serialized using

[embedding](#) alone, `@id` must be used to connect the nodes. In these situations, one can use [blank node identifiers](#), which look like [IRIs](#) using an underscore (`_`) as scheme. This allows one to reference the node locally within the document, but makes it impossible to reference the node from an external document. The [blank node identifier](#) is scoped to the document in which it is used.

#### EXAMPLE 81: Specifying a local blank node identifier

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  ...
  "@id": " _:n1",
  "name": "Secret Agent 1",
  "knows": {
    "name": "Secret Agent 2",
    "knows": { "@id": " _:n1" }
  }
}
```

The example above contains information about two secret agents that cannot be identified with an [IRI](#). While expressing that *agent 1* knows *agent 2* is possible without using [blank node identifiers](#), it is necessary to assign *agent 1* an identifier so that it can be referenced from *agent 2*.

It is worth noting that blank node identifiers may be relabeled during processing. If a developer finds that they refer to the [blank node](#) more than once, they should consider naming the node using a dereferenceable [IRI](#) so that it can also be referenced from other documents.

## § 4.6 Indexed Values

*This section is non-normative.*

Sometimes multiple property values need to be accessed in a more direct fashion than iterating through multiple array values. JSON-LD provides an indexing mechanism to allow the use of an intermediate dictionary to associate specific indexes with associated values.

### Data Indexing

As described in [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#), data indexing allows an arbitrary key to reference a [node](#) or value.

## Language Indexing

As described in § 4.6.2 [Language Indexing](#), language indexing allows a language to reference a [string](#) and be interpreted as the language associated with that string.

## Node Identifier Indexing

As described in § 4.6.3 [Node Identifier Indexing](#), node identifier indexing allows an [IRI](#) to reference a [node](#) and be interpreted as the identifier of that [node](#).

## Node Type Indexing

As described in § 4.6.4 [Node Type Indexing](#), node type indexing allows an [IRI](#) to reference a [node](#) and be interpreted as a type of that [node](#).

See § 4.8 [Named Graphs](#) for other uses of indexing in JSON-LD.

### § 4.6.1 Data Indexing

*This section is non-normative.*

Databases are typically used to make access to data more efficient. Developers often extend this sort of functionality into their application data to deliver similar performance gains. This data may have no meaning from a Linked Data standpoint, but is still useful for an application.

JSON-LD introduces the notion of [index maps](#) that can be used to structure data into a form that is more efficient to access. The data indexing feature allows an author to structure data using a simple key-value map where the keys do not map to [IRIs](#). This enables direct access to data instead of having to scan an array in search of a specific item. In JSON-LD such data can be specified by associating the [@index keyword](#) with a [@container](#) declaration in the context:



## EXAMPLE 82: Indexing data in JSON-LD

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": "@index"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "en": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/en",
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    },
    "de": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/de",
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    }
  }
}

```

In the example above, the **post** term has been marked as an index map. The **en** and **de** keys will be ignored semantically, but preserved syntactically, by the JSON-LD Processor. If used in JavaScript, this can allow a developer to access the German version of the **post** using the following code snippet: `obj.post.de`.

The interpretation of the data is expressed in the statements table. Note how the index keys do not appear in the statements, but would continue to exist if the document were compacted or expanded (see § 5.2 Compacted Document Form and § 5.1 Expanded Document Form) using a JSON-LD processor.

The value of `@container` can also be an array containing both `@index` and `@set`. When *compacting*, this ensures that a JSON-LD Processor will use the array

form for all values of indexes.

If the [processing mode](#) is set to `json-ld-1.1`, the special index `@none` is used for indexing data which does not have an associated index, which is useful to maintain a normalized representation.

### EXAMPLE 83: Indexing data using @none

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": "@index"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "en": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/en",
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    },
    "de": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/de",
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    },
    "@none": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/no-language",
      "body": "Unindexed description",
      "words": 20
    }
  }
}
```

*This section is non-normative.*

In its simplest form (as in the examples above), data indexing assigns no semantics to the keys of an [index map](#). However, in some situations, the keys used to index objects are semantically linked to these objects, and should be preserved not only syntactically, but also semantically.

If the [processing mode](#) is set to `json-ld-1.1`, `"@container": "@index"` in a term description can be accompanied with an `"@index"` key. The value of that key must map to an [IRI](#), which identifies the semantic property linking each object to its key.

**EXAMPLE 84: Property-based data indexing****Original****Expanded****Statements****Turtle**

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "dc11": "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": "@index",
      "@index": "dc11:language"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "en": {
      ↑ "en" will add `dc11:language": "en" when expanded
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/en",
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    },
    "de": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/de",
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    }
  }
}

```

**NOTE**

When using property-based data indexing, [index maps](#) can only be used on [node objects](#), not [value objects](#) or [graph objects](#). [Value objects](#) are restricted to have only certain keys and do not support arbitrary properties.

## § 4.6.2 Language Indexing

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON which includes string values in multiple languages may be represented using a [language map](#) to allow for easily indexing property values by [language tag](#). This enables direct access to language values instead of having to scan an array in search of a specific item. In JSON-LD such data can be specified by associating the [@language keyword](#) with a [@container](#) declaration in the context:

### EXAMPLE 85: Indexing languaged-tagged strings in JSON-LD

Original   Expanded   Statements   Turtle   Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@id": "vocab:label",
      "@container": "@language"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "label": {
    "en": "The Queen",
    "de": [ "Die Königin", "Ihre Majestät" ]
  }
}
```

In the example above, the **label term** has been marked as a [language map](#). The **en** and **de** keys are implicitly associated with their respective values by the [JSON-LD Processor](#). This allows a developer to access the German version of the **label** using the following code snippet: `obj.label.de`.

The value of [@container](#) can also be an array containing both [@language](#) and [@set](#). When *compacting*, this ensures that a [JSON-LD Processor](#) will use the [array](#) form for all values of language tags.

### EXAMPLE 86: Indexing languaged-tagged strings in JSON-LD with @set representation

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@id": "vocab:label",
      "@container": ["@language", "@set"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "label": {
    "en": ["The Queen"],
    "de": [ "Die Königin", "Ihre Majestät" ]
  }
}
```

If the [processing mode](#) is set to `json-ld-1.1`, the special index `@none` is used for indexing strings which do not have a language; this is useful to maintain a normalized representation for string values not having a datatype.

### EXAMPLE 87: Indexing languaged-tagged strings using @none for no language

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@id": "vocab:label",
      "@container": "@language"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "label": {
    "en": "The Queen",
    "de": [ "Die Königin", "Ihre Majestät" ],
    "@none": "The Queen"
  }
}
```

### § 4.6.3 Node Identifier Indexing

*This section is non-normative.*

In addition to [index maps](#), JSON-LD introduces the notion of [id maps](#) for structuring data. The id indexing feature allows an author to structure data using a simple key-value map where the keys map to [IRIs](#). This enables direct access to associated [node objects](#) instead of having to scan an array in search of a specific item. In JSON-LD such data can be specified by associating the [@id keyword](#) with a [@container](#) declaration in the context:

#### EXAMPLE 88: Indexing data in JSON-LD by node identifiers

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": "@id"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "http://example.com/posts/1/en": {
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    },
    "http://example.com/posts/1/de": {
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    }
  }
}
```

In the example above, the [post term](#) has been marked as an [id map](#). The [http://example.com/posts/1/en](#) and [http://example.com/posts/1/de](#) keys will be interpreted as the [@id](#) property of the [node object](#) value.

The interpretation of the data above is exactly the same as that in [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#) using a [JSON-LD processor](#).

The value of `@container` can also be an array containing both `@id` and `@set`. When *compacting*, this ensures that a [JSON-LD processor](#) will use the [array](#) form for all values of node identifiers.

#### EXAMPLE 89: Indexing data in JSON-LD by node identifiers with `@set` representation

[Original](#) [Expanded](#) [Statements](#) [Turtle](#) [Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": ["@id", "@set"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "http://example.com/posts/1/en": [{
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    }],
    "http://example.com/posts/1/de": [{
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    }]
  }
}
```

The special index `@none` is used for indexing [node objects](#) which do not have an `@id`, which is useful to maintain a normalized representation. The `@none` index may also be a term which expands to `@none`, such as the term *none* used in the example below.



**EXAMPLE 90: Indexing data in JSON-LD by node identifiers using @none**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": "@id"
    },
    "none": "@none"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "http://example.com/posts/1/en": {
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of cr
      "words": 1539
    },
    "http://example.com/posts/1/de": {
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken Ha
      "words": 1204
    },
    "none": {
      "body": "Description for object without an @id",
      "words": 20
    }
  }
}

```

**NOTE**

[Id maps](#) are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

**§ 4.6.4 Node Type Indexing**

*This section is non-normative.*

In addition to [id](#) and [index maps](#), JSON-LD introduces the notion of [type maps](#) for structuring data. The type indexing feature allows an author to structure data using a simple key-value map where the keys map to [IRIs](#). This enables data to be structured based on the [@type](#) of specific [node objects](#). In JSON-LD such data can be specified by associating the [@type](#) [keyword](#) with a [@container](#) declaration in the context:

#### EXAMPLE 91: Indexing data in JSON-LD by type

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "affiliation": {
      "@id": "schema:affiliation",
      "@container": "@type"
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "affiliation": {
    "schema:Corporation": {
      "@id": "https://digitalbazaar.com/",
      "name": "Digital Bazaar"
    },
    "schema:ProfessionalService": {
      "@id": "https://spec-ops.io",
      "name": "Spec-Ops"
    }
  }
}
```

In the example above, the [affiliation](#) [term](#) has been marked as a [type map](#). The [schema:Corporation](#) and [schema:ProfessionalService](#) keys will be interpreted as the [@type](#) property of the [node object](#) value.

The value of [@container](#) can also be an array containing both [@type](#) and [@set](#). When *compacting*, this ensures that a [JSON-LD processor](#) will use the [array](#) form for all values of types.

## EXAMPLE 92: Indexing data in JSON-LD by type with @set representation

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "affiliation": {
      "@id": "schema:affiliation",
      "@container": ["@type", "@set"]
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "affiliation": {
    "schema:Corporation": [{
      "@id": "https://digitalbazaar.com/",
      "name": "Digital Bazaar"
    }],
    "schema:ProfessionalService": [{
      "@id": "https://spec-ops.io",
      "name": "Spec-0ps"
    }]
  }
}

```

The special index `@none` is used for indexing [node objects](#) which do not have an `@type`, which is useful to maintain a normalized representation. The `@none` index may also be a term which expands to `@none`, such as the term *none* used in the example below.

**EXAMPLE 93: Indexing data in JSON-LD by type using @none**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "affiliation": {
      "@id": "schema:affiliation",
      "@container": "@type"
    },
    "none": "@none"
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "affiliation": {
    "schema:Corporation": {
      "@id": "https://digitalbazaar.com/",
      "name": "Digital Bazaar"
    },
    "schema:ProfessionalService": {
      "@id": "https://spec-ops.io",
      "name": "Spec-Ops"
    },
    "none": {
      "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/",
      "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
    }
  }
}

```

As with [id maps](#), when used with `@type`, a container may also include `@set` to ensure that key values are always contained in an array.

**NOTE**

[Type maps](#) are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

**§ 4.7 Reverse Properties**

*This section is non-normative.*

JSON-LD serializes directed [graphs](#). That means that every [property](#) points from a [node](#) to another [node](#) or [value](#). However, in some cases, it is desirable to serialize in the reverse direction. Consider for example the case where a person and its children should be described in a document. If the used vocabulary does not provide a *children* [property](#) but just a *parent* [property](#), every [node](#) representing a child would have to be expressed with a [property](#) pointing to the parent as in the following example.

#### EXAMPLE 94: A document with children linking to their parent

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

Open in playground

```
[
  {
    "@id": "#homer",
    "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Homer"
  }, {
    "@id": "#bart",
    "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Bart",
    "http://example.com/vocab#parent": { "@id": "#homer" }
  }, {
    "@id": "#lisa",
    "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Lisa",
    "http://example.com/vocab#parent": { "@id": "#homer" }
  }
]
```

Expressing such data is much simpler by using JSON-LD's [@reverse](#) [keyword](#):

**EXAMPLE 95: A person and its children using a reverse property**[Original](#)[Expanded](#)[Flattened](#)[Statements](#)[Turtle](#)[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@id": "#homer",
  "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Homer",
  "@reverse": {
    "http://example.com/vocab#parent": [
      {
        "@id": "#bart",
        "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Bart"
      }, {
        "@id": "#lisa",
        "http://example.com/vocab#name": "Lisa"
      }
    ]
  }
}
```

The [@reverse](#) keyword can also be used in [expanded term definitions](#) to create reverse properties as shown in the following example:

**EXAMPLE 96: Using @reverse to define reverse properties**[Original](#)[Expanded](#)[Flattened](#)[Statements](#)[Turtle](#)[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": { "name": "http://example.com/vocab#name",
    "children": { "@reverse": "http://example.com/vocab#parent" }
  },
  "@id": "#homer",
  "name": "Homer",
  "children": [
    {
      "@id": "#bart",
      "name": "Bart"
    }, {
      "@id": "#lisa",
      "name": "Lisa"
    }
  ]
}
```

## § 4.8 Named Graphs

*This section is non-normative.*

At times, it is necessary to make statements about a [graph](#) itself, rather than just a single [node](#). This can be done by grouping a set of [nodes](#) using the [@graph](#) [keyword](#). A developer may also name data expressed using the [@graph](#) [keyword](#) by pairing it with an [@id](#) [keyword](#) as shown in the following example:

### EXAMPLE 97: Identifying and making statements about a graph

[Original](#)
[Expanded](#)
[Statements](#)
[TriG](#)
[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "generatedAt": {
      "@id": "http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#generatedAtTime",
      "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"
    },
    "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": {"@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows", "@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/foaf-graph",
  "generatedAt": "2012-04-09",
  "@graph": [
    {
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Manu Sporny",
      "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
    }, {
      "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
      "knows": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu"
    }
  ]
}
```

The example above expresses a [named graph](#) that is identified by the [IRI](#) <http://example.org/foaf-graph>. That graph is composed of the statements about Manu and Gregg. Metadata about the graph itself is expressed via the [generatedAt](#) property, which specifies when the graph was generated.

When a JSON-LD document's top-level structure is an [dictionary](#) that contains

no other keys than `@graph` and optionally `@context` (properties that are not mapped to an [IRI](#) or a [keyword](#) are ignored), `@graph` is considered to express the otherwise implicit [default graph](#). This mechanism can be useful when a number of [nodes](#) exist at the document's top level that share the same [context](#), which is, e.g., the case when a document is [flattened](#). The `@graph` keyword collects such nodes in an [array](#) and allows the use of a shared context.

#### EXAMPLE 98: Using `@graph` to explicitly express the default graph

Original

Expanded

Statements

TriG

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "knows": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@graph": [
    {
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Manu Sporny",
      "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
    }, {
      "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
      "knows": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu"
    }
  ]
}
```

In this case, [embedding](#) doesn't work as each [node object](#) references the other. This is equivalent to using multiple [node objects](#) in array and defining the `@context` within each [node object](#):



**EXAMPLE 99: Context needs to be duplicated if @graph is not used**

Original

Expanded

Statements

TriG

Open in playground

```
[
  {
    "@context": {
      "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
      "knows": {"@type": "@id"}
    },
    "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Manu Sporny",
    "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
  },
  {
    "@context": {
      "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
      "knows": {"@type": "@id"}
    },
    "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
    "@type": "Person",
    "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
    "knows": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu"
  }
]
```

**§ 4.8.1 Graph Containers**

*This section is non-normative.*

In some cases, it is useful to logically partition data into separate graphs, without making this explicit within the JSON expression. For example, a JSON document may contain data against which other metadata is asserted and it is useful to separate this data in the data model using the notion of [named graphs](#), without the syntactic overhead associated with the `@graph` keyword.

An [expanded term definition](#) can use `@graph` as the value of `@container`. This indicates that values of this [term](#) should be considered to be [named graphs](#), where the [graph name](#) is an automatically assigned [blank node identifier](#) creating an [implicitly named graph](#). When expanded, these become [simple graph objects](#).

A different example uses an anonymously [named graph](#) as follows:

**EXAMPLE 100: Implicitly named graph**[Original](#)[Expanded](#)[Statements](#)[TriG](#)[Open in playground](#)

```

{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@base": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/",
    "said": "http://example.com/said",
    "wrote": {"@id": "http://example.com/wrote", "@container": "@graph"}
  },
  "@id": "William_Shakespeare",
  "wrote": {
    "@id": "Richard_III_of_England",
    "said": "My kingdom for a horse"
  }
}

```

The example above expresses an anonymously [named graph](#) making a statement. The [default graph](#) includes a statement saying that the [subject](#) wrote that statement. This is an example of separating statements into a [named graph](#), and then making assertions about the statements contained within that [named graph](#).

**NOTE**

Strictly speaking, the value of such a [term](#) is not a [named graph](#), rather it is the [graph name](#) associated with the [named graph](#), which exists separately within the [dataset](#).

**NOTE**

Graph Containers are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

**§ 4.8.2 Named Graph Data Indexing**

*This section is non-normative.*

In addition to indexing [node objects](#) by index, [graph objects](#) may also be indexed by an index. By using the `@graph` container type, introduced in [§ 4.8.1](#)

[Graph Containers](#) in addition to [@index](#), an object value of such a property is treated as a key-value map where the keys do not map to [IRIs](#), but are taken from an [@index](#) property associated with [named graphs](#) which are their values. When expanded, these must be [simple graph objects](#)

The following example describes a [default graph](#) referencing multiple named graphs using an [index map](#).

#### EXAMPLE 101: Indexing graph data in JSON-LD

Original   Expanded   Statements   TriG   Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": ["@graph", "@index"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "en": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/en",
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of c
      "words": 1539
    },
    "de": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/de",
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken H
      "words": 1204
    }
  }
}
```

As with [index maps](#), when used with [@graph](#), a container may also include [@set](#) to ensure that key values are always contained in an array.

If the [processing mode](#) is set to [json-ld-1.1](#), the special index [@none](#) is used for indexing graphs which does not have an [@index](#) key, which is useful to

maintain a normalized representation. █ Note, however, that compacting a document where multiple unidentified named graphs are compacted using the `@none` index will result in the content of those graphs being merged. To prevent this, give each graph a distinct `@index` key. █

### EXAMPLE 102: Indexing graphs using `@none` for no index

Original

Expanded

Statements

TriG

Open in playground

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "schema": "http://schema.org/",
    "name": "schema:name",
    "body": "schema:articleBody",
    "words": "schema:wordCount",
    "post": {
      "@id": "schema:blogPost",
      "@container": ["@graph", "@index"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "@type": "schema:Blog",
  "name": "World Financial News",
  "post": {
    "en": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/en",
      "body": "World commodities were up today with heavy trading of c
      "words": 1539
    },
    "@none": {
      "@id": "http://example.com/posts/1/no-language",
      "body": "Die Werte an Warenbörsen stiegen im Sog eines starken F
      "words": 1204
    }
  }
}
```

### § 4.8.3 Named Graph Indexing

*This section is non-normative.*

In addition to indexing [node objects](#) by identifier, [graph objects](#) may also be indexed by their [graph name](#). By using the `@graph` container type, introduced

in § 4.8.1 [Graph Containers](#) in addition to `@id`, an object value of such a property is treated as a key-value map where the keys represent the identifiers of [named graphs](#) which are their values.

The following example describes a [default graph](#) referencing multiple named graphs using an [id map](#).

### EXAMPLE 103: Referencing named graphs using an id map

Original

Expanded

Statements

TriG

[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "generatedAt": {
      "@id": "http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#generatedAtTime",
      "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"
    },
    "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows",
      "@type": "@id"
    },
    "graphMap": {
      "@id": "http://example.org/graphMap",
      "@container": ["@graph", "@id"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/foaf-graph",
  "generatedAt": "2012-04-09",
  "graphMap": {
    "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu": {
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Manu Sporny",
      "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
    },
    "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me": {
      "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
      "knows": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu"
    }
  }
}
```

As with [id maps](#), when used with [@graph](#), a container may also include [@set](#) to ensure that key values are always contained in an array.

As with [id maps](#), the special index [@none](#) is used for indexing [named graphs](#) which do not have an [@id](#), which is useful to maintain a normalized representation. The [@none](#) index may also be a term which expands to [@none](#).

Note, however, that if multiple graphs are represented without an [@id](#), they will be merged on expansion. To prevent this, use [@none](#) judiciously, and consider giving graphs their own distinct identifier.

#### EXAMPLE 104: Referencing named graphs using an id map with @none

Original

Expanded

Statements

TriG

[Open in playground](#)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "generatedAt": {
      "@id": "http://www.w3.org/ns/prov#generatedAtTime",
      "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"
    },
    "Person": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person",
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": {"@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows", "@type": "@id"}
    "graphMap": {
      "@id": "http://example.org/graphMap",
      "@container": ["@graph", "@id"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/foaf-graph",
  "generatedAt": "2012-04-09",
  "graphMap": {
    "@none": [{
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Manu Sporny",
      "knows": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me"
    }, {
      "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
      "@type": "Person",
      "name": "Gregg Kellogg",
      "knows": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu"
    }
  ]
}
```

## NOTE

Graph Containers are a new feature in JSON-LD 1.1, requiring [processing mode](#) set to `json-ld-1.1`.

## § 5. Forms of JSON-LD

*This section is non-normative.*

As with many data formats, there is no single correct way to describe data in JSON-LD. However, as JSON-LD is used for describing graphs, certain transformations can be used to change the shape of the data, without changing its meaning as Linked Data.

### Expanded Document Form

[Expansion](#) is the process of taking a JSON-LD document and applying a [context](#) so that the `@context` is no longer necessary. This process is described further in [§ 5.1 Expanded Document Form](#).

### Compacted Document Form

[Compaction](#) is the process of applying a provided [context](#) to an existing JSON-LD document. This process is described further in [§ 5.2 Compacted Document Form](#).

### Flattened Document Form

[Flattening](#) is the process of extracting embedded nodes to the top level of the JSON tree, and replacing the embedded node with a reference, creating blank node identifiers as necessary. This process is described further in [§ 5.3 Flattened Document Form](#).

### Framed Document Form

[Framing](#) is used to shape the data in a JSON-LD document, using an example [frame](#) document which is used to both match the [flattened](#) data and show an example of how the resulting data should be shaped. This process is described further in [§ 5.4 Framed Document Form](#).

## § 5.1 Expanded Document Form

*This section is non-normative.*

The JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)] defines a method for *expanding* a JSON-LD document. [Expansion](#) is the process of taking a JSON-LD document and applying a [context](#) such that all

IRIs, types, and values are expanded so that the `@context` is no longer necessary.

For example, assume the following JSON-LD input document:

**EXAMPLE 105:** Sample JSON-LD document to be expanded

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/"
}
```

Input

Running the JSON-LD [Expansion algorithm](#) against the JSON-LD input document provided above would result in the following output:

**EXAMPLE 106:** Expanded form for the previous example

Expanded   Statements   Turtle   Open in playground

```
[
  {
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": [
      { "@value": "Manu Sporny" }
    ],
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage": [
      { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/" }
    ]
  }
]
```

[JSON-LD's media type](#) defines a `profile` parameter which can be used to signal or request **expanded document form**. The profile URI identifying [expanded document form](#) is <http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#expanded>.

## § 5.2 Compacted Document Form



*This section is non-normative.*

The JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)] defines a method for *compacting* a JSON-LD document. **Compaction** is the process of applying a developer-supplied [context](#) to shorten [IRIs](#) to [terms](#) or [compact IRIs](#) and JSON-LD values expressed in expanded form to simple values such as [strings](#) or [numbers](#). Often this makes it simpler to work with document as the data is expressed in application-specific terms. Compacted documents are also typically easier to read for humans.

For example, assume the following JSON-LD input document:

**EXAMPLE 107: Sample expanded JSON-LD document**

```
[
  {
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": [ "Manu Sporny" ],
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage": [
      {
        "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/"
      }
    ]
  }
]
```

Input

Additionally, assume the following developer-supplied JSON-LD context:

**EXAMPLE 108: Sample context**

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  }
}
```

Context

Running the JSON-LD [Compaction algorithm](#) given the [context](#) supplied above against the JSON-LD input document provided above would result in the following output:

### EXAMPLE 109: Compact form of the sample document once sample context has been applied

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "homepage": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/homepage",
      "@type": "@id"
    }
  },
  "name": "Manu Sporny",
  "homepage": "http://manu.sporny.org/"
}
```

[JSON-LD's media type](#) defines a **profile** parameter which can be used to signal or request **compacted document form**. The profile URI identifying [compacted document form](#) is <http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#compacted>.

The details of Compaction are described in the [Compaction algorithm](#) in [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#). This section provides a short description of how the algorithm operates as a guide to authors creating [contexts](#) to be used for *compacting* JSON-LD documents.

The purpose of compaction is to apply the [term definitions](#), [vocabulary mapping](#), [default language](#), and [base IRI](#) to an existing JSON-LD document to cause it to be represented in a form that is tailored to the use of the JSON-LD document directly as JSON. This includes representing values as [strings](#), rather than [value objects](#), where possible, shortening the use of [list objects](#) into simple [arrays](#), reversing the relationship between [nodes](#), and using data maps to index into multiple values instead of representing them as an array of values.

#### § 5.2.1 Shortening IRIs

*This section is non-normative.*

In an expanded JSON-LD document, [IRIs](#) are always represented as absolute [IRIs](#). In many cases, it is preferable to use a shorter version, either a [relative IRI](#), [compact IRI](#), or [term](#). Compaction uses a combination of elements in a context to create a shorter form of these IRIs. See [§ 4.1.2 Default Vocabulary](#),

§ 4.1.3 [Base IRI](#), and § 4.1.4 [Compact IRIs](#) for more details.

The [vocabulary mapping](#) can be used to shorten IRIs that may be *vocabulary relative* by removing the IRI prefix that matches the [vocabulary mapping](#). This is done whenever an IRI is determined to be vocabulary relative, i.e., used as a [property](#), or a value of `@type`, or as the value of a [term](#) described as `"@type": "@vocab"`.

#### EXAMPLE 110: Compacting using a default vocabulary

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": ["http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Restaurant"],
  "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": [{"@value": "Brew Eats"}]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  }
}
```

Context

The compaction algorithm will shorten all vocabulary-relative IRIs that begin with `http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/`:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/places#BrewEats",
  "@type": "Restaurant",
  "name": "Brew Eats"
}
```

Note that two IRIs were shortened, unnecessary arrays are removed, and simple string values are replaced with the string.

See [Security Considerations](#) in § C. [IANA Considerations](#) for a discussion on how string vocabulary-relative IRI resolution via concatenation.

**EXAMPLE 111: Compacting using a base IRI**

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.com/document.jsonld",
  "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label": [{"@value": "Jus"}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@base": "http://example.com/",
    "label": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label"
  }
}
```

Context

The compaction algorithm will shorten all document-relative IRIs that begin with `http://example.com/`:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@base": "http://example.com/",
    "label": "http://www.w3.org/2000/01/rdf-schema#label"
  },
  "@id": "document.jsonld",
  "label": "Just a simple document"
}
```

## § 5.2.2 Representing Values as Strings

*This section is non-normative.*

To be unambiguous, the [expanded document form](#) always represents [nodes](#) and values using [node objects](#) and [value objects](#). Moreover, property values are always contained within an array, even when there is only one value. Sometimes this is useful to maintain a uniformity of access, but most JSON data use the simplest possible representation, meaning that [properties](#) have single values, which are represented as [strings](#) or as structured values such as [node objects](#). By default, [compaction](#) will represent values which are simple strings as [strings](#), but sometimes a value is an [IRI](#), a date, or some other [typed value](#) for which a simple string representation would lose

information. By specifying this within a [term definition](#), the semantics of a string value can be inferred from the definition of the [term](#) used as a [property](#). See [§ 4.2 Describing Values](#) for more details.

**EXAMPLE 112: Coercing Values to Strings**

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "http://example.com/plain": [
    {"@value": "string"},
    {"@value": true},
    {"@value": 1}
  ],
  "http://example.com/date": [
    {
      "@value": "2018-02-16",
      "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"
    }
  ],
  "http://example.com/en": [
    {"@value": "English", "@language": "en"}
  ],
  "http://example.com/iri": [
    {"@id": "http://example.com/some-location"}
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/",
    "date": {"@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"},
    "en": {"@language": "en"},
    "iri": {"@type": "@id"}
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version will use string values for the defined terms when the values match the [term definition](#). Note that there is no term defined for "plain", that is created automatically using the [vocabulary mapping](#). Also, the other native values, `1` and `true`, can be represented without defining a specific type mapping.

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/",
    "date": {"@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"},
    "en": {"@language": "en"},
    "iri": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "plain": ["string", true, 1],
  "date": "2018-02-16",
  "en": "English",
  "iri": "http://example.com/some-location"
}
```

### § 5.2.3 Representing Lists as Arrays

*This section is non-normative.*

As described in [§ 4.3.1 Lists](#), JSON-LD has an expanded syntax for representing ordered values, using the `@list` keyword. To simplify the representation in JSON-LD, a term can be defined with `"@container": "@list"` which causes all values of a property using such a term to be considered ordered.

**EXAMPLE 113: Using Arrays for Lists**

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/nick": [{
    "@list": [
      {"@value": "joe"},
      {"@value": "bob"},
      {"@value": "jaybee"}
    ]
  }]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "nick": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/nick",
      "@container": "@list"
    }
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version eliminates the explicit [list object](#).

```
{
  "@context": {
    "nick": {
      "@id": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/nick",
      "@container": "@list"
    }
  },
  "nick": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ]
}
```

### § 5.2.4 Reversing Node Relationships

*This section is non-normative.*

In some cases, the property used to relate two nodes may be better expressed if the nodes have a reverse direction, for example, when describing a



relationship between two people and a common parent. See [§ 4.7 Reverse Properties](#) for more details.

**EXAMPLE 114: Reversing Node Relationships**

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.org/#homer",
  "http://example.com/vocab#name": [{"@value": "Homer"}],
  "@reverse": {
    "http://example.com/vocab#parent": [{
      "@id": "http://example.org/#bart",
      "http://example.com/vocab#name": [{"@value": "Bart"}]
    }, {
      "@id": "http://example.org/#lisa",
      "http://example.com/vocab#name": [{"@value": "Lisa"}]
    }
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://example.com/vocab#name",
    "children": { "@reverse": "http://example.com/vocab#parent" }
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version eliminates the `@reverse` property by describing "children" as the reverse of "parent".

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://example.com/vocab#name",
    "children": { "@reverse": "http://example.com/vocab#parent" }
  },
  "@id": "#homer",
  "name": "Homer",
  "children": [
    { "@id": "#bart", "name": "Bart" },
    { "@id": "#lisa", "name": "Lisa" }
  ]
}
```

Reverse properties can be even more useful when combined with [framing](#),

which can actually make [node objects](#) defined at the top-level of a document to become embedded nodes. JSON-LD provides a means to index such values, by defining an appropriate `@container` definition within a term definition.

### § 5.2.5 Indexing Values

*This section is non-normative.*

Properties with multiple values are typically represented using an unordered [array](#). This means that an application working on an internalized representation of that JSON would need to iterate through the values of the array to find a value matching a particular pattern, such as a [language-tagged string](#) using the language `en`.

## EXAMPLE 115: Indexing language-tagged strings

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "http://example.com/vocab/label": [
    {"@value": "The Queen", "@language": "en"},
    {"@value": "Die Königin", "@language": "de"},
    {"@value": "Ihre Majestät", "@language": "de"}
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@id": "vocab:label",
      "@container": "@language"
    }
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version uses a [dictionary](#) value for "label", with the keys representing the [language tag](#) and the values are the [strings](#) associated with the relevant [language tag](#).

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@id": "vocab:label",
      "@container": "@language"
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "label": {
    "en": "The Queen",
    "de": [ "Die Königin", "Ihre Majestät" ]
  }
}
```

Data can be indexed on a number of different keys, including @id, @type, @language, @index and more. See [§ 4.6 Indexed Values](#) and [§ 4.8 Named Graphs](#) for more details.

### § 5.2.6 Normalizing Values as Objects

*This section is non-normative.*

Sometimes it's useful to compact a document, but keep the node object and value object representations. For this, a term definition can set "@type": "@none". This causes the [Value Compaction](#) algorithm to always use the object form of values, although components of that value may be compacted.

### EXAMPLE 116: Forcing Object Values

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "http://example.com/notype": [
    {"@value": "string"},
    {"@value": true},
    {"@value": false},
    {"@value": 1},
    {"@value": 10.0},
    {"@value": "plain"},
    {"@value": "false", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"},
    {"@value": "english", "@language": "en"},
    {"@value": "2018-02-17", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"},
    {"@id": "http://example.com/iri"}
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "notype": {"@id": "http://example.com/notype", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"}
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version will use string values for the defined terms when the values match the [term definition](#). Also, the other native values, **1** and **true**, can be represented without defining a specific type mapping.

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "notype": {"@id": "http://example.com/notype", "@type": "@none"}
  },
  "notype": [
    {"@value": "string"},
    {"@value": true},
    {"@value": false},
    {"@value": 1},
    {"@value": 10.0},
    {"@value": "plain"},
    {"@value": "false", "@type": "xsd:boolean"},
    {"@value": "english", "@language": "en"},
    {"@value": "2018-02-17", "@type": "xsd:date"},
    {"@id": "http://example.com/iri"}
  ]
}
```

### § 5.2.7 Representing Singular Values as Arrays

*This section is non-normative.*

Generally, when compacting, properties having only one value are represented as strings or dictionaries, while properties having multiple values are represented as an array of strings or dictionaries. This means that applications accessing such properties need to be prepared to accept either representation. To force all values to be represented using an array, a term definition can set `"@container": "@set"`. Moreover, `@set` can be used in combination with other container settings, for example looking at our [language-map example from § 5.2.5 Indexing Values](#):

## EXAMPLE 117: Indexing language-tagged strings and @set

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "http://example.com/vocab/label": [
    {"@value": "The Queen", "@language": "en"},
    {"@value": "Die Königin", "@language": "de"},
    {"@value": "Ihre Majestät", "@language": "de"}
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@container": ["@language", "@set"]
    }
  }
}
```

Context

The compacted version uses a [dictionary](#) value for "label" as before. and the values are the relevant [strings](#) but always represented using an [array](#).

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "label": {
      "@container": ["@language", "@set"]
    }
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/queen",
  "label": {
    "en": ["The Queen"],
    "de": [ "Die Königin", "Ihre Majestät" ]
  }
}
```



## § 5.2.8 Term Selection

*This section is non-normative.*

When compacting, the [Compaction algorithm](#) will compact using a term for a property only when the values of that property match the `@container`, `@type`, and `@language` specifications for that [term definition](#). This can actually split values between different properties, all of which have the same [IRI](#). In case there is no matching [term definition](#), the compaction algorithm will compact using the absolute [IRI](#) of the property.

**EXAMPLE 118: Term Selection**

Given the following expanded document:

```
[{
  "http://example.com/vocab/property": [
    {"@value": "string"},
    {"@value": true},
    {"@value": 1},
    {"@value": "false", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#boolean"},
    {"@value": "10", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#integer"},
    {"@value": "english", "@language": "en"},
    {"@value": "2018-02-17", "@type": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#date"},
    {"@id": "http://example.com/some-location"}
  ]
}]
```

Input

And the following context:

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "integer": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "xsd:integer"},
    "date": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "xsd:date"},
    "english": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@language": "en"},
    "list": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@container": "@list"},
    "iri": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "@id"}
  }
}
```

Context

Note that the values that match the "integer", "english", "date", and "iri" terms are properly matched, and that everything that does not explicitly match is added to a property created using a [compact IRI](#).

```
{
  "@context": {
    "vocab": "http://example.com/vocab/",
    "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
    "integer": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "xsd:integer"},
    "date": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "xsd:date"},
    "english": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@language": "en"},
    "list": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@container": "@list"},
    "iri": {"@id": "vocab:property", "@type": "@id"}
  },
  "vocab:property": [
    "string", true, 1,
    {"@value": "false", "@type": "xsd:boolean"}
  ],
  "integer": "10",
  "english": "english",
  "date": "2018-02-17",
  "iri": "http://example.com/some-location"
}
```

## § 5.3 Flattened Document Form

*This section is non-normative.*

The JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)] defines a method for *flattening* a JSON-LD document. **Flattening** collects all properties of a node in a single dictionary and labels all blank nodes with blank node identifiers. This ensures a shape of the data and consequently may drastically simplify the code required to process JSON-LD in certain applications.

For example, assume the following JSON-LD input document:

**EXAMPLE 119:** Sample JSON-LD document to be flattened

Input

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows"
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  "knows": [
    {
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "name": "Manu Sporny"
    }, {
      "name": "Dave Longley"
    }
  ]
}
```

Running the JSON-LD [Flattening algorithm](#) against the JSON-LD input document in the example above and using the same context would result in the following output:

## EXAMPLE 120: Flattened and compacted form for the previous example

[Open in playground](#)

---

```
{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows"
  },
  "@graph": [{
    "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
    "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
    "knows": [
      { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu" },
      { "@id": "_:b0" }
    ]
  }, {
    "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
    "name": "Manu Sporny"
  }, {
    "@id": "_:b0",
    "name": "Dave Longley"
  }
]
```

[JSON-LD's media type](#) defines a **profile** parameter which can be used to signal or request **flattened document form**. The profile URI identifying [flattened document form](#) is <http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#flattened>. It can be combined with the profile URI identifying [expanded document form](#) or [compact document form](#).

## § 5.4 Framed Document Form

*This section is non-normative.*

The JSON-LD 1.1 Framing specification [[JSON-LD11-FRAMING](#)] defines a method for *framing* a JSON-LD document. **Framing** is used to shape the data in a JSON-LD document, using an example [frame](#) document which is used to both match the [flattened](#) data and show an example of how the resulting data should be shaped.

For example, assume the following JSON-LD frame:

### EXAMPLE 121: Sample library frame

Frame

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@vocab": "http://example.org/"
  },
  "@type": "Library",
  "contains": {
    "@type": "Book",
    "contains": {
      "@type": "Chapter"
    }
  }
}
```

This [frame](#) document describes an embedding structure that would place objects with type *Library* at the top, with objects of type *Book* that were linked to the library object using the *contains* property embedded as property values. It also places objects of type *Chapter* within the referencing *Book* object as embedded values of the *Book* object.

When using a flattened set of objects that match the frame components:

## EXAMPLE 122: Flattened library objects

Input

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@vocab": "http://example.org/",
    "contains": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@graph": [{
    "@id": "http://example.org/library",
    "@type": "Library",
    "contains": "http://example.org/library/the-republic"
  }, {
    "@id": "http://example.org/library/the-republic",
    "@type": "Book",
    "creator": "Plato",
    "title": "The Republic",
    "contains": "http://example.org/library/the-republic#introdu
  }, {
    "@id": "http://example.org/library/the-republic#introduction
    "@type": "Chapter",
    "description": "An introductory chapter on The Republic.",
    "title": "The Introduction"
  }
}]
}
```

The Frame Algorithm can create a new document which follows the structure of the frame:

## EXAMPLE 123: Framed library objects

[Open in playground](#)

---

```
{
  "@context": {
    "@version": 1.1,
    "@vocab": "http://example.org/"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/library",
  "@type": "Library",
  "contains": {
    "@id": "http://example.org/library/the-republic",
    "@type": "Book",
    "contains": {
      "@id": "http://example.org/library/the-republic#introduction",
      "@type": "Chapter",
      "description": "An introductory chapter on The Republic.",
      "title": "The Introduction"
    },
    "creator": "Plato",
    "title": "The Republic"
  }
}
```

[JSON-LD's media type](#) defines a **profile** parameter which can be used to signal or request **framed document form**. The profile URI identifying [framed document form](#) is <http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#framed>.

[JSON-LD's media type](#) also defines a **profile** parameter which can be used to identify a [script element](#) in an HTML document containing a frame. The first [script element](#) of type <application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#frame> will be used to find a [frame](#). This is similar to the mechanism described for retrieving contexts from HTML documents as described in [§ 7.4 Using an HTML document as a Context](#).

## § 6. Interpreting JSON as JSON-LD

Ordinary JSON documents can be interpreted as JSON-LD by providing an explicit JSON-LD [context](#) document. One way to provide this is by using referencing a JSON-LD [context](#) document in an [HTTP Link Header](#). Doing so allows JSON to be unambiguously machine-readable without requiring developers to drastically change their documents and provides an upgrade



path for existing infrastructure without breaking existing clients that rely on the `application/json` media type or a media type with a `+json` suffix as defined in [RFC6839].

In order to use an external context with an ordinary JSON document, when retrieving an ordinary JSON document via HTTP, processors *MUST* attempt to retrieve any JSON-LD document referenced by a Link Header with:

- `rel="http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context"`, and
- `type="application/ld+json"`.

The referenced document *MUST* have a top-level JSON object. The `@context member` within that object is added to the top-level JSON object of the referencing document. If an array is at the top-level of the referencing document and its items are JSON objects, the `@context` subtree is added to all array items. All extra information located outside of the `@context` subtree in the referenced document *MUST* be discarded. Effectively this means that the active context is initialized with the referenced external context. A response *MUST NOT* contain more than one HTTP Link Header [RFC8288] using the `http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context` link relation.

Other mechanisms for providing a JSON-LD Context *MAY* be described for other URI schemes.

The JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [JSON-LD11-API] provides for an `expandContext` option for specifying a context to use when expanding JSON documents programmatically.

The following example demonstrates the use of an external context with an ordinary JSON document over HTTP:

### EXAMPLE 124: Referencing a JSON-LD context from a JSON document via an HTTP Link Header

```
GET /ordinary-json-document.json HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
Accept: application/ld+json,application/json,*/*;q=0.1

=====

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
...
Content-Type: application/json
Link: <https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld>; rel="http://www.w3.

{
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  "homepage": "http://www.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "image": "http://twitter.com/account/profile_image/markuslanthaler"
}
```

Please note that [JSON-LD documents](#) served with the `application/ld+json` media type *MUST* have all context information, including references to external contexts, within the body of the document. Contexts linked via a `http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context` [HTTP Link Header](#) *MUST* be ignored for such documents.

## § 7. Embedding JSON-LD in HTML Documents

### NOTE

This section describes features available to a [full Processor](#).

JSON-LD content can be easily embedded in HTML [[HTML](#)] by placing it in a [script element](#) with the `type` attribute set to `application/ld+json`. Doing so creates a [data block](#).

## EXAMPLE 125: Embedding JSON-LD in HTML

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

```
<script type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
  "@id": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/John_Lennon",
  "name": "John Lennon",
  "born": "1940-10-09",
  "spouse": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/Cynthia_Lennon"
}
</script>
```

Defining how such data may be used is beyond the scope of this specification. The embedded JSON-LD document might be extracted as is or, e.g., be interpreted as RDF.

If JSON-LD content is extracted as RDF [[RDF11-CONCEPTS](#)], it *MUST* be expanded into an [RDF Dataset](#) using the [Deserialize JSON-LD to RDF Algorithm](#) [[JSON-LD11-API](#)]. Unless a specific script is targeted (see [§ 7.3 Locating a Specific JSON-LD Script Element](#)), all [script elements](#) with [type application/ld+json](#) *MUST* be processed and merged into a single [dataset](#) with equivalent [blank node identifiers](#) contained in separate script elements treated as if they were in a single document (i.e., blank nodes are shared between different JSON-LD script elements).

## EXAMPLE 126: Combining multiple JSON-LD script elements into a single dataset

Original

Statements

Turtle

```
<p>Data describing Dave</p>
<script type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@id": "https://digitalbazaar.com/author/dlongley/",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Dave Longley"
}
</script>

<p>Data describing Gregg</p>
<script type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
}
</script>
```

### § 7.1 Inheriting base IRI from HTML's base element

When processing a JSON-LD [script element](#), the [Document Base URL](#) of the containing HTML document, as defined in [[HTML](#)], is used to establish the default [base IRI](#) of the enclosed JSON-LD content.

**EXAMPLE 127: Using the document base URL to establish the default base IRI**

Original

Expanded

Statements

Turtle

```

<html>
  <head>
    <base href="http://dbpedia.org/resource/" />
    <script type="application/ld+json">
      {
        "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld",
        "@id": "John_Lennon",
        "name": "John Lennon",
        "born": "1940-10-09",
        "spouse": "Cynthia_Lennon"
      }
    </script>
  </head>
</html>

```

HTML allows for [Dynamic changes to base URLs](#). This specification does not require any specific behavior, and to ensure that all systems process the [base IRI](#) equivalently, authors *SHOULD* either use [absolute IRIs](#), or explicitly as defined in [§ 4.1.3 Base IRI](#). Implementations (particularly those natively operating in the [\[DOM\]](#)) *MAY* take into consideration [Dynamic changes to base URLs](#).

## § 7.2 Restrictions for contents of JSON-LD **script** elements

*This section is non-normative.*

Due to the HTML [Restrictions for contents of <script> elements](#) additional encoding restrictions are placed on JSON-LD data contained in [script elements](#).

Authors should avoid using character sequences in scripts embedded in HTML which may be confused with a *comment-open*, *script-open*, *comment-close*, or *script-close*.

**NOTE**

Such content should be escaped as indicated below, however the content will remain escaped after processing through the JSON-LD API [[JSON-LD11-API](#)].

- `&amp;` → `&` ([ampersand](#), U+0026)
- `&lt;` → `<` (less-than sign, U+003C)
- `&gt;` → `>` (greater-than sign, U+003E)
- `&quot;` → `"` (quotation mark, U+0022)
- `&apos;` → `'` (apostrophe, U+0027)

**EXAMPLE 128: Embedding JSON-LD containing HTML in HTML**

Original

Expanded

Turtle

```
<script type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@type": "WebPageElement",
  "name": "Encoding Issues",
  "description": "Issues list such as unescaped &lt;/script&gt; or --&
}
</script>
```

**§ 7.3 Locating a Specific JSON-LD Script Element**

A specific [script element](#) within an HTML document may be located using a fragment identifier matching the [unique identifier](#) of the script element within the HTML document located by a URL (see [[DOM](#)]). A [JSON-LD processor](#) *MUST* extract only the specified data block's contents parsing it as a standalone [JSON-LD document](#) and *MUST NOT* merge the result with any other markup from the same HTML document.

For example, given an HTML document located at <http://example.com/document>, a script element identified by "name" can be targeted using the URL <http://example.com/document#name>.

**EXAMPLE 129: Targeting a specific script element by id**

Original

Statements

Turtle

Targeting a script element with id "gregg"

```

<p>Data describing Dave</p>
<script id="dave" type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@id": "https://digitalbazaar.com/author/dlongley/",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Dave Longley"
}
</script>

<p>Data describing Gregg</p>
<script id="gregg" type="application/ld+json">
{
  "@context": "http://schema.org/",
  "@id": "https://greggkellogg.net/foaf#me",
  "@type": "Person",
  "name": "Gregg Kellogg"
}
</script>

```

## § 7.4 Using an HTML document as a Context

A JSON-LD document, whether embedded in HTML or otherwise, may reference a [context document](#) by using a string value to `@context`. This string is interpreted as a URL to an external document from which the context is loaded. In JSON-LD 1.1, this external document may also be HTML containing a [script element](#) with the `type` attribute set to `application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context`.

A processor processing a remote context which results in an HTML document *MUST* locate the first [script element](#) with the `type` attribute set to `application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context`, or a specific script element targeted using a fragment identifier, or the first script element of type `application/ld+json` if no other is found.

Including a context definition within an HTML document provides a means of documenting the context content, along with other information such as the

vocabulary definition.

For example, a context may be defined within an HTML file as follows (a subset of the *Person* context published at <https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.html>):

**EXAMPLE 130:** Context defined in an HTML document

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html lang="en">
  <head>
    <meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html;charse
    <title>Context definition of a person</title>
    <script type="application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.o
      {
        "@context":
          {
            "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
            "schema": "http://schema.org/",
            "vcard": "http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/ns#",
            "xsd": "http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#",
            "Address": "vcard:Address",
            ...
          }
      }
    </script>
  </head>
  <body>
    <h1>The Person context</h1>
    <p>The Person context is based on a combination of <a href
      <a href="http://schema.org/">schema.org </a>,
      and <a href="http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/ns#">vcard</a>
    </p>
    <dl>
      <dt>foaf</dt><dd><code>http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/</code>
      <dt>schema</dt><dd><code>http://schema.org/</code></dd>
      <dt>vcard</dt><dd><code>http://www.w3.org/2006/vcard/n
      <dt>xsd</dt><dd><code>http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchem
      <dt>Address</dt><dd><code>vcard:Address</code></dd>
      ...
    </dl>
  </body>
</html>
```

Context

Using a previous example, we can reference <https://json-ld.org/contexts>



`/person.html` instead of `https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.jsonld` and a JSON-LD processor will look for the context within the referenced HTML file.

### EXAMPLE 131: Referencing a Context in an HTML document

Original	Expanded	Statements	Turtle	Open in playground
----------	----------	------------	--------	--------------------

```
{
  "@context": "https://json-ld.org/contexts/person.html",
  "@id": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/John_Lennon",
  "name": "John Lennon",
  "born": "1940-10-09",
  "spouse": "http://dbpedia.org/resource/Cynthia_Lennon"
}
```

In addition to using the type profile above, a context may be referenced using a fragment identifier, as described in [§ 7.3 Locating a Specific JSON-LD Script Element](#). Otherwise, the first [script element](#) of type `application/ld+json` will be used to find a context.

## § 8. Data Model

JSON-LD is a serialization format for Linked Data based on JSON. It is therefore important to distinguish between the syntax, which is defined by JSON in [\[RFC8259\]](#), and the **data model** which is an extension of the [RDF data model](#) [\[RDF11-CONCEPTS\]](#). The precise details of how JSON-LD relates to the RDF data model are given in [§ 10. Relationship to RDF](#).

To ease understanding for developers unfamiliar with the RDF model, the following summary is provided:

- A [JSON-LD document](#) serializes a [RDF Dataset](#) [\[RDF11-CONCEPTS\]](#), which is a collection of [graphs](#) that comprises exactly one [default graph](#) and zero or more [named graphs](#).
- The [default graph](#) does not have a name and *MAY* be empty.
- Each [named graph](#) is a pair consisting of an [IRI](#) or [blank node identifier](#) (the [graph name](#)) and a [graph](#). Whenever practical, the [graph name](#) *SHOULD* be an [IRI](#).
- A [graph](#) is a labeled directed graph, i.e., a set of [nodes](#) connected by [edges](#).
- Every [edge](#) has a direction associated with it and is labeled with an [IRI](#) or

a [blank node identifier](#). Within the JSON-LD syntax these edge labels are called [properties](#). Whenever practical, an [edge](#) *SHOULD* be labeled with an [IRI](#).

#### (FEATURE AT RISK) ISSUE

The use of [blank node identifiers](#) to label properties is obsolete, and may be removed in a future version of JSON-LD.

- Every [node](#) is an [IRI](#), a [blank node](#), or a [literal](#), although syntactically [lists](#) and native JSON values may be represented directly.
- A [node](#) having an outgoing edge *MUST* be an [IRI](#) or a [blank node](#).
- A [graph](#) *MUST NOT* contain unconnected [nodes](#), i.e., nodes which are not connected by an [edge](#) to any other [node](#).

#### EXAMPLE 132: Illegal Unconnected Node

```
{
  "@id": "http://example.org/1"
}
```

#### NOTE

This effectively just prohibits unnested, empty [node objects](#) and unnested [node objects](#) that contain only an [@id](#). A document may have [nodes](#) which are unrelated, as long as one or more properties are defined, or the [node](#) is referenced from another [node object](#).

- An [IRI](#) (Internationalized Resource Identifier) is a string that conforms to the syntax defined in [[RFC3987](#)]. [IRIs](#) used within a [graph](#) *SHOULD* return a Linked Data document describing the resource denoted by that [IRI](#) when being dereferenced.
- A [blank node](#) is a [node](#) which is neither an [IRI](#), nor a [JSON-LD value](#), nor a [list](#). A blank node is identified using a [blank node identifier](#).
- A [blank node identifier](#) is a string that can be used as an identifier for a [blank node](#) within the scope of a [JSON-LD document](#). Blank node identifiers begin with `_:`.
- A [JSON-LD value](#) is a [typed value](#), a [string](#) (which is interpreted as a [typed value](#) with type `xsd:string`), a [number](#) ([numbers](#) with a non-zero fractional part, i.e., the result of a modulo-1 operation, or which are too large to represent as integers (see [Data Round Tripping](#)) in [[JSON-LD11-](#)

API]), are interpreted as typed values with type `xsd:double`, all other numbers are interpreted as typed values with type `xsd:integer`), true or false (which are interpreted as typed values with type `xsd:boolean`), or a language-tagged string.

- A typed value consists of a value, which is a string, and a type, which is an IRI.
- A language-tagged string consists of a string and a non-empty language tag as defined by [BCP47]. The language tag *MUST* be well-formed according to section 2.2.9 Classes of Conformance of [BCP47].
- A list is a sequence of zero or more IRIs, blank nodes, and JSON-LD values. Lists are interpreted as RDF list structures [RDF11-MT].

JSON-LD documents *MAY* contain data that cannot be represented by the data model defined above. Unless otherwise specified, such data is ignored when a JSON-LD document is being processed. One result of this rule is that properties which are not mapped to an IRI, a blank node, or keyword will be ignored.

Additionally, the JSON serialization format is internally represented using the JSON-LD internal representation, which uses the generic concepts of arrays, dictionaries, strings, numbers, booleans, and null to describe the data represented by a JSON document.

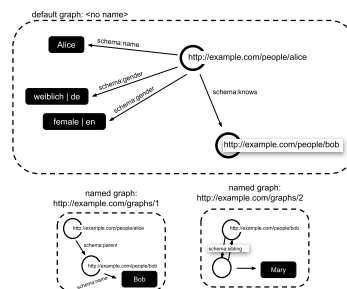


Figure 1 An illustration of a linked data dataset.

A [description of the linked data dataset diagram](#) is available in the Appendix. Image available in [SVG](#) and [PNG](#) formats.

The dataset described in this figure can be represented as follows:

## EXAMPLE 133: Linked Data Dataset

Compacted

Expanded

Statements

TriG

```

{
  "@context": [
    "http://schema.org/",
    {"@base": "http://example.com/"}
  ],
  "@graph": [{
    "@id": "people/alice",
    "gender": [
      {"@value": "weiblich", "@language": "de"},
      {"@value": "female", "@language": "en"}
    ],
    "knows": {"@id": "people/bob"},
    "name": "Alice"
  }, {
    "@id": "graphs/1",
    "@graph": {
      "@id": "people/alice",
      "parent": {
        "@id": "people/bob",
        "name": "Bob"
      }
    }
  }, {
    "@id": "graphs/2",
    "@graph": {
      "@id": "people/bob",
      "sibling": {
        "name": "Mary",
        "sibling": {"@id": "people/bob"}
      }
    }
  }
  ]
}

```

## NOTE

Note the use of `@graph` at the outer-most level to describe three top-level resources (two of them [named graphs](#)). The named graphs use `@graph` in addition to `@id` to provide the name for each graph.

## § 9. JSON-LD Grammar

This section restates the syntactic conventions described in the previous sections more formally.

A JSON-LD document *MUST* be valid JSON text as described in [[RFC8259](#)], or some format that can be represented in the JSON-LD internal representation that is equivalent to valid JSON text.

A JSON-LD document *MUST* be a single node object, a dictionary consisting of only the members `@context` and/or `@graph`, or an array of zero or more node objects.

In contrast to JSON, in JSON-LD the keys in objects *MUST* be unique.

Whenever a keyword is discussed in this grammar, the statements also apply to an alias for that keyword.

### NOTE

JSON-LD allows keywords to be aliased (see § 4.1.5 [Aliasing Keywords](#) for details). For example, if the active context defines the term `id` as an alias for `@id`, that alias may be legitimately used as a substitution for `@id`. Note that keyword aliases are not expanded during context processing.

### § 9.1 Terms

A term is a short-hand string that expands to an IRI or a blank node identifier.

A term *MUST NOT* equal any of the JSON-LD keywords.

When used as the prefix in a Compact IRI, to avoid the potential ambiguity of a prefix being confused with an IRI scheme, terms *MUST NOT* come from the list of URI schemes as defined in [[IANA-URI-SCHEMES](#)]. Similarly, to avoid confusion between a Compact IRI and a term, terms *SHOULD NOT* include a colon (`:`) and *SHOULD* be restricted to the form of isegment-nz-nc as defined in [[RFC3987](#)].

To avoid forward-compatibility issues, a term *SHOULD NOT* start with an `@` character as future versions of JSON-LD may introduce additional keywords. Furthermore, the term *MUST NOT* be an empty string (`"`) as not all programming languages are able to handle empty JSON keys.

See [§ 3.1 The Context](#) and [§ 3.2 IRIs](#) for further discussion on mapping [terms](#) to [IRIs](#).

## § 9.2 Node Objects

A [node object](#) represents zero or more properties of a [node](#) in the [graph](#) serialized by the [JSON-LD document](#). A [dictionary](#) is a [node object](#) if it exists outside of a JSON-LD [context](#) and:

- it is not the top-most [dictionary](#) in the JSON-LD document consisting of no other [members](#) than [@graph](#) and [@context](#),
- it does not contain the [@value](#), [@list](#), or [@set](#) keywords, and
- it is not a [graph object](#).

The [properties](#) of a [node](#) in a [graph](#) may be spread among different [node objects](#) within a document. When that happens, the keys of the different [node objects](#) need to be merged to create the properties of the resulting [node](#).

A [node object](#) *MUST* be a [dictionary](#). All keys which are not [IRIs](#), [compact IRIs](#), [terms](#) valid in the [active context](#), or one of the following [keywords](#) (or alias of such a keyword) *MUST* be ignored when processed:

- [@context](#),
- [@id](#),
- [@graph](#),
- [@nest](#),
- [@type](#),
- [@reverse](#), or
- [@index](#)

If the [node object](#) contains the [@context](#) key, its value *MUST* be [null](#), an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [context definition](#), or an [array](#) composed of any of these.

If the [node object](#) contains the [@id](#) key, its value *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)). See [§ 3.3 Node Identifiers](#), [§ 4.1.4 Compact IRIs](#), and [§ 4.5.1 Identifying Blank Nodes](#) for further discussion on [@id](#) values.

If the [node object](#) contains the [@graph](#) key, its value *MUST* be a [node object](#) or

an [array](#) of zero or more [node objects](#). If the [node object](#) also contains an [@id](#) keyword, its value is used as the [graph name](#) of a [named graph](#). See § 4.8 [Named Graphs](#) for further discussion on [@graph](#) values. As a special case, if a [dictionary](#) contains no keys other than [@graph](#) and [@context](#), and the [dictionary](#) is the root of the JSON-LD document, the [dictionary](#) is not treated as a [node object](#); this is used as a way of defining [node objects](#) that may not form a connected graph. This allows a [context](#) to be defined which is shared by all of the constituent [node objects](#).

If the [node object](#) contains the [@type](#) key, its value *MUST* be either an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)), a [term](#) defined in the [active context](#) expanding into an [absolute IRI](#), or an [array](#) of any of these. See § 3.5 [Specifying the Type](#) for further discussion on [@type](#) values.

If the [node object](#) contains the [@reverse](#) key, its value *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) containing [members](#) representing reverse properties. Each value of such a reverse property *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [blank node identifier](#), a [node object](#) or an [array](#) containing a combination of these.

If the [node object](#) contains the [@index](#) key, its value *MUST* be a [string](#). See § 4.6.1 [Data Indexing](#) for further discussion on [@index](#) values.

If the [node object](#) contains the [@nest](#) key, its value *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) or an [array](#) of [dictionaries](#) which *MUST NOT* include a [value object](#). See § 9.13 [Property Nesting](#) for further discussion on [@nest](#) values.

Keys in a [node object](#) that are not [keywords](#) *MAY* expand to an [absolute IRI](#) using the [active context](#). The values associated with keys that expand to an [absolute IRI](#) *MUST* be one of the following:

- [string](#),
- [number](#),
- [true](#),
- [false](#),
- [null](#),
- [node object](#),
- [graph object](#),
- [value object](#),
- [list object](#),

- [set object](#),
- an [array](#) of zero or more of any of the possibilities above,
- a [language map](#),
- an [index map](#),
- an [id map](#), or
- a [type map](#)

## § 9.3 Frame Objects

When [framing](#), a [frame object](#) extends a [node object](#) to allow members used specifically for [framing](#).

- A [frame object](#) *MAY* include a [default object](#) as the value of any key which is not a [keyword](#). Values of `@default` *MAY* include the value `@null`, or an [array](#) containing only `@null`, in addition to other values allowed in the grammar for values of [member](#) keys expanding to [absolute IRIs](#).
- The values of `@id` and `@type` *MAY* additionally be an empty [dictionary](#) ([wildcard](#)), an [array](#) containing only an empty [dictionary](#), an empty [array](#) ([match none](#)) an [array](#) of [IRIs](#).
- A [frame object](#) *MAY* include a [member](#) with the key `@embed` with any value from `@always`, `@list`, and `@never`.
- A [frame object](#) *MAY* include [members](#) with the boolean valued keys `@explicit`, `@omitDefault`, or `@requireAll`
- In addition to other property values, a property of a [frame object](#) *MAY* include a [value pattern](#) (See § 9.6 Value Patterns).

See [[JSON-LD11-FRAMING](#)] for a description of how [frame objects](#) are used.

## § 9.4 Graph Objects

A [graph object](#) represents a [named graph](#), which *MAY* include an explicit [graph name](#). A [dictionary](#) is a [graph object](#) if it exists outside of a JSON-LD [context](#), it contains an `@graph` member (or an alias of that [keyword](#)), it is not the top-most [dictionary](#) in the JSON-LD document, and it consists of no [members](#) other than `@graph`, `@index`, `@id` and `@context`, or an alias of one of these [keywords](#).

If the [graph object](#) contains the `@context` key, its value *MUST* be [null](#), an



[absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [context definition](#), or an [array](#) composed of any of these.

If the [graph object](#) contains the `@id` key, its value is used as the identifier ([graph name](#)) of a [named graph](#), and *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)). See § 3.3 [Node Identifiers](#), § 4.1.4 [Compact IRIs](#), and § 4.5.1 [Identifying Blank Nodes](#) for further discussion on `@id` values.

A [graph object](#) without an `@id` member is also a [simple graph object](#) and represents a [named graph](#) without an explicit identifier, although in the data model it still has a [graph name](#), which is an implicitly allocated [blank node identifier](#).

The value of the `@graph` key *MUST* be a [node object](#) or an [array](#) of zero or more [node objects](#). See § 4.8 [Named Graphs](#) for further discussion on `@graph` values..

## § 9.5 Value Objects

A [value object](#) is used to explicitly associate a type or a language with a value to create a [typed value](#) or a [language-tagged string](#).

A [value object](#) *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) containing the `@value` key. It *MAY* also contain an `@type`, an `@language`, an `@index`, or an `@context` key but *MUST NOT* contain both an `@type` and an `@language` key at the same time. A [value object](#) *MUST NOT* contain any other keys that expand to an [absolute IRI](#) or [keyword](#).

The value associated with the `@value` key *MUST* be either a [string](#), a [number](#), [true](#), [false](#) or [null](#). If the value associated with the `@type` key is `@json`, the value *MAY* be either an [array](#) or an [object](#).

The value associated with the `@type` key *MUST* be a [term](#), a [compact IRI](#), an [absolute IRI](#), a string which can be turned into an [absolute IRI](#) using the [vocabulary mapping](#), `@json`, or [null](#).

The value associated with the `@language` key *MUST* have the [lexical form](#) described in [BCP47], or be [null](#).

The value associated with the `@index` key *MUST* be a [string](#).

See § 4.2.1 [Typed Values](#) and § 4.2.4 [String Internationalization](#) for more information on [value objects](#).

## § 9.6 Value Patterns

When framing, a value pattern extends a value object to allow members used specifically for framing.

- The values of `@value`, `@language` and `@type` *MAY* additionally be an empty dictionary (wildcard), an array containing only an empty dictionary, an empty array (match none) an array of strings.

## § 9.7 Lists and Sets

A list represents an *ordered* set of values. A set represents an *unordered* set of values. Unless otherwise specified, arrays are unordered in JSON-LD. As such, the `@set` keyword, when used in the body of a JSON-LD document, represents just syntactic sugar which is optimized away when processing the document. However, it is very helpful when used within the context of a document. Values of terms associated with an `@set` or `@list` container will always be represented in the form of an array when a document is processed—even if there is just a single value that would otherwise be optimized to a non-array form in compacted document form. This simplifies post-processing of the data as the data is always in a deterministic form.

A list object *MUST* be a dictionary that contains no keys that expand to an absolute IRI or keyword other than `@list` and `@index`.

A set object *MUST* be a dictionary that contains no keys that expand to an absolute IRI or keyword other than `@set` and `@index`. Please note that the `@index` key will be ignored when being processed.

In both cases, the value associated with the keys `@list` and `@set` *MUST* be one of the following types:

- string,
- number,
- true,
- false,
- null,
- node object,
- value object, or
- an array of zero or more of the above possibilities

See [§ 4.3 Value Ordering](#) for further discussion on sets and lists.

## § 9.8 Language Maps

A [language map](#) is used to associate a language with a value in a way that allows easy programmatic access. A [language map](#) may be used as a term value within a [node object](#) if the [term](#) is defined with [@container](#) set to [@language](#), or an array containing both [@language](#) and [@set](#). The keys of a [language map](#) *MUST* be [strings](#) representing [BCP47] language codes, the [keyword](#) [@none](#), or a [term](#) which expands to [@none](#), and the values *MUST* be any of the following types:

- [null](#),
- [string](#), or
- an [array](#) of zero or more of the [strings](#)

See [§ 4.2.4 String Internationalization](#) for further discussion on language maps.

## § 9.9 Index Maps

An [index map](#) allows keys that have no semantic meaning, but should be preserved regardless, to be used in JSON-LD documents. An [index map](#) may be used as a [term](#) value within a [node object](#) if the term is defined with [@container](#) set to [@index](#), or an array containing both [@index](#) and [@set](#). The values of the [members](#) of an [index map](#) *MUST* be one of the following types:

- [string](#),
- [number](#),
- [true](#),
- [false](#),
- [null](#),
- [node object](#),
- [value object](#),
- [list object](#),
- [set object](#),
- an [array](#) of zero or more of the above possibilities

See § 4.6.1 [Data Indexing](#) for further information on this topic.

[Index Maps](#) may also be used to map indexes to associated [named graphs](#), if the term is defined with `@container` set to an array containing both `@graph` and `@index`, and optionally including `@set`. The value consists of the [node objects](#) contained within the [named graph](#) which is indexed using the referencing key, which can be represented as a [simple graph object](#) if the value does not include `@id`, or a [named graph](#) if it includes `@id`.

## § 9.10 Property-based Index Maps

A property-based [index map](#) is a variant of [index map](#) where indexes are semantically preserved in the graph as property values. A property-based [index map](#) may be used as a term value within a [node object](#) if the [term](#) is defined with `@container` set to `@index`, or an array containing both `@index` and `@set`, and with `@index` set to a [string](#). The values of a property-based [index map](#) *MUST* be [node objects](#) or [strings](#) which expand to [node objects](#).

When expanding, if the [active context](#) contains a [term definition](#) for the value of `@index`, this [term definition](#) will be used to expand the keys of the [index map](#). Otherwise, the keys will be expanded as simple [value objects](#). Each [node object](#) in the expanded values of the [index map](#) will be added an additional property value, where the property is the expanded value of `@index`, and the value is the expanded referencing key.

See § 4.6.1.1 [Property-based data indexing](#) for further information on this topic.

## § 9.11 Id Maps

An [id map](#) is used to associate an [IRI](#) with a value that allows easy programmatic access. An [id map](#) may be used as a term value within a [node object](#) if the [term](#) is defined with `@container` set to `@id`, or an array containing both `@id` and `@set`. The keys of an [id map](#) *MUST* be [IRIs](#) ([relative IRI](#), [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)), or [absolute IRI](#)), the [keyword](#) `@none`, or a [term](#) which expands to `@none`, and the values *MUST* be [node objects](#).

If the value contains a property expanding to `@id`, its value *MUST* be equivalent to the referencing key. Otherwise, the property from the value is used as the `@id` of the [node object](#) value when expanding.

[Id Maps](#) may also be used to map [graph names](#) to their [named graphs](#), if the

term is defined with `@container` set to an array containing both `@graph` and `@id`, and optionally including `@set`. The value consists of the node objects contained within the named graph which is named using the referencing key.

## § 9.12 Type Maps

A type map is used to associate an IRI with a value that allows easy programmatic access. A type map may be used as a term value within a node object if the term is defined with `@container` set to `@type`, or an array containing both `@type` and `@set`. The keys of a type map *MUST* be IRIs (relative IRI, compact IRI (including blank node identifiers), or absolute IRI), terms, or the keyword `@none`, and the values *MUST* be node objects or strings which expand to node objects.

If the value contains a property expanding to `@type`, and its value contains the referencing key after suitable expansion of both the referencing key and the value, then the node object already contains the type. Otherwise, the property from the value is added as a `@type` of the node object value when expanding.

## § 9.13 Property Nesting

A nested property is used to gather properties of a node object in a separate dictionary, or array of dictionaries which are not value objects. It is semantically transparent and is removed during the process of expansion. Property nesting is recursive, and collections of nested properties may contain further nesting.

Semantically, nesting is treated as if the properties and values were declared directly within the containing node object.

## § 9.14 Context Definitions

A **context definition** defines a local context in a node object.

A context definition *MUST* be a dictionary whose keys *MUST* be either terms, compact IRIs, absolute IRIs, or one of the keywords `@language`, `@base`, `@type`, `@vocab`, or `@version`.

If the context definition has an `@language` key, its value *MUST* have the lexical form described in [BCP47] or be null.

If the [context definition](#) has an `@base` key, its value *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or `null`.

If the [context definition](#) has an `@type` key, its value *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) with the single member `@container` set to `@set`.

If the [context definition](#) has an `@vocab` key, its value *MUST* be a [absolute IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [blank node identifier](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [term](#), or `null`.

If the [context definition](#) has an `@version` key, its value *MUST* be a [number](#) with the value `1.1`.

The value of keys that are not [keywords](#) *MUST* be either an [absolute IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [term](#), a [blank node identifier](#), a [keyword](#), `null`, or an [expanded term definition](#).

An [expanded term definition](#) is used to describe the mapping between a [term](#) and its expanded identifier, as well as other properties of the value associated with the [term](#) when it is used as key in a [node object](#).

An [expanded term definition](#) *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) composed of zero or more keys from `@id`, `@reverse`, `@type`, `@language`, `@context`, `@prefix`, or `@container`. An [expanded term definition](#) *SHOULD NOT* contain any other keys.

If the term being defined is not a [compact IRI](#) or [absolute IRI](#) and the [active context](#) does not have an `@vocab` mapping, the [expanded term definition](#) *MUST* include the `@id` key.

[Term definitions](#) with keys which are of the form of a [compact IRI](#) or [absolute IRI](#) *MUST NOT* expand to an [IRI](#) other than the expansion of the key itself.

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the `@id` [keyword](#), its value *MUST* be `null`, an [absolute IRI](#), a [blank node identifier](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [term](#), or a [keyword](#).

If an [expanded term definition](#) has an `@reverse` [member](#), it *MUST NOT* have `@id` or `@nest` [members](#) at the same time, its value *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [blank node identifier](#), a [compact IRI](#), or a [term](#). If an `@container` [member](#) exists, its value *MUST* be `null`, `@set`, or `@index`.

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the `@type` [keyword](#), its value *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [term](#), `null`, or one of the [keywords](#) `@id`, `@json`, `@none`, or `@vocab`.

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the `@language` [keyword](#), its value

*MUST* have the [lexical form](#) described in [BCP47] or be [null](#).

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the [@container keyword](#), its value *MUST* be either [@list](#), [@set](#), [@language](#), [@index](#), [@id](#), [@graph](#), [@type](#), or be [null](#) or an [array](#) containing exactly any one of those keywords, or a combination of [@set](#) and any of [@index](#), [@id](#), [@graph](#), [@type](#), [@language](#) in any order. [@container](#) may also be an array containing [@graph](#) along with either [@id](#) or [@index](#) and also optionally including [@set](#). If the value is [@language](#), when the [term](#) is used outside of the [@context](#), the associated value *MUST* be a [language map](#). If the value is [@index](#), when the [term](#) is used outside of the [@context](#), the associated value *MUST* be an [index map](#).

If an [expanded term definition](#) has an [@context member](#), it *MUST* be a valid [context definition](#).

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the [@nest keyword](#), its value *MUST* be either [@nest](#), or a term which expands to [@nest](#).

If the [expanded term definition](#) contains the [@prefix keyword](#), its value *MUST* be [true](#) or [false](#).

[Terms](#) *MUST NOT* be used in a circular manner. That is, the definition of a term cannot depend on the definition of another term if that other term also depends on the first term.

See [§ 3.1 The Context](#) for further discussion on contexts.

## § 9.15 Keywords

JSON-LD [keywords](#) are described in [§ 1.7 Syntax Tokens and Keywords](#), this section describes where each [keyword](#) may appear within different JSON-LD structures.

### [@base](#)

The [@base](#) keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased, and *MAY* be used as a key in a [context definition](#). Its value *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or [null](#).

### [@container](#)

The [@container](#) keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased, and *MAY* be used as a key in an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be either [@list](#), [@set](#), [@language](#), [@index](#), [@id](#), [@graph](#), [@type](#), or be [null](#), or an [array](#) containing exactly any one of those keywords, or a combination of [@set](#) and any of [@index](#), [@id](#), [@graph](#), [@type](#), [@language](#) in any order. The value may also be

an array containing `@graph` along with either `@id` or `@index` and also optionally including `@set`.

### `@context`

The `@context` keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased, and *MAY* be used as a key in the following objects:

- [node objects](#) (see § 9.2 Node Objects),
- [value objects](#) (see § 9.5 Value Objects),
- [graph objects](#) (see § 9.4 Graph Objects),
- [list objects](#) (see § 9.7 Lists and Sets),
- [set objects](#) (see § 9.7 Lists and Sets),
- [nested properties](#) (see § 9.13 Property Nesting), and
- [expanded term definitions](#) (see § 9.14 Context Definitions).

The value of `@context` *MUST* be [null](#), an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [context definition](#), or an [array](#) composed of any of these.

### `@id`

The `@id` keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [node object](#) or a [graph object](#). The unaliased `@id` *MAY* be used as a key in an [expanded term definition](#), or as the value of the `@container` key within an [expanded term definition](#). The value of the `@id` key *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)). See § 3.3 Node Identifiers, § 4.1.4 Compact IRIs, and § 4.5.1 Identifying Blank Nodes for further discussion on `@id` values.

### `@index`

The `@index` keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [node object](#), [value object](#), [graph object](#), [set object](#), or [list object](#). The unaliased `@index` *MAY* be used as the value of the `@container` key within an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be a [string](#). See § 9.9 Index Maps for a further discussion.

### `@language`

The `@language` keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [value object](#). The unaliased `@language` *MAY* be used as a key in a [context definition](#), or as the value of the `@container` key within an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be a [string](#) with the [lexical form](#) described in [BCP47] or be [null](#). See § 9.9 Index Maps for a further discussion.

### `@list`

The `@list` keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MUST* be used as a key in a [list object](#). The unaliased `@list` *MAY* be used as the value of the `@container` key within an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be one of the



following:

- [string](#),
- [number](#),
- [true](#),
- [false](#),
- [null](#),
- [node object](#),
- [value object](#), or
- an [array](#) of zero or more of the above possibilities

See [§ 4.3 Value Ordering](#) for further discussion on sets and lists.

#### **@nest**

The **@nest** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [node object](#). The unaliased **@nest** *MAY* be used as the value of a [simple term definition](#), or as a key in an [expanded term definition](#). When used in a [node object](#), its value must be a [dictionary](#). When used in an [expanded term definition](#), its value *MUST* be a term expanding to **@nest**. Its value *MUST* be a [string](#). See [§ 9.13 Property Nesting](#) for a further discussion.

#### **@none**

The **@none** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in an [index map](#), [id map](#), [language map](#), [type map](#). See [§ 4.6.1 Data Indexing](#), [§ 4.6.2 Language Indexing](#), [§ 4.6.3 Node Identifier Indexing](#), [§ 4.6.4 Node Type Indexing](#), [§ 4.8.3 Named Graph Indexing](#), or [§ 4.8.2 Named Graph Data Indexing](#) for a further discussion.

#### **@prefix**

The **@prefix** keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased, and *MAY* be used as a key in an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be **true** or **false**. See [§ 4.1.4 Compact IRIs](#) and [§ 9.14 Context Definitions](#) for a further discussion.

#### **@reverse**

The **@reverse** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [node object](#). The unaliased **@reverse** *MAY* be used as a key in an [expanded term definition](#). The value of the **@reverse** key *MUST* be an [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)). See [§ 4.7 Reverse Properties](#) and [§ 9.14 Context Definitions](#) for further discussion.

#### **@set**

The **@set** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MUST* be used as a key in a [set object](#). The unaliased **@set** *MAY* be used as the value of the **@container** key within an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be one of the

following:

- [string](#),
- [number](#),
- [true](#),
- [false](#),
- [null](#),
- [node object](#),
- [value object](#), or
- an [array](#) of zero or more of the above possibilities

See [§ 4.3 Value Ordering](#) for further discussion on sets and lists.

### **@type**

The **@type** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [node object](#) or a [value object](#). The unaliased **@type** *MAY* be used as a key in an [expanded term definition](#), or as the value of the **@container** key within an [expanded term definition](#). The value of the **@type** key *MUST* be a [term](#), [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), or a [compact IRI](#) (including [blank node identifiers](#)). Within an expanded term definition, its value may also be either **@id** or **@vocab**. This keyword is described further in [§ 3.5 Specifying the Type](#) and [§ 4.2.1 Typed Values](#).

### **@value**

The **@value** keyword *MAY* be aliased and *MUST* be used as a key in a [value object](#). Its value key *MUST* be either a [string](#), a [number](#), [true](#), [false](#) or [null](#). This keyword is described further in [§ 9.5 Value Objects](#).

### **@version**

The **@version** keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [context definition](#). Its value *MUST* be a [number](#) with the value **1.1**. This keyword is described further in [§ 9.14 Context Definitions](#).

### **@vocab**

The **@vocab** keyword *MUST NOT* be aliased and *MAY* be used as a key in a [context definition](#) or as the value of **@type** in an [expanded term definition](#). Its value *MUST* be a [absolute IRI](#), a [relative IRI](#), a [compact IRI](#), a [blank node identifier](#), an empty [string](#) (""), a [term](#), or [null](#). This keyword is described further in [§ 9.14 Context Definitions](#), and [§ 4.1.2 Default Vocabulary](#).

## § 10. Relationship to RDF

JSON-LD is a ***concrete RDF syntax*** as described in [RDF11-CONCEPTS]. Hence, a JSON-LD document is both an RDF document *and* a JSON document and correspondingly represents an instance of an ***RDF data model***. However, JSON-LD also extends the RDF data model to optionally allow JSON-LD to serialize ***generalized RDF Datasets***. The JSON-LD extensions to the RDF data model are:

- In JSON-LD ***properties*** can be ***IRIs*** or ***blank nodes*** whereas in RDF ***properties*** (***predicates***) have to be ***IRIs***. This means that JSON-LD serializes ***generalized RDF Datasets***.
- In JSON-LD ***lists*** use native JSON syntax, either contained in a list object, or described as such within a context. Consequently, developers using the JSON representation can access list elements directly rather than using the vocabulary for collections described in [RDF-SCHEMA].
- RDF values are either typed *literals* (***typed values***) or ***language-tagged strings*** whereas JSON-LD also supports JSON's native data types, i.e., ***number***, ***strings***, and the boolean values ***true*** and ***false***. The JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [JSON-LD11-API] defines the ***conversion rules*** between JSON's native data types and RDF's counterparts to allow round-tripping.

#### (FEATURE AT RISK) ISSUE

The use of ***blank node identifiers*** to label properties is obsolete, and may be removed in a future version of JSON-LD, as is the support for ***generalized RDF Datasets***.

Summarized, these differences mean that JSON-LD is capable of serializing any RDF ***graph*** or ***dataset*** and most, but not all, JSON-LD documents can be directly interpreted as RDF as described in RDF 1.1 Concepts [RDF11-CONCEPTS].

Authors are strongly encouraged to avoid labeling properties using ***blank node identifiers***, instead, consider one of the following mechanisms:

- a ***relative IRI***, either relative to the document or the vocabulary (see § 4.1.2.1 ***Using the Document Base for the Default Vocabulary*** for a discussion on using the document base as part of the ***vocabulary mapping***).
- a URN such as ***urn:example:1***, see [URN], or
- a "Skolem IRI" as per ***Replacing Blank Nodes with IRIs*** of [RDF11-CONCEPTS].

## CONCEPTS].

The normative algorithms for interpreting JSON-LD as RDF and serializing RDF as JSON-LD are specified in the JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)].

Even though JSON-LD serializes [RDF Datasets](#), it can also be used as a ***RDF graph source***. In that case, a consumer *MUST* only use the [default graph](#) and ignore all [named graphs](#). This allows servers to expose data in languages such as Turtle and JSON-LD using content negotiation.

### NOTE

Publishers supporting both [dataset](#) and [graph](#) syntaxes have to ensure that the primary data is stored in the [default graph](#) to enable consumers that do not support [datasets](#) to process the information.

## § 10.1 Serializing/Deserializing RDF

*This section is non-normative.*

The process of serializing RDF as JSON-LD and deserializing JSON-LD to RDF depends on executing the algorithms defined in [RDF Serialization-Deserialization Algorithms](#) in the JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)]. It is beyond the scope of this document to detail these algorithms any further, but a summary of the necessary operations is provided to illustrate the process.

The procedure to deserialize a JSON-LD document to RDF involves the following steps:

1. Expand the JSON-LD document, removing any context; this ensures that properties, types, and values are given their full representation as [IRIs](#) and expanded values. [Expansion](#) is discussed further in [§ 5.1 Expanded Document Form](#).
2. Flatten the document, which turns the document into an array of [node objects](#). Flattening is discussed further in [§ 5.3 Flattened Document Form](#).
3. Turn each [node object](#) into a series of [RDF triples](#).

For example, consider the following JSON-LD document in compact form:

**EXAMPLE 134:** Sample JSON-LD document

```

{
  "@context": {
    "name": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name",
    "knows": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows"
  },
  "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
  "name": "Markus Lanthaler",
  "knows": [
    {
      "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
      "name": "Manu Sporny"
    }, {
      "name": "Dave Longley"
    }
  ]
}

```

Running the JSON-LD [Expansion](#) and [Flattening](#) algorithms against the JSON-LD input document in the example above would result in the following output:

**EXAMPLE 135:** Flattened and expanded form for the previous example

```

[
  {
    "@id": "_:b0",
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": "Dave Longley"
  }, {
    "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": "Manu Sporny"
  }, {
    "@id": "http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/",
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/name": "Markus Lanthaler",
    "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/knows": [
      { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu" },
      { "@id": "_:b0" }
    ]
  }
]

```

Deserializing this to RDF now is a straightforward process of turning each

[node object](#) into one or more RDF triples. This can be expressed in Turtle as follows:

**EXAMPLE 136:** Turtle representation of expanded/flattened document

```
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

_:b0 foaf:name "Dave Longley" .

<http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu> foaf:name "Manu Sporny" .

<http://me.markus-lanthaler.com/> foaf:name "Markus Lanthaler" ;
  foaf:knows <http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu>, _:b0 .
```

The process of serializing RDF as JSON-LD can be thought of as the inverse of this last step, creating an expanded JSON-LD document closely matching the triples from RDF, using a single [node object](#) for all triples having a common subject, and a single [property](#) for those triples also having a common predicate. The result may then be framed by using the [Framing Algorithm](#) described in [\[JSON-LD11-FRAMING\]](#) to create the desired object embedding.

## § 10.2 The `rdf:JSON` Datatype

RDF provides for JSON content as a possible [literal value](#). This allows markup in literal values. Such content is indicated in an [RDF graph](#) using a [literal](#) whose datatype is set to `rdf:JSON`.

The `rdf:JSON` datatype is defined as follows:

**The IRI denoting this datatype**

is `http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#JSON`.

**The lexical space**

is the set of UNICODE [\[UNICODE\]](#) strings which conform to the [JSON Grammar](#) as described in [Section 2 JSON Grammar](#) of [\[RFC8259\]](#).

**The value space**

is the union of the four primitive types ([strings](#), [numbers](#), [booleans](#), and [null](#)) and two structured types ([objects](#) and [arrays](#)) from [\[ECMAScript\]](#). Two JSON values *A* and *B* are considered equal if and only if the following is true:

1. If *A* and *B* are both [objects](#), both *A* and *B* have the same number of

members, and each member in  $A$  is equal to a corresponding member in  $B$  where

- the keys are equal (as defined in [Section 7.2.12, step 5.a](#) in [\[ECMAScript\]](#)), and
  - the values are considered equal through applying this comparison recursively.
2. Otherwise, if  $A$  and  $B$  are both arrays, both  $A$  and  $B$  have the same number of elements, and each element  $A_i$  is considered equal to the corresponding element  $B_i$  through applying this comparison recursively.
  3. Otherwise, if  $A$  and  $B$  satisfy the Strict Equality Comparison defined in [Section 7.2.15](#) in [\[ECMAScript\]](#).
  4. Otherwise,  $A$  and  $B$  are not equal.

### **The lexical-to-value mapping**

is the result of parsing the lexical representation into an internal representation consistent with [\[ECMAScript\]](#) representation created by using the `JSON.parse` function as defined in [Section 24.5 The JSON Object](#) of [\[ECMAScript\]](#).

### **The canonical mapping**

is non-normative, as a normative recommendation for JSON canonicalization is not yet defined. Implementations *SHOULD* use the following guidelines when creating the lexical representation of a [JSON literal](#):

- Serialize JSON using no unnecessary whitespace,
- Keys in objects *SHOULD* be ordered lexicographically,
- Native Numeric values *SHOULD* be serialized according to [Section 7.1.12.1](#) of [\[ECMAScript\]](#),
- Strings *SHOULD* be serialized with Unicode codepoints from `U+0000` through `U+001F` using lowercase hexadecimal Unicode notation (`\uhhhh`) unless in the set of predefined JSON control characters `U+0008`, `U+0009`, `U+000A`, `U+000C` or `U+000D` which *SHOULD* be serialized as `\b`, `\t`, `\n`, `\f` and `\r` respectively. All other Unicode characters *SHOULD* be serialized "as is", other than `U+005C` (`\`) and `U+0022` (`"`) which *SHOULD* be serialized as `\\` and `\"` respectively.

## ISSUE

The JSON Canonicalization Scheme [JCS] is an emerging standard for JSON canonicalization not yet ready to be referenced. When a JSON canonicalization standard becomes available, this specification will likely be updated to require such a canonical representation. Users are cautioned from depending on the [JSON literal](#) lexical representation as an [RDF literal](#), as the specifics of serialization may change in a future revision of this document.

## § 11. Security Considerations

See, [Security Considerations](#) in [§ C. IANA Considerations](#).

### NOTE

Future versions of this specification may incorporate subresource integrity [SRI] as a means of ensuring that cached and retrieved content matches data retrieved from remote servers; see [issue 86](#).

## § 12. Privacy Considerations

The retrieval of external contexts can expose the operation of a JSON-LD processor, allow intermediate nodes to fingerprint the client application through introspection of retrieved resources (see [\[fingerprinting-guidance\]](#)), and provide an opportunity for a man-in-the-middle attack. To protect against this, publishers should consider caching remote contexts for future use, or use the [documentLoader](#) to maintain a local version of such contexts.

## § 13. Internationalization Considerations

As JSON-LD uses the RDF data model, it is restricted by design in its ability to properly record [JSON-LD Values](#) which are [strings](#) with left-to-right or right-to-left direction indicators. Both JSON-LD and RDF provide a mechanism for specifying the language associated with a string ([language-tagged string](#)), but do not provide a means of indicating the base direction of the string.

Unicode provides a mechanism for signaling direction within a string (see



[Unicode Bidirectional Algorithm \[UAX9\]](#)), however, when a string has an overall base direction which cannot be determined by the beginning of the string, an external indicator is required, such as the [\[HTML\] dir attribute](#), which currently has no counterpart for [RDF literals](#).

The issue of properly representing text direction in RDF is not something that this Working Group can handle, as it is a limitation of the core RDF data model. This Working Group expects that a future RDF Working Group will consider the matter and add the ability to specify the text direction of [language-tagged strings](#).

Until a more comprehensive solution can be addressed in a future version of this specification, publishers should consider this issue when representing strings where the text direction of the string cannot otherwise be correctly inferred based on the content of the string. See [\[string-meta\]](#) for a discussion of best practices for identifying language and base direction for strings used on the Web.

## § A. Image Descriptions

*This section is non-normative.*

### § A.1 Linked Data Dataset

#### § Description of the Linked Data Dataset figure in § 8. Data Model

The image consists of three dashed boxes, each describing a different linked data graph. Each box consists of shapes linked with arrows describing the linked data relationships.

The first box is titled "default graph: <no name>" describes two resources: <http://example.com/people/alice> and <http://example.com/people/bob> (denoting "Alice" and "Bob" respectively), which are connected by an arrow labeled `schema:knows` which describes the knows relationship between the two resources. Additionally, the "Alice" resource is related to three different literals:

#### **Alice**

an RDF literal with no datatype or language.

### **weiblich | de**

an language-tagged string with the value "weiblich" and [language tag](#) "de".

### **female | en**

an language-tagged string with the value "female" and [language tag](#) "en".

The second and third boxes describe two [named graphs](#), with the graph names "http://example.com/graphs/1" and "http://example.com/graphs/1", respectively.

The second box consists of two resources: <http://example.com/people/alice> and <http://example.com/people/bob> related by the `schema:parent` relationship, and names the <http://example.com/people/bob> "Bob".

The third box consists of two resources, one named <http://example.com/people/bob> and the other unnamed. The two resources related to each other using `schema:sibling` relationship with the second named "Mary".

## § B. Relationship to Other Linked Data Formats

*This section is non-normative.*

The JSON-LD examples below demonstrate how JSON-LD can be used to express semantic data marked up in other linked data formats such as Turtle, RDFa, and Microdata. These sections are merely provided as evidence that JSON-LD is very flexible in what it can express across different Linked Data approaches.

### § B.1 Turtle

*This section is non-normative.*

The following are examples of transforming RDF expressed in [[Turtle](#)] into JSON-LD.

#### § B.1.1 Prefix definitions

The JSON-LD context has direct equivalents for the Turtle `@prefix` declaration:

### EXAMPLE 137: A set of statements serialized in Turtle

```
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

<http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu> a foaf:Person;
  foaf:name "Manu Sporny";
  foaf:homepage <http://manu.sporny.org/> .
```

### EXAMPLE 138: The same set of statements serialized in JSON-LD

```
{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
  "@type": "foaf:Person",
  "foaf:name": "Manu Sporny",
  "foaf:homepage": { "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/" }
}
```

## § B.1.2 Embedding

Both [[Turtle](#)] and JSON-LD allow embedding, although [[Turtle](#)] only allows embedding of [blank nodes](#).

### EXAMPLE 139: Embedding in Turtle

```
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

<http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu>
  a foaf:Person;
  foaf:name "Manu Sporny";
  foaf:knows [ a foaf:Person; foaf:name "Gregg Kellogg" ] .
```

**EXAMPLE 140:** Same embedding example in JSON-LD

```
{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "http://manu.sporny.org/about#manu",
  "@type": "foaf:Person",
  "foaf:name": "Manu Sporny",
  "foaf:knows": {
    "@type": "foaf:Person",
    "foaf:name": "Gregg Kellogg"
  }
}
```

§ **B.1.3 Conversion of native data types**

In JSON-LD numbers and boolean values are native data types. While [[Turtle](#)] has a shorthand syntax to express such values, RDF's abstract syntax requires that numbers and boolean values are represented as typed literals. Thus, to allow full round-tripping, the JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [[JSON-LD11-API](#)] defines conversion rules between JSON-LD's native data types and RDF's counterparts. [Numbers](#) without fractions are converted to `xsd:integer`-typed literals, numbers with fractions to `xsd:double`-typed literals and the two boolean values [true](#) and [false](#) to a `xsd:boolean`-typed literal. All typed literals are in canonical lexical form.

**EXAMPLE 141:** JSON-LD using native data types for numbers and boolean values

```
{
  "@context": {
    "ex": "http://example.com/vocab#"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.com/",
  "ex:numbers": [ 14, 2.78 ],
  "ex:booleans": [ true, false ]
}
```

**EXAMPLE 142:** Same example in Turtle using typed literals

```
@prefix ex: <http://example.com/vocab#> .
@prefix xsd: <http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema#> .

<http://example.com/>
  ex:numbers "14"^^xsd:integer, "2.78E0"^^xsd:double ;
  ex:booleans "true"^^xsd:boolean, "false"^^xsd:boolean .
```

§ **B.1.4 Lists**

Both JSON-LD and [Turtle] can represent sequential lists of values.

**EXAMPLE 143:** A list of values in Turtle

```
@prefix foaf: <http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/> .

<http://example.org/people#joebob> a foaf:Person;
  foaf:name "Joe Bob";
  foaf:nick ( "joe" "bob" "jaybee" ) .
```

**EXAMPLE 144:** Same example with a list of values in JSON-LD

```
{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"
  },
  "@id": "http://example.org/people#joebob",
  "@type": "foaf:Person",
  "foaf:name": "Joe Bob",
  "foaf:nick": {
    "@list": [ "joe", "bob", "jaybee" ]
  }
}
```

§ **B.2 RDFa**

*This section is non-normative.*

The following example describes three people with their respective names and homepages in RDFa [[RDFa-CORE](#)].

**EXAMPLE 145:** RDFa fragment that describes three people

```
<div prefix="foaf: http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/">
  <ul>
    <li typeof="foaf:Person">
      <a property="foaf:homepage" href="http://example.com/bob/">
        <span property="foaf:name">Bob</span>
      </a>
    </li>
    <li typeof="foaf:Person">
      <a property="foaf:homepage" href="http://example.com/eve/">
        <span property="foaf:name">Eve</span>
      </a>
    </li>
    <li typeof="foaf:Person">
      <a property="foaf:homepage" href="http://example.com/manu/">
        <span property="foaf:name">Manu</span>
      </a>
    </li>
  </ul>
</div>
```

An example JSON-LD implementation using a single [context](#) is described below.

**EXAMPLE 146:** Same description in JSON-LD (context shared among node objects)

```
{
  "@context": {
    "foaf": "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/",
    "foaf:homepage": {"@type": "@id"}
  },
  "@graph": [
    {
      "@type": "foaf:Person",
      "foaf:homepage": "http://example.com/bob/",
      "foaf:name": "Bob"
    }, {
      "@type": "foaf:Person",
      "foaf:homepage": "http://example.com/eve/",
      "foaf:name": "Eve"
    }, {
      "@type": "foaf:Person",
      "foaf:homepage": "http://example.com/manu/",
      "foaf:name": "Manu"
    }
  ]
}
```

## § B.3 Microdata

*This section is non-normative.*

The HTML Microdata [[MICRODATA](#)] example below expresses book information as a Microdata Work item.

### EXAMPLE 147: HTML that describes a book using microdata

```
<dl itemscope
  itemtype="http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Work"
  itemid="http://purl.oreilly.com/works/45U8QJGZSQKD8N">
  <dt>Title</dt>
  <dd><cite itemprop="http://purl.org/dc/terms/title">Just a Geek</cite>
  <dt>By</dt>
  <dd><span itemprop="http://purl.org/dc/terms/creator">Wil Wheaton</sp
  <dt>Format</dt>
  <dd itemprop="http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#realization"
    itemscope
    itemtype="http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Expression"
    itemid="http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596007683.B00K">
    <link itemprop="http://purl.org/dc/terms/type" href="http://purl.ore
    Print
  </dd>
  <dd itemprop="http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#realization"
    itemscope
    itemtype="http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Expression"
    itemid="http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596802189.EB00K">
    <link itemprop="http://purl.org/dc/terms/type" href="http://purl.ore
    Ebook
  </dd>
</dl>
```

Note that the JSON-LD representation of the Microdata information stays true to the desires of the Microdata community to avoid contexts and instead refer to items by their full [IRI](#).



**EXAMPLE 148:** Same book description in JSON-LD (avoiding contexts)

```
[
  {
    "@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/works/45U8QJGZSQKD8N",
    "@type": "http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Work",
    "http://purl.org/dc/terms/title": "Just a Geek",
    "http://purl.org/dc/terms/creator": "Wil Wheaton",
    "http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#realization":
    [
      {"@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596007683.BOOK"},
      {"@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596802189.EBOOK"}
    ]
  }, {
    "@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596007683.BOOK",
    "@type": "http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Expression",
    "http://purl.org/dc/terms/type": {"@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/
  }, {
    "@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/products/9780596802189.EBOOK",
    "@type": "http://purl.org/vocab/frbr/core#Expression",
    "http://purl.org/dc/terms/type": {"@id": "http://purl.oreilly.com/
  }
]
```

## § C. IANA Considerations

This section has been submitted to the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) for review, approval, and registration with IANA.

### § application/ld+json

**Type name:**

application

**Subtype name:**

ld+json

**Required parameters:**

None

**Optional parameters:**

**profile**

A non-empty list of space-separated URIs identifying specific

constraints or conventions that apply to a JSON-LD document according to [RFC6906]. A profile does not change the semantics of the resource representation when processed without profile knowledge, so that clients both with and without knowledge of a profiled resource can safely use the same representation. The **profile** parameter *MAY* be used by clients to express their preferences in the content negotiation process. If the profile parameter is given, a server *SHOULD* return a document that honors the profiles in the list which are recognized by the server. It is *RECOMMENDED* that profile URIs are dereferenceable and provide useful documentation at that URI. For more information and background please refer to [RFC6906].

This specification defines six values for the **profile** parameter.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#expanded**

To request or specify expanded JSON-LD document form.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#compacted**

To request or specify compacted JSON-LD document form.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context**

To request or specify a JSON-LD context document.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#flattened**

To request or specify flattened JSON-LD document form.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#frame**

To request or specify a JSON-LD frame document.

**http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#framed**

To request or specify framed JSON-LD document form.

#### NOTE

Other specifications may publish additional profile parameter URIs with their own defined semantics.

When used as a media type parameter [RFC4288] in an HTTP Accept header [RFC7231], the value of the **profile** parameter *MUST* be enclosed in quotes (") if it contains special characters such as whitespace, which is required when multiple profile URIs are combined.

When processing the "profile" media type parameter, it is important to note that its value contains one or more URIs and not IRIs. In some cases it might therefore be necessary to convert between IRIs and URIs as specified in section 3 Relationship between IRIs and URIs of

[\[RFC3987\]](#).

**Encoding considerations:**

See [RFC 8259, section 11](#).

**Security considerations:**

See [RFC 8259, section 12](#) [\[RFC8259\]](#)

Since JSON-LD is intended to be a pure data exchange format for directed graphs, the serialization *SHOULD NOT* be passed through a code execution mechanism such as JavaScript's `eval()` function to be parsed. An (invalid) document may contain code that, when executed, could lead to unexpected side effects compromising the security of a system.

When processing JSON-LD documents, links to remote contexts and frames are typically followed automatically, resulting in the transfer of files without the explicit request of the user for each one. If remote contexts are served by third parties, it may allow them to gather usage patterns or similar information leading to privacy concerns. Specific implementations, such as the API defined in the JSON-LD 1.1 Processing Algorithms and API specification [\[JSON-LD11-API\]](#), may provide fine-grained mechanisms to control this behavior.

JSON-LD contexts that are loaded from the Web over non-secure connections, such as HTTP, run the risk of being altered by an attacker such that they may modify the JSON-LD [active context](#) in a way that could compromise security. It is advised that any application that depends on a remote context for mission critical purposes vet and cache the remote context before allowing the system to use it.

Given that JSON-LD allows the substitution of long IRIs with short terms, JSON-LD documents may expand considerably when processed and, in the worst case, the resulting data might consume all of the recipient's resources. Applications should treat any data with due skepticism.

As JSON-LD places no limits on the [IRI](#) schemes that may be used, and vocabulary-relative IRIs use string concatenation rather than [IRI](#) resolution, it is possible to construct IRIs that may be used maliciously, if dereferenced.

**Interoperability considerations:**

Not Applicable

**Published specification:**

<http://www.w3.org/TR/json-ld>

### **Applications that use this media type:**

Any programming environment that requires the exchange of directed graphs. Implementations of JSON-LD have been created for JavaScript, Python, Ruby, PHP, and C++.

### **Additional information:**

#### **Magic number(s):**

Not Applicable

#### **File extension(s):**

.jsonld

#### **Macintosh file type code(s):**

TEXT

### **Person & email address to contact for further information:**

Ivan Herman <ivan@w3.org>

### **Intended usage:**

Common

### **Restrictions on usage:**

None

### **Author(s):**

Manu Sporny, Dave Longley, Gregg Kellogg, Markus Lanthaler, Niklas Lindström

### **Change controller:**

W3C

Fragment identifiers used with [application/ld+json](#) are treated as in RDF syntaxes, as per [RDF 1.1 Concepts and Abstract Syntax \[RDF11-CONCEPTS\]](#).

## § C.1 Examples

*This section is non-normative.*

The following examples illustrate different ways in which the profile parameter may be used to describe different acceptable responses.

**EXAMPLE 149:** HTTP Request with profile requesting an expanded document

```
GET /ordinary-json-document.json HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
Accept: application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#expan
```

Requests the server to return the requested resource as JSON-LD in [expanded document form](#).

**EXAMPLE 150:** HTTP Request with profile requesting a compacted document

```
GET /ordinary-json-document.json HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
Accept: application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#compa
```

Requests the server to return the requested resource as JSON-LD in [compacted document form](#). As no explicit context resource is specified, the server compacts using an application-specific default context.

**EXAMPLE 151:** HTTP Request with profile requesting a compacted document with a reference to a compaction context

```
GET /ordinary-json-document.json HTTP/1.1
Host: example.com
Accept: application/ld+json;profile="http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#flat
```

Requests the server to return the requested resource as JSON-LD in both [compacted document form](#) and [flattened document form](#). Note that as whitespace is used to separate the two URIs, they are enclosed in double quotes (").

## § D. Open Issues

*This section is non-normative.*

The following is a list of issues open at the time of publication.

**ISSUE 9:** Content addressable contexts spec:enhancement spec:substantive

Provide a means for referring to a remote context without without requiring it to be downloaded.

**ISSUE 19: Indexing without a predicate** spec:enhancement spec:substantive

Consider a mechanism such as Microdata's `@itemref` for including objects within another referencing node.

**ISSUE 86: Can SRI be used in JSON-LD and for which use cases?** defer-future-version hr:security

Can SRI be used in JSON-LD and for which use cases?

**ISSUE 108: Consider context by reference with metadata** defer-future-version hr:privacy hr:security

Consider context by reference with metadata.

**ISSUE 134: Does HTML's `<base>` effect `@context` IRI resolution?** spec:editorial

Does HTML's `<base>` effect `@context` IRI resolution?

**ISSUE 149: DocumentLoader should be more visible in the specs** spec:editorial

DocumentLoader should be more visible in the specs.

**ISSUE 155: IRIs are terms can be misdefined** hr:security propose closing spec:bug spec:enhancement spec:substantive

IRIs are terms can be misdefined.

## § E. Changes since 1.0 Recommendation of 16 January 2014

*This section is non-normative.*

- A context may contain a `@version` `member` which is used to set the

processing mode.

- An expanded term definition can now have an `@context` property, which defines a context used for values of a property identified with such a term.
- `@container` values within an expanded term definition may now include `@id`, `@graph` and `@type`, corresponding to id maps and type maps.
- An expanded term definition can now have an `@nest` property, which identifies a term expanding to `@nest` which is used for containing properties using the same `@nest` mapping. When expanding, the values of a property expanding to `@nest` are treated as if they were contained within the enclosing node object directly.
- The JSON syntax has been abstracted into an internal representation to allow for other serializations that are functionally equivalent to JSON.
- Added § 4.6.3 Node Identifier Indexing and § 4.6.4 Node Type Indexing.
- Both language maps and index maps may legitimately have an `@none` key, but JSON-LD 1.0 only allowed string keys. This has been updated to allow `@none` keys.
- The value for `@container` in an expanded term definition can also be an array containing any appropriate container keyword along with `@set` (other than `@list`). This allows a way to ensure that such property values will always be expressed in array form.
- In JSON-LD 1.1, terms will be chosen as compact IRI prefixes when compacting only if a simple term definition is used where the value ends with a URI gen-delim character, or if their expanded term definition contains a @prefix member with the value true. The 1.0 algorithm has been updated to only consider terms that map to a value that ends with a URI gen-delim character.
- Values of properties where the associated term definition has `@container` set to `@graph` are interpreted as implicitly named graphs, where the associated graph name is assigned from a new blank node identifier. Other combinations include `["@container", "@id"]`, `["@container", "@index"]` each also may include `@set`, which create maps from the graph identifier or index value similar to index maps and id maps.

Additionally, see § F. Changes since JSON-LD Community Group Final Report.

## § F. Changes since JSON-LD Community Group Final Report

*This section is non-normative.*

- [Lists](#) may now have items which are themselves [lists](#).
- Values of `@type`, or an alias of `@type`, may now have their `@container` set to `@set` to ensure that `@type` members are always represented as an array. This also allows a term to be defined for `@type`, where the value *MUST* be a [dictionary](#) with `@container` set to `@set`.
- The use of [blank node identifiers](#) to label properties is obsolete, and may be removed in a future version of JSON-LD, as is the support for [generalized RDF Datasets](#).
- The [vocabulary mapping](#) can be a relative [IRI](#), which is evaluated either against an existing default vocabulary, or against the document base. This allows vocabulary-relative IRIs, such as the keys of [node objects](#), are expanded or compacted relative to the document base. (See [Security Considerations](#) in § C. [IANA Considerations](#) for a discussion on how string vocabulary-relative [IRI](#) resolution via concatenation. )
- Added support for `"@type": "@none"` in a [term definition](#) to prevent value compaction. Define the `rdf:JSON` datatype.
- [Term definitions](#) with keys which are of the form of a [compact IRI](#) or [absolute IRI](#) *MUST NOT* expand to an [IRI](#) other than the expansion of the key itself.
- Define different processor modes: [pure JSON Processor](#), [event-based JSON processor](#), and [full Processor](#).
- For a [full Processor](#), if a retrieved context URL returns an HTML document, the first script element of type `application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#context`, or `application/ld+json` is used as the context for further processing. This allows a mechanism for documenting the content of a context using HTML.
- A [frame](#) may also be located within an HTML document, identified using type `application/ld+json;profile=http://www.w3.org/ns/json-ld#frame`.

## § G. Acknowledgements

*This section is non-normative.*

The editors would like to specially thank the following individuals for making significant contributions to the authoring and editing of this specification:



- Timothy Cole (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)
- Ivan Herman (W3C Staff)
- Jeff Mixter (OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.))
- Dave Longley (Digital Bazaar)
- David Lehn (Digital Bazaar)
- David Newbury (J. Paul Getty Trust)
- Robert Sanderson (J. Paul Getty Trust, co-chair)
- Harold Solbrig (Johns Hopkins Institute for Clinical and Translational Research)
- Simon Steyskal (WU (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien) - Vienna University of Economics and Business)
- A Soroka (Apache Software Foundation)
- Ruben Taelman (Imec vzw)
- Benjamin Young (Wiley, co-chair)

Additionally, the following people were members of the Working Group at the time of publication:

- Christopher Allen (Spec-Ops)
- Steve Blackmon (Apache Software Foundation)
- Dan Brickley (Google, Inc.)
- Newton Calegari (NIC.br - Brazilian Network Information Center)
- Victor Charpenay (Siemens AG)
- Alejandra Gonzalez Beltran (University of Oxford)
- Sebastian Käbisch (Siemens AG)
- Axel Polleres (WU (Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien) - Vienna University of Economics and Business)
- Leonard Rosenthol (Adobe)
- Jean-Yves ROSSI (CANTON CONSULTING)
- Antoine Roulin (CANTON CONSULTING)
- Manu Sporny (Digital Bazaar)
- Clément Wargnier de Wailly (CANTON CONSULTING)

A large amount of thanks goes out to the [JSON-LD Community Group](#) participants who worked through many of the technical issues on the mailing

list and the weekly telecons: Chris Webber, David Wood, Drummond Reed, Eleanor Joslin, Fabien Gandon, Herm Fisher, Jamie Pitts, Kim Hamilton Duffy, Niklas Lindström, Paolo Ciccicarese, Paul Frazze, Paul Warren, Reto Gmür, Rob Trainer, Ted Thibodeau Jr., and Victor Charpenay.

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