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Data Minds



ora2know

The German Oracle Database Community

Oracle 26ai: JSON-Features jenseits von JSON Relational Duality Views

Donnerstag, 28. Mai 2026 | 11:45 - 12:30 | Technologie & Betrieb

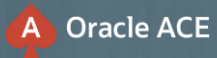


Robert Marz
DATABEE
Die IT-Architekten

Primary Role

Senior Technical Architect
with database centric view of the world





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Events



28. Mai 2026

**Quest Data Minds
Konferenz**

 Köln

10. Juni 2026

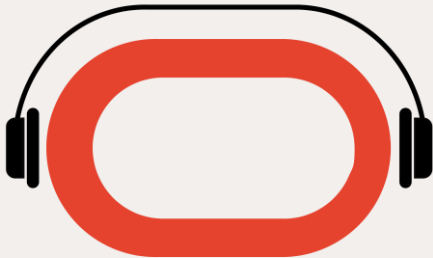
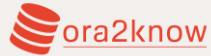
Meet ora2know

 Wertheim

September. 2026

**Noon2noon
Vectorsearch**

 München



wie Datenbank

O wie Datenbank

Episode 0:	Teaser	12. Mai 2026
Episode 1:	Muss ich wirklich auf Oracle 26ai migrieren?	19. Mai 2026
Episode 2:	Oracle Patch Mythos	20. Mai 2026
Episode 3:	Oracle APEX 26.1	02. Juni 2026

A dramatic, low-key photograph of Jason Voorhees from the Friday the 13th franchise. He is wearing his iconic white hockey mask with black eye holes and a dark, heavy jacket. He holds a large machete in his right hand, which is raised. His left hand is extended forward, palm facing the viewer. The lighting is split: a cool blue light on the left and a warm yellow light on the right, creating a stark contrast. The background is dark and indistinct.

JSON Document Format



JSON Acronym

Java Script Object Notation

Lightweight Format

Text-based
Data Interchange
Document Format (can be stored as Files)

Original Design Goal

persisting JavaScript Objects



Structures

unordered
collection

“key”:”value” pairs

separated by commas

enclosed by braces { }

also realized as **object**, record, struct, dictionary, hash table, keyed list or associative array

ordered
list of
values

separated by commas

enclosed by square brackets []

also realized as **array**, vector, list or sequence



JSON: Data Types

```
{
  "string": "String are quoted",
  "escape": "\n control chars",
  "number": 1234,
  "boolean": true,
  "collection": {
    "object": "fields",
    "can": "nested"
  },
  "array": [ "one",
            "two",
            {"three": true} ]
}
```

Data Types

string

“always enclosed in double quotes”

number

Integer	-256
Float	256.123
E-notation	2.3e3

Boolean

true
false
null

Object

Simple types (Scalars)
Nested Objects
Arrays

Array

Simple types (Scalars)
Objects
Nested Arrays



Characterset

always Unicode

Number encoding

always English, Decimal Point

Whitespace

between Tokens is ignored
space, linefeed, carriage return, tab

Dates are represented as strings

usually ISO 8601 Zulu (UTC) Time
"2019-11-19T15:13:23Z"



Storing JSON Data



Storing JSON Docs in the Database



Text-based columns

- Varchar2
 - ⚠️ Limits document length
- CLOB
 - ⚠️ NLS-Layer
 - ⚠️ Doubles Space Usage

BLOBs

- eliminate NLS-Layer (JSON is always UTF-8)
- Database character set should be AL32UTF8

Check constraints (is_json)

- Sanity
- enables dot Notation for querying

Native JSON Data Type "OSON" Format

- 21c New Feature



OSON Binary Format

Stores JSON

- binary encoded

JSON-Schema

- field names are stored at beginning
- → Speeds up searching

Pointers to data

- → efficient storing and faster retrieval

Adds scalar Datatypes

- returned by JSON Path method type()
- → better SQL Operations

OSON Type	SQL Type
binary	RAW or BLOB
date	DATE
daysecondInterval	INTERVAL DAY TO SECOND
double	BINARY_DOUBLE
float	BINARY_FLOAT
timestamp	TIMESTAMP
timestamp with time zone	TIMESTAMP WITH TIME ZONE
vector	VECTOR
yearmonthInterval	INTERVAL YEAR TO MONTH



Binary JSON Formats - Overview

	BSON	JSONB	OSON
Used by Database	MongoDB	PostgreSQL	Oracle
Open Source Format	✓	✓	✓
Keeps field ordering / streaming format	✓	✗	✗
Single byte encoding for booleans	✓	✗	✓
Maximum size after encoding	16 MB	256 MB	32MB
Inline threshold	4 kB	2 kB	8 kB
...			

Taken from Loïc Lefèvre <https://medium.com/db-one/a-deep-dive-into-binary-json-formats-oson-e3190e5e9eb0>



The JSON Datatype

JSON data type

stores JSON natively
in OSON binary format

→ no more textual
parsing

compatible ≥ 20

conversion

`json()`

constructor

text to

JSON

`json_serialize()`

function

JSON back

to text





Create Table with JSON column

```
create table if not exists json_demo (  
  id number primary key,  
  data_vc varchar2(4000)  
    check (data_vc is json),    -- VARCHAR2 column with JSON validation  
  data_j json  
    check (data_j IS JSON VALIDATE '{"type" : "object"}'),  
  data_o json(object),        -- JSON column limited to object type  
  data_a json(array),        -- JSON column limited to array type  
  data_s json(scalar)        -- JSON column limited to scalar type  
);
```



JSON Constructors



JSON Data Type Constructor (Textual)

```
WITH jtab AS
(SELECT JSON(
  '{ "name" : "Alexis Bull",
    "Address": { "street" : "200 Sporting Green",
                "city" : "South San Francisco",
                "state" : "CA",
                "zipCode" : 99236,
                "country" : "United States of America" } }')
 AS jcol
)
SELECT j.jcol.Address.city FROM jtab j;
```

ADDRESS

"South San Francisco"

Returns	JSON Data Type
	json-functions return varchar2(4000)
Textual Input	VARCHAR2, CLOB, or BLOB
Null Input	results in SQL Null
Non-Textual Input	Vector SQL object type
PLSQL Input	Varray, record, index by binary_integer collection (IBBI), nested table, associative array



JSON Datatype Constructor – Objects and arrays (1/4)

```
select json{*}  
  from dept  
 where deptno=20;
```

```
JSON{*}
```

```
-----  
{"DEPTNO":20,"DNAME":"Research","LOC":"Dallas"}
```

```
/*
```

One JSON object per row, with all columns included.
The column names are used as keys in the JSON object
as defined in the table. --> Upper case, mostly.

```
*/
```



JSON Datatype Constructor – Objects and arrays (2/4)

```
select json{eName, job}
  from emp
 where empno in (7839,7698);
```

```
JSON{ENAME,JOB}
```

```
-----
{"eName":"Blake","job":"Manager"}
{"eName":"King","job":"President"}
```

```
/*
```

if the column names are specified, resulting keys have the same spelling and case.

```
*/
```





JSON Datatype Constructor – Objects and arrays (3/4)

```
select json{'id': empno, 'last name': ename, 'job role': job} as emp_json
  from emp
 where empno in (7839,7698);
```

EMP_JSON

```
{"id":7698,"last name":"Blake","job role":"Manager"}
{"id":7839,"last name":"King","job role":"President"}
```

/*

you have full control over the keys in the JSON object
by using the key-value syntax json{'key' : value}.

Note, that SQL style single quotes are used for the keys

*/

JSON Datatype Constructor – Objects and arrays (4/4)

```
select json[
  json{dname,
    loc,
    'emps' : json[ select json{ename, sal}
                  from emp
                  where deptno=dept.deptno
                ]
  ] as dept_json
from dept
where deptno = 10
group by deptno, dname, loc;
```

/* JSON arrays and objects can be nested as needed.
Sub-queries can be used to create the nested JSON objects. */

DEPT_JSON

```
[{"dname":"Accounting","loc":"New York","emps":[{"ename":"King","sal":5000},
{"ename":"Clark","sal":2450},{"ename":"Miller","sal":1300}]}
```



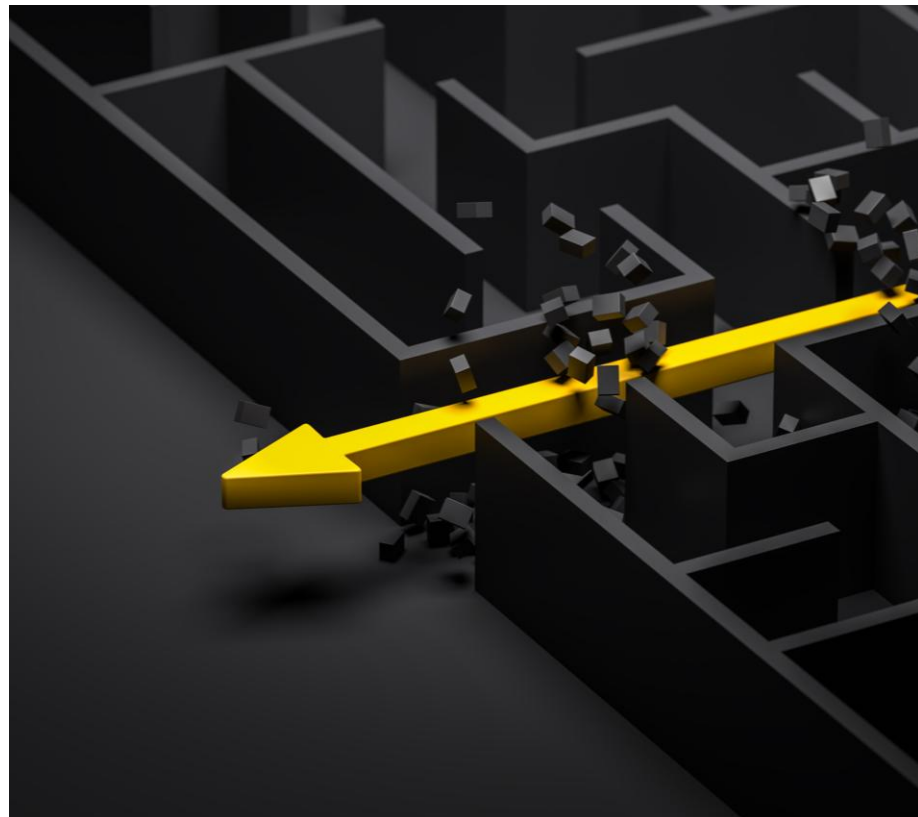
json{} and json[]

are shortcuts to

- json_object(... returning json)
- json_array(... returning json)

they work

- only in SQL
- but not in PL/SQL





JSON Functions



Comparing JSON Documents

```
select case
  when json_equal({'one': 1, 'two': ['three', 4]}
    ,{'two': ['three'
      , 4]
      , 'one': 1 })
  then 'EQUAL'
  else 'DIFFERENT'
end as compare;
```

COMPARE

EQUAL

```
select case
  when json_equal({'one': 1, 'two': ['three', 4]}
    ,{'one': 1, 'two': [4, 'three']})
  then 'EQUAL'
  else 'DIFFERENT'
end as compare;
```

COMPARE

DIFFERENT



JSONPath - Reference

JSONPath is Xpath for JSON

Used all over the place

Uses dot-Notation: \$.store.book[0].title

Returns JSON Document or single element

[JSONPath Online Evaluator](#)

Expression	Description
\$	the root object / element
@	the current object / element
. or []	child operator
[start:end:step]	array slice operator
?()	filter expression

JSONPath	Result
\$.store.book[*].author	the authors of all books in the store
\$.author	all authors
\$.store.*	all things in store, which are some books and a red bicycle.
\$.store..price	the price of everything in the store.
\$.book[2]	the third book
\$.book[(@.length-1)] \$.book[-1:]	the last book in order.
\$.book[0,1] \$.book[:2]	the first two books
\$.book[?(@.isbn)]	filter all books with isbn number
\$.book[?(@.price<10)]	filter all books cheaper than 10
\$.*	All members of JSON structure.



JSON_TABLE

Lives inside the SQL-From-Clause

Produces **Rows** and **Columns**

Accepts LOBs or JSON data

Included in SQL:2016 Standard





Querying JSON: The JSON_TABLE Operator (2/2)

The JSON Document

```
select wert
  from json_table( '["Eins", "Zwei", "Drei",
                    "Vier", "Fünf", "Sechs"]'
                  , '$[*]'
                  columns wert varchar2 path '$'
                  )
/
```

Produces rows
(JSONPath Object)

Produces columns
(JSONPath Element)

WERT

Eins
Zwei
Drei
Vier
Fünf
Sechs

6 rows selected

Elapsed: 00:00:00.011



Session Parameter JSON_BEHAVIOR

```
select coalesce(json_value('Robbie', '$.*'), 'NULL') as data;
```

DATA

NULL

```
alter session set json_behavior='on_error:error';  
select coalesce(json_value('Robbie', '$.*'), 'NULL') as data;
```

Error starting at line : 1 in command -

```
select coalesce(json_value('Robbie', '$.*'), 'NULL') as data
```

Error report -

ORA-40441: JSON syntax error

JZN-00078: Invalid JSON keyword 'Robbie' (line 1, position 1)

<https://docs.oracle.com/error-help/db/ora-40441/>



Caveat: JSON Functions return varchar2(4000)

All functions returning JSON documents default to varchar2(4000)

omitting „returning json“

- textual json is returned
- reparsing needed
- error if JSON is too large

Most of them accept a returning clause as argument

In nested json calls, every function needs “returning json”

Test your code with large documents to find missing clauses

Rule for dblinter is in the making





Patching JSON – json_mergepatch()



```
json_mergepatch({'FirstName':"Eric", "LastName":"Cartman"}, {'LastName':"Fox"})  
{"FirstName":"Eric", "LastName":"Fox"}
```

```
json_mergepatch({'FirstName':"Eric", "LastName":"Cartman"}, {'Salary':1000})  
{"FirstName":"Eric", "LastName":"Cartman", "Salary":1000}
```

```
json_mergepatch({'FirstName':"Eric", "LastName":"Cartman"}, {'FirstName':null})  
{"LastName":"Cartman"}
```



JSON Mergepatch Trick: remove null values (1/2)

```
/*  
    when generating json from tables, null values are common.  
    Most JS-based applications do not like null values in JSON.  
*/
```

```
select json{ename, comm} as emp_commison  
from emp  
where empno in (7839, 7698, 7499, 7521);
```

EMP_COMMISON

```
-----  
{"ename":"Allen","comm":300}  
{"ename":"Ward","comm":500}  
{"ename":"Blake","comm":null}  
{"ename":"King","comm":null}
```



JSON Mergepatch Trick: remove null values (2/2)

/*

a call to `json_mergepatch` with two identical JSON objects as source and patch returns the JSON document with all null values (and their keys) removed.

with e as */

```
(select json{ename, comm} as emp_commison
  from emp
  where empno in (7839, 7698, 7499, 7521)
)
select json_mergepatch(emp_commison,
                      emp_commison returning json) as emp_commison
  from e;
```

EMP_COMMISON

```
-----
{"ename":"Allen","comm":300}
{"ename":"Ward","comm":500}
{"ename":"Blake"}
{"ename":"King"}
```



Manipulating JSON - json_transform()

```
select json_transform(  
  json{dname, 'emps': json[select ename  
    from emp  
    where emp.deptno=dept.deptno]}  
  , set '$.dname' = 'R+D'  
  , append '$.emps' = 'Robbie'  
  , sort '$.emps'  
  , set '$.empsCount' = path '@.emps[*].count()'   
  returning json) as jdata  
from dept  
where deptno=20;
```

JDATA

```
-----  
{  
  "dname": "R+D",  
  "emps": ["Adams", "Ford", "Jones",  
    "Robbie", "Scott", "Smith"],  
  "empsCount": 6  
}
```

Array Operations

- append / prepend / add_set / insert
- Intersect / union / minus
- copy
- sort

More Operations

- Merge / keep
- set / insert / remove / remove_set
- rename / replace
- nested path
- case
- arithmetic / aggregate functions

Parameters (typical)

- json, operation path_expr = value
- passing keyword for bind vars in path expression
- operation sequence is possible



JSON Transform caveat: functions are only evaluated once

```
with json_data as (  
  select json('{"array": [{"a":1}, {"a":2}, {"id":"xxx"}], "b":"additional data"}') as j  
)  
select json_transform(j,  
  set '$.array[*].id' = format_uuid(sys_guid())  
  ignore on existing  
  returning json) as j_transform  
from json_data;
```

J_TRANSFORM

```
-----  
{"array":[{"a":1, "id":"36d0a9ea-6e21-05b6-e063-0200590af751"},  
  {"a":2, "id":"36d0a9ea-6e21-05b6-e063-0200590af751"},  
  {"id":"xxx"}],  
  "b":"additional data"}
```

custom function



differences between sql and plsql functions

PL/SQL and SQL functions are developed independently

Behavior differs especially in `json_path` expressions

Undocumented changes in every RU (23.4,23.5,24.6, ...)

Use
`select json_... () into my_var;`
Instead of
`my_var := json_...();`



JSON Schema and Domains



Data Use Case Domains: Validate JSON

```
create table jobs
  (job json validate
   '{ "type": "object",
     "properties": { "job_id": { "type": "string"} }
   }');
```

```
create domain json_job as json validate '{
  "type": "object",
  "properties": {
    "job_id": {
      "type": "string",
      regexp: "^[0-9a-f]"
    }
  },
  "required": ["job_id"]
}';
```

```
create table jobs2(job json_j
```

```
select table_name, SEARCH_CONDITION
  from user_constraints
  where table_name Like 'JOBS%'
        and constraint_type = 'C';
```

TABLE_NAME	SEARCH_CONDITION
------------	------------------

JOBS	"JOB" IS JSON VALIDATE '{ "type": "object", "properties": {
JOBS2	"JOB" IS JSON FORMAT JSON (LAX VALIDATE '{"type":"object","properties":{"job_id

```
select *
  from user_json_domain_schema_columns;
```

DOMAIN_NAME	COLUMN_NAME	CONSTRAINT_NAME	JSON_SCHEMA
-------------	-------------	-----------------	-------------

JSON_JOB	JSON_JOB	SYS_DOMAIN_C0052	{"type":"object","properties":{"job_id":{"type":"s
----------	----------	------------------	--



Flexible Data Use Case Domains (1/2)

Define

multiple (multi column) Domains

Choose

for every table row
what Domain to use

Endless Possibilities

e.g. Addresses:
• choose check constraints and
• display_function
based on country code

Killer Feature for JSON Validation

- Choose JSON Schema based on content
- Handle different API-Versions
-

```
create domain job_type_a
as -- this is a multi-column domain
(job_details as json validate '{
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {"type_a": {"type": "string"}},
    "required": ["type_a"]
}');

create domain job_type_b
as -- add as many column and constraints as needed
(job_details as json validate '{
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {"type_b": {"type": "string"}},
    "required": ["type_b"]
}');

create FLEXIBLE domain job_types
-- number of columns must match subdomains
(job_details)
choose domain using (job_mode varchar2(2 char)) from
-- options: decode() and case statements
-- case with full comparison expression only
case
    when job_mode = 'A' then job_type_a(job_details)
    when job_mode = 'B' then job_type_b(job_details)
    else job_type_a(job_details) -- default
end;
```



Flexible Data Use Case Domains (2/2)

```
create table jobs_flex
  (id number primary key,
   job_mode varchar2(2 char),
   job_details JSON);

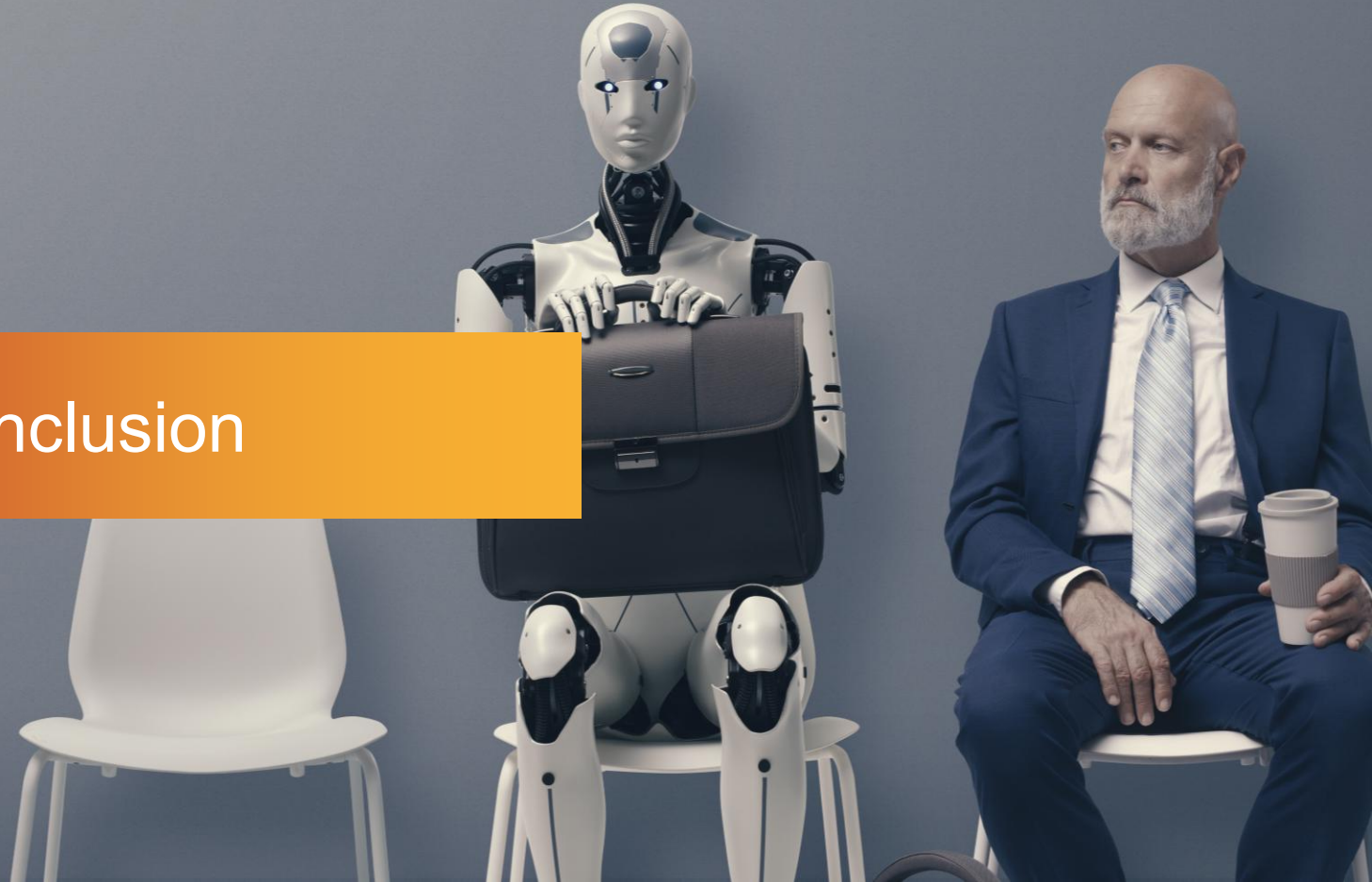
alter table jobs_flex
  modify (job_details, job_mode) add domain job_types;

insert into jobs_flex (id, job_mode, job_details)
  values (1, 'A', '{"type_a": "A job"}'),
         (2, 'B', '{"type_b": "B job"}');
-- 2 rows inserted.
insert into jobs_flex (id, job_mode, job_details)
  values (3, 'A', '{"type_b": "A job"}');

-- ORA-11534: check constraint (ROBBIE.SYS_C008451)
--   involving columns JOB_MODE, JOB_DETAILS
--   due to domain constraint ROBBIE.SYS_DOMAIN_C0059
--   of domain ROBBIE.JOB_TYPES violated
```



Conclusion





23ai JSON Features beyond Duality Views

- Duality Views are not the only cool JSON Feature
- Store JSON Docs in JSON Columns
- JSON is very efficient
- JSON Constructors are helpful
- Never omit „returning json“
- Check your docs against JSON-schemas

PLEASE

**DO
TRY THIS
AT HOME**