# Assignment Operators

An assignment operator assigns a value to its left operand based on the value of its right operand. The first operand must be a variable and the basic assignment operator is equal (=), which assigns the value of its right operand to its left operand. That is, a = b assigns the value of b to a.

```
var a = 5 // assigned a value of 5 to a
var b = a // assigned a (value of 5) to b, now b has a value of 5
var c = b // assigned b (value of 5) to c, now c has a value of 5
console.log(c) // prints 5
/* => we dragged the value of 5 from a all the way to c,
through a series of //assignments (using the assignment operator "=")*/
```


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## Assignment Operators

We can combine arithmetic operators with the regular assignment operator "=" and create shorthand annotations for standard operations:

| Shorthand | Expression | Description |
| --- | --- | --- |
| a +=b | a = a + b | Adds 2 numbers and assigns the result to the first. |
| a -= b | a = a - b | Subtracts 2 numbers and |

| Shorthand | Expression | Description |
| --- | --- | --- |
| | | assigns the result to the first. |
| a *=b | a = a * b | Multiplies 2 numbers and assigns the result to the first. |
| a /=b | a = a / b | Divides 2 numbers and assigns the result to the first. |
| a %=b | a = a % b | Computes the modulus of 2 numbers and assigns the result to the first. |

```
var a = 5
var b = 7
a += b
console.log(a) // prints 12
```