You can obtain user input by using the prompt method of the window object. The problem with using prompts is that IE7 has basically disabled prompts for so-called security reasons. For this reason, I suggest avoiding prompts. If you do use IE7 and get a message to allow scripts and accept it, then you should refresh the page and the prompt will be normally be displayed.  
  
  
For example:  
  
number = window.prompt( "Enter a number", "" );   
  
This will open a popup dialog box that allows the user to enter a string. The dialog box will contain the message "Enter a number" (without the quotes), a blank input text area (represented by ""), and an ok and cancel button. The user positions the mouse into the input text area and types in characters and then clicks the ok button to return the string to the script. This will assign the user input to the variable 'number'. Note that the text displayed by prompts is plain text, not XHTML formatted text.  
  
  
Similar to the alert method, you can can omit window from window.prompt. For example:  
  
number = prompt( "Enter a number", "" );   
  
You can also initalize the blank input text area. For example:  
  
number = window.prompt( "Enter a number", "0" );   
  
[Displayed](http://fog.ccsf.cc.ca.us/~srubin/prompt2.html):  
  
To repeat, note that the text displayed by prompt dialog boxes can only be plain text, not XHTML formatted text.  
  
If you need to use the variable 'number' in an arithmetic statement you should convert it from a string to an arithmetic integer, using the parseInt function. For example:  
  
var number, numb;   
  
number = window.prompt( "Enter a number", "" );   
  
numb = parseInt( number );   
  
If number is to include a decimal point and decimal positions then you would use the parseFloat function. For example:  
  
var number, numb;   
  
number = window.prompt( "Enter a number", "" );   
  
numb = parseFloat( number );   
  
Now let's take a simple example. Suppose you wanted to write a script that prompts the user for 2 numbers, adds them together, and displays the results using a document.write statement.  
  
<script type="text/javascript">   
  
var number1, number2, sum;   
  
number1 = prompt( "Enter the first number", "" );   
  
number2 = prompt( "Enter the second number", "" );   
  
sum = number1 + number2;   
  
document.write("<h2>The sum of the numbers is " + sum + "</h2>");   
  
</script>