

ASSERTIONS AND RETRIES



YOU WILL LEARN

- how assertions force commands to retry
- writing command chains

Question: how would you check if there are more than 2 elements on the page?

```
cy.get(todos).should('have.length.greaterThan', 2)
```

Cypress assertion

What if you cannot use `have.length.greaterThan`? We can write our own assertion logic

```
cy.get(todos).should(($el) => {
  if ($el.length <= 2) {
    throw new Error('Need at least 2 elements')
  }
})
```

```
cy.get(todos).should(($el) => {
  // synchronous logic inside should(callback)
})
```

Cypress should(callback) assertion function

Playwright does not have `have.length.greaterThan` so we can run a "retry" callback

```
const todos = page.locator('.todo-list li')

await expect(async () => {
  const count = await todos.count()
  expect(count).toBeGreaterThan(2)
}).toPass()
```

CYPRESS CHAIN

```
// rewrite the following assertion using a chain of commands
// - get the elements, which in Cypress yields a jQuery object (1)
// - get the property `length` from that jQuery object (2)
// - confirm the number is greater than 2 (3)
// - if the assertion (3) fails, go back to (1)
cy.get(todos).should(($el) => {
  expect($el.length, 'more than 2 elements').to.be.greaterThan(2)
})
```

```
// rewrite the following assertion using a chain of commands
// - get the elements, which in Cypress yields a jQuery object (1)
// - get the property `length` from that jQuery object (2)
// - confirm the number is greater than 2 (3)
// - if the assertion (3) fails, go back to (1)
cy.get(todos).its('length').should('be.greaterThan', 2)
```

Each step can be debugged!

Specs

todos.cy.js

App

- ✓ shows more than 2 items at the start

BEFORE EACH

- 1 request POST 200 /reset
- 2 visit /

TEST BODY

- 1 get .todo-list li
- 2 its .length
- 3 - assert expected 3 to be above 2

293ms

http://localhost:3000/ Electron 114

todos

What needs to be done?

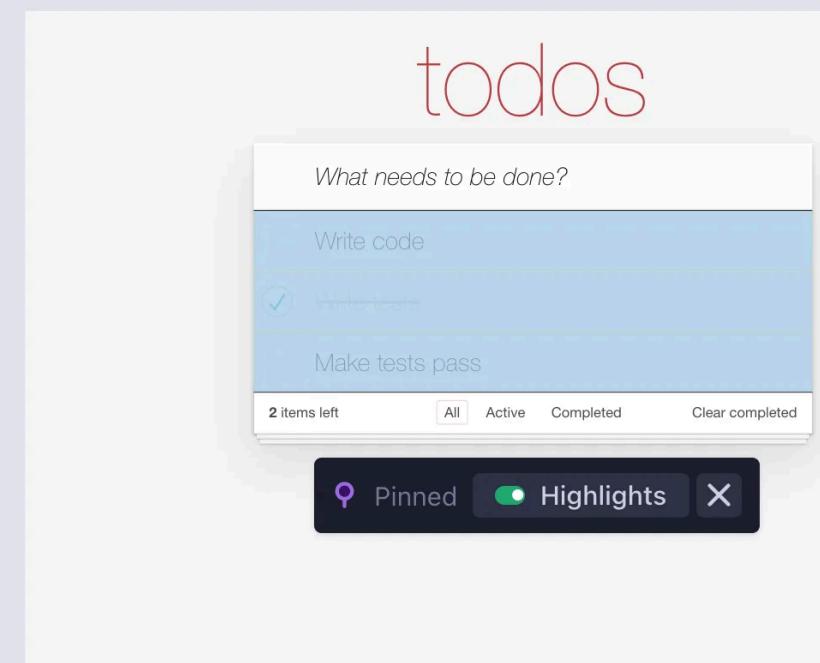
Write code

Make tests pass

2 items left

All Active Completed Clear completed

Pinned Highlights X



Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Security Lighthouse

top Filter Default levels ▾ 21

```
09:33:23.364 console.clear() was prevented due to 'Preserve log' index-55e85
09:33:23.366 Command: get index-55e85
09:33:23.366 Selector: .todo-list li index-55e85
09:33:23.367 Yielded: ▶(3) [li.todo, li.todo.completed, li.todo] index-55e85
09:33:23.368 Elements: 3 index-55e85
```

Specs

todos.cy.js

App

- ✓ shows more than 2 items at the start

BEFORE EACH

- 1 request POST 200 /reset
- 2 visit /

TEST BODY

- 1 get .todo-list li
- (xhr) GET 200 /todos
- its .length
- assert expected 3 to be above 2
- (xhr) GET 200 /todos

293ms

http://localhost:3000/ Electron 114 1000x660 (54%)

todos

What needs to be done?

Write code

Make tests pass

2 items left All Active Completed Clear completed

Pinned Highlights X

Elements Console Sources Network Performance Memory Application Security Lighthouse

Default levels ▾ 2 Issues: 2

09:33:49.524 console.clear() was prevented due to 'Preserve log' index-55e8512e.js:133769

09:33:49.525 Command: its index-55e8512e.js:133762

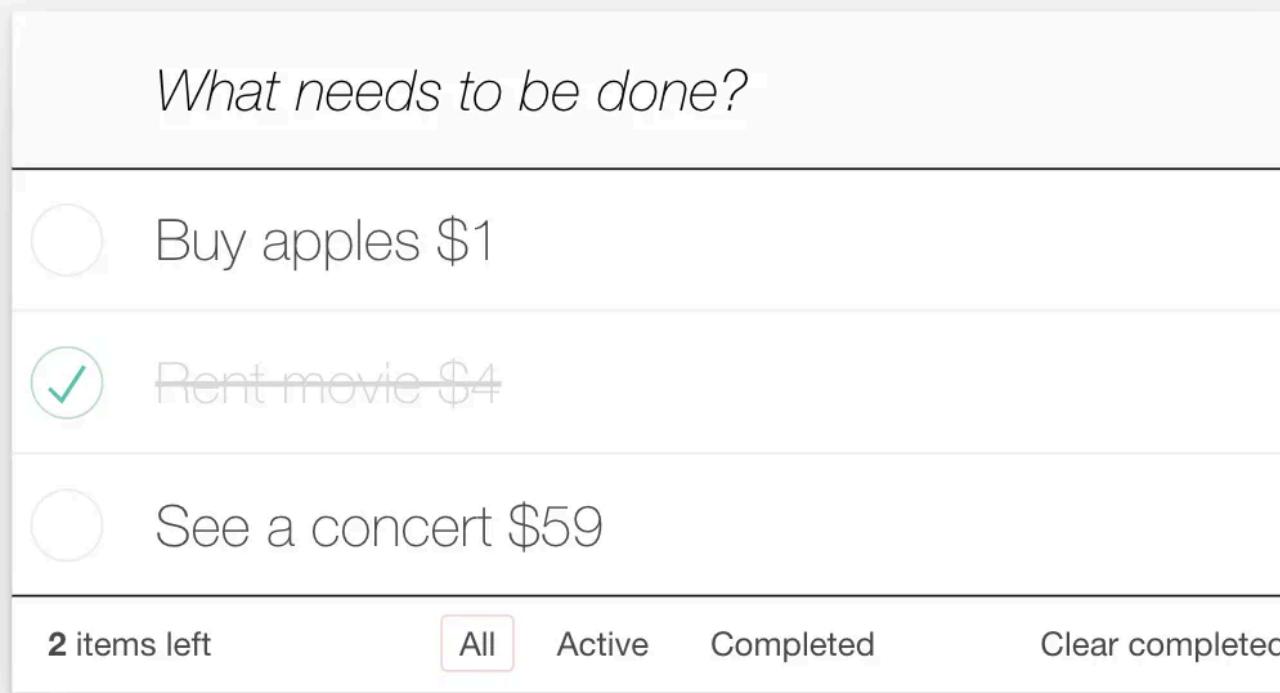
09:33:49.525 Property: .length index-55e8512e.js:133762

09:33:49.525 Subject: index-55e8512e.js:133762

▶ jQuery.fn.init(3) [li.todo, li.todo.completed, li.todo, prevObject: jQuery.fn.init(1), selector: '.todo-list li']

09:33:49.526 Yielded: 3 index-55e8512e.js:133762

CONFIRM SORTED PRICES



How can you confirm the prices are sorted?

- git checkout c5

Todo: From each Todo item you need:

- grab its text
- use a regular expression to find the \$ match
- convert the string to a number
- confirm the list of numbers is sorted

PLAYWRIGHT SOLUTION

```
const todos = page.locator('.todo-list li')
await expect(async () => {
  const titles = await todos.allTextContents()
  const matches = titles.map((s) => s.match(/\$(?<price>\d+)/))
  const strings = matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price)
  // @ts-ignore
  const prices = strings.map(parseFloat)
  const sorted = structuredClone(prices).sort()
  expect(sorted, 'sorted from min to max').toEqual(prices)
}).toPass()
```

Playwright Test

PLAYWRIGHT 0 100ms 200ms 300ms 400ms 500ms 600ms 700ms 800ms

> Filter (e.g. text, @tag)
Status: all Projects: chromium
1/1 passed (100%)

✓ todos.spec.js
 ✓ App
 ✓ shows items sorted

Actions	Metadata
✓ Passed	817ms
> Before Hooks	692ms
✓ expect.toPass	40ms
locator.allTextContents locator('.todo-... 29ms	
sorted from min to max	1ms
> After Hooks	80ms

Action Before After

http://localhost:3000/

todos

What needs to be done?

- Buy apples \$1
- Rent movie \$4
- See a concert \$59

2 items left

Cypress per example-todos.html
Cypress vs Playwright course

Locator Source Call Log Errors Console 4 Network 11 Attachments

locator.allTextContents

TIME

wall time: 12/3/2023, 12:27:24 PM

duration: 29ms

PARAMETERS

locator: locator('.todo-list li')

expression: "ee => ee.map(e => e.textContent || '')"

isFunction: true

CYPRESS SOLUTION

```
cy.get(todos).should(($el) => {
  const titles = Cypress._.map($el, 'innerText')
  const matches = titles.map((s) => s.match(/\$(?<price>\d+)/))
  const strings = matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price)
  const prices = strings.map(parseFloat)
  const sorted = Cypress._.sortBy(prices)
  expect(sorted).to.not.be.empty
  expect(sorted, 'sorted from min to max').to.deep.equal(prices)
})
```

We cannot simplify the Playwright code. But we can rewrite Cypress `should(callback)` into a series of separate steps.

Note: this exercise is in the branch c6

```
cy.get(todos)
  .then(($el) => Cypress._.map($el, 'innerText'))
  .then((titles) => titles.map((s) => s.match(/\$(?<price>\d+)/)))
  .then((matches) => matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price))
  // @ts-ignore
  .then((strings) => strings.map(parseFloat))
  .should((prices) => {
    const sorted = Cypress._.sortBy(prices)
    expect(sorted).to.not.be.empty
    expect(sorted, 'sorted from min to max').to.deep.equal(prices)
  })
```

Replace a single `should(callback)` with a series of `cy.then(callback)...`. Every step does something with the argument (the subject) and passes the result to the next step.

CYPRESS-MAP

```
.then(($el) => Cypress._.map($el, 'innerText'))
```

I have plugin **cypress-map** that can map each item to a property

```
.map('innerText')
```

Rewrite the `cy.then(callback)...` commands using `cypress-map` queries. **Note:** this exercise is in the branch `c7`

```
cy.get(todos)
  .map('innerText')
  .mapInvoke('match', /\$(?<price>\d+)/)
  .map('groups.price')
  .map(parseFloat)
  .should((prices) => {
    const sorted = Cypress._.sortBy(prices)
    expect(sorted).to.not.be.empty
    expect(sorted, 'sorted from min to max').to.deep.equal(prices)
  })
```

Each step is now shown in the Command Log and can be debugged

The screenshot displays the Cypress UI interface. On the left, the Command Log shows the test code for 'todos.cy.js'. The code includes a 'request' step to POST to '/reset', followed by a 'visit' step to the root URL. The 'TEST BODY' section contains logic to get the todo list, map over it to extract innerText and price, and then assert that the items are sorted by price. The browser preview on the right shows a 'todos' application with three items: 'Buy apples \$1' (unchecked), 'Rent movie \$4' (checked), and 'See a concert \$59' (unchecked). The footer of the preview window indicates it's a 'cy-vs-pw-example-todomvc' example from the 'Cypress vs Playwright course'.

```
Specs
  todos.cy.js
    Prices
      ✓ shows items sorted by price
        BEFORE EACH
          1 request POST 200 /reset
          2 visit /
        TEST BODY
          1 get .todo-list li
            (xhr) GET 200 /todos
          2 map innerText
          3 print ["Buy apples $1", "Rent movie $4", "See a concert $59"]
          4 mapInvoke match {}
          5 map groups.price
          6 map parseFloat
          7 - assert expected [ 1, 4, 59 ] not to be empty
          8 - assert sorted from min to max: expected [ 1, 4, 59 ]
            to deeply equal [ 1, 4, 59 ]
```

http://localhost:3000

Electron 114

1000x660 (79%)

todos

What needs to be done?

- Buy apples \$1
- Rent movie \$4
- See a concert \$59

2 items left

All Active Completed Clear completed

cy-vs-pw-example-todomvc

Cypress vs Playwright course

What needs to be done?

Buy apples \$1

Rent movie ~~\$4~~

See a concert \$59

2 items left

All

Active

Completed

Clear completed

Prices should be \$1, \$4, and \$59

DIFFERENT SOLUTIONS = DIFFERENT RETRIES

Note: this exercise is in the branch c8

```
it('shows items sorted by price', () => {
  const todos = '.todo-list li'
  cy.get(todos).should(($el) => {
    const titles = Cypress._.map($el, 'innerText')
    console.log(titles)
    const matches = titles.map((s) => s.match(/^\$(?<price>\d+)/))
    const strings = matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price)
    // @ts-ignore
    const prices = strings.map(parseFloat)
    expect(prices).to.deep.equal([1, 4, 59])
  })
})
```

Error in should(callback)
goes back to the cy.get
query command

Cypress: cy.get is retried

```
it('shows items sorted by price - B', () => {
  const todos = '.todo-list li'

  cy.get(todos)
    .then(($el) => Cypress._.map($el, 'innerText'))
    .then((titles) => titles.map((s) => s.match(/^\$(?<price>\d+)/)))
    .then((matches) => matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price))
  // @ts-ignore
  .then((strings) => strings.map(parseFloat))
  .should('deep.equal', [1, 4, 59])
})
```



Cannot retry
Previous command
is NOT a query

Cypress: cy.then stops the retries, the test probably fails if the prices are not shown right away

```
it('shows items sorted by price - A', () => {
  const todos = '.todo-list li'

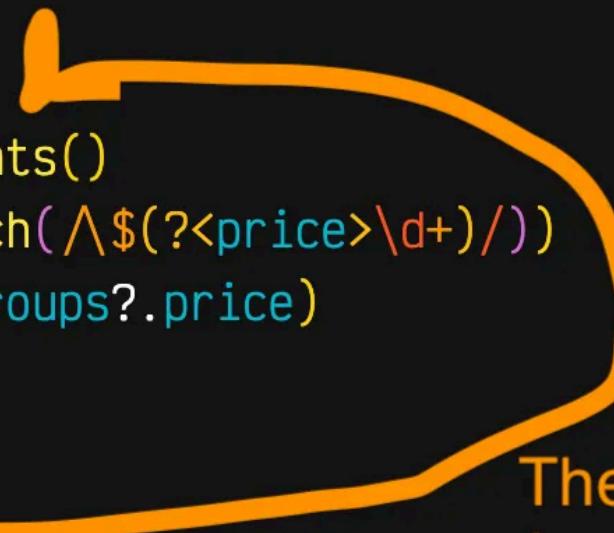
  cy.get(todos)
    .map('innerText')
    .print()
    .mapInvoke('match', '^$(?<price>\d+)/')
    .map('groups.price')
    .map(parseFloat)
    .should('deep.equal', [1, 4, 59])
})
```

goes to cy.get
and tries again

Cypress: The entire chain of queries (safe) is retried, including cy.get.
The test is solid.

```
test('shows items sorted by price - D', async ({ page }) => {
  const todos = page.locator('.todo-list li')

  await expect(async () => {
    const titles = await todos.allTextContents()
    const matches = titles.map((s) => s.match(/^\$(?<price>\d+)/))
    const strings = matches.map((m) => m?.groups?.price)
    // @ts-ignore
    const prices = strings.map(parseFloat)
    expect(prices).toEqual([1, 4, 59])
  }).toPass()
})
```

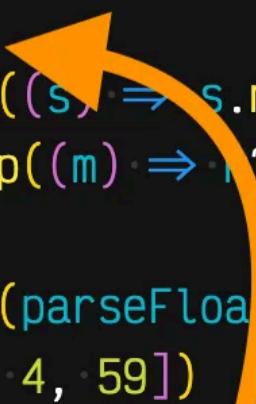


The entire callback
is evaluated again

Playwright: elements are queried and the entire callback is retried

```
test('shows items sorted by price - E', async ({ page }) => {
  const todos = page.locator('.todo-list li')

  const titles = await todos.allTextContents()
  await expect(async () => {
    const matches = titles.map(s => s.match(/^\$(<price>\d+)/))
    const strings = matches.map(m => m?.groups?.price)
    // @ts-ignore
    const prices = strings.map(parseFloat)
    expect(prices).toEqual([1, 4, 59])
  }).toPass({ timeout: 5000 })
})
```



The callback is evaluated which does NOT include getting the elements

Playwright: Getting the elements' text is *outside* the callback, so elements are *not* queried again. The test might be flaky or fail.

Cypress: chain of queries is retried. Are shown nicely in the Command Log.

Playwright: commands inside the callback `expect(...).toPass()` are retried, not really shown in the UI

Tip: use `cypress-recurse` for something similar to `expect(...).toPass()`



ASSERTIONS AND RETRIES

- commands vs assertions
- query again elements to make stable assertions



Pick the [next section](#) or jump to the [09-app-access chapter](#)