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Programming Usable Interfaces
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Assignment 6B Reflection

Overall when writing my Javascript code, I struggled much more than I did with HTML and CSS because writing the functions required more logic and problem solving. The first challenge I faced on homework was with writing the code for having an indicator in the cart icon when the user presses “add to cart.” While I knew I would have to use the syntax “document.getElementById,” but it took me a while to figure out how to use an if loop to display a different number based off the quantity the user chooses from the dropdown menu. At first, it was confusing to me where to use “getElementById,” but I learned that I could use it in different ways - first to “get” the element that I’m trying to update or change, then again to update the actual element. Once I understood the concept of using “var x” in my if loop, I was able to use it to change the image of the shopping cart icon based on the quantity choice.

I used the same if loop idea to update the image based on glaze choice and update the price based on quantity choice. Another challenge I faced was with updating the price on the product page because I was trying to update text as opposed to images like I had for the glaze and cart. This stumped me for a long time, but using w3schools.com helped me to realize that following “document.getElementById,” I had been automatically typing .src, which works for images but not text. Updating .src to .innerHTML immediately solved my problem so I was able to update the text of the price on the product page.

Another challenge I faced was with storing the data in a local session so that the cart page would update with the user’s selections for glaze and quantity. Similarly, I knew the syntax from lab, so I knew I would be using “localStorage.setItem” to store it and “JSON.parse(localStorage.getItem('x'))” to retrieve it, but I had trouble with keeping all of my id’s and object’s straight. I knew I needed to store 2 attributes (glaze and quantity) for the object (the cinnamon roll), but because of how many different ids and variables I had, I kept using the wrong one in the wrong place, causing the Javascript functions to not work. In order to solve these problems I returned to the original syntax, going carefully through all of my HTML and JS files to match ids and straighten out the variables. This was an extremely tedious and frustrating experience, but I was able to finally get everything to work out, which was rewarding.