



**I have the following section of HTML, where I attempt to build a form made of pairs of elements: an input type and an input value. There is a button in the form to add more of these elements if needed, but it doesn't quite work as intended. Where am I going wrong?**

Health Tracker

...

Add observed health information and press submit. This information will be sent to your doctor.

...

Add Another Input

Enter Data

The main issues are that you are using the wrong DOM API (``getElementByClassName`` instead

### What is going wrong

- `document.getElementByClassName("variableinput")` is invalid; the correct method is `document.getElementsByClassName(...)`, which returns a collection, not a single element. [\[1\]](#) [\[2\]](#)
- The "Add Another Input" button is inside a form and has no `type="button"`, so it acts like a submit button and triggers form submission instead of just running `addInputElement()`. [\[3\]](#) [\[4\]](#)

- ``addInputElement()`` only creates an empty `<select>` without appending any `<option>` c

## Minimal fixed example

Here is a compact version showing the key fixes:

```
<form id="healthtrackerform" class="portal" action="/login" method="POST" accept-charset=
  <div id="variable-container">
    <div class="variableinput">
      <select name="input1_type" class="formitem">
        <option value="other_notes" class="portal">Other or Comment</option>
        <option value="length" class="portal">Length</option>
        <option value="weight" class="portal">Weight</option>
        <option value="head_circumference" class="portal">Head Circumference</option>
      </select>
      <input type="text" name="input1" class="formitem"><br>
    </div>
  </div>

  <button type="button" onclick="addInputElement()">Add Another Input</button>
  <input type="submit" name="submit" id="submit" class="formitem" value="Enter Data">
</form>

<script>
  let num_elems = 1;
  const container = document.getElementById("variable-container");

  function addInputElement() {
    num_elems++;

    const wrapper = document.createElement("div");
    wrapper.className = "variableinput";

    const select = document.createElement("select");
    select.name = `input${num_elems}_type`;
    select.className = "formitem";

    const options = [
      { value: "other_notes", label: "Other or Comment" },
      { value: "length", label: "Length" },
      { value: "weight", label: "Weight" },
      { value: "head_circumference", label: "Head Circumference" }
    ];

    options.forEach(opt => {
      const o = document.createElement("option");
      o.value = opt.value;
      o.textContent = opt.label;
      select.appendChild(o);
    });

    const input = document.createElement("input");
    input.type = "text";
    input.name = `input${num_elems}`;
    input.className = "formitem";

    wrapper.appendChild(select);
    wrapper.appendChild(input);
```

```
    wrapper.appendChild(document.createElement("br"));

    container.appendChild(wrapper);
}
</script>
```

Key changes applied here:

- Removed `getElementByClassName` entirely and instead used an explicit container `#variable-container` to append new rows.
- Gave the "Add Another Input" button `type="button"` so it does not submit the form.

- Created both the `<select>` (with options) and the corresponding text `<input>` for each



## Ah, I see. Thank you for the explanation!

You're welcome—glad it helped clarify things.

Since responses here need a source, note that the behavior of buttons inside forms (submitting by default) and the need to use `getElementsByClassName` rather than `getElementByClassName` are standard HTML/DOM behavior, as described in common web platform documentation and tutorials. [\[10\]](#) [\[11\]](#)



1. <https://www.sololearn.com/en/Discuss/2341229/javascript-getelementsbyclassname-method-not-working>
2. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/19289907/getelementsbyclassname-produces-error-undefined>
3. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/html/how-to-prevent-buttons-from-submitting-forms-in-html/>
4. <https://www.tutorialspoint.com/how-to-prevent-buttons-from-submitting-forms-in-html>
5. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/77011451/why-does-getelementsbyclassname-not-work>
6. [https://www.reddit.com/r/HTML/comments/ohk14s/getelementsbyclassname\\_not\\_working/](https://www.reddit.com/r/HTML/comments/ohk14s/getelementsbyclassname_not_working/)
7. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/33556877/html-form-submit-button-how-to-validate-inputs-and-prevent-submit>
8. [https://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/lhj1uy/using\\_javascript\\_how\\_do\\_you\\_dynamically\\_select/](https://www.reddit.com/r/learnprogramming/comments/lhj1uy/using_javascript_how_do_you_dynamically_select/)
9. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcaT3WmQAdI>
10. <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/html/how-to-prevent-buttons-from-submitting-forms-in-html/>
11. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/19289907/getelementsbyclassname-produces-error-undefined>