

PUI Homework 6 Reflection

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Reflection

_____ In 6A, the assignment was pretty straightforward. Adding functionality to the radio buttons was easily accomplished with different onclick functions, but I wish I knew a better way to do this instead of having separate functions for each radio button option. My intuition says when you have to copy/paste functions, there is probably a better way to loop over this. This is a design flaw, because with many more choices, there would be many more functions to keep track of. For the ChangeBack function to display a message in the add to cart button, I had to look up documentation for a setTimeout function, but it was fairly straightforward.

On the other hand 6B was more challenging. There was a significant amount of syntax involved, and I had to try many different arrangements of my code to get it working right. Unfortunately, something as simple as a space between input & [name="qty"], caused me problems for a while before I figured out what it was. The querySelector function was simple to use, but has fairly hard to understand syntax for passing arguments.

Concepts

_____ Concepts learned in this assignment:

- Event listeners and event triggers. Looking for the right HTML element to trigger an event was an interesting task. Occasionally this was straightforward like clicking a button, but sometimes I had to be creative like using the onLoad function.
 - querySelector. This was a useful way to look at the status of the radio buttons without having to loop over each one individually. I used this to check the status of my radio buttons and then set prices based on the status
 - Objects are data structures, like dictionaries with key/value pairs. Coming from a background with C and python, this was a way for me to understand data structures like objects and JSON as ways for storing data like cart items. Coincidentally, I already knew this concept from parsing JSON API queries in python, but hadn't contextualized it with Javascript.
 - LocalStorage is a way for storing these data structures like JSON. It's an interesting thought to know that this is what goes on behind the scenes when I'm shopping online and my cart is stored as cookies.
 - Flexbox is a powerful tool for layout. I did almost all of my grids with flexbox by creating row and column classes. This reminds me of the Auto Layout tool in Figma, where properties can be changed and the box automatically adjusts to the parameters set. I find this to be very useful and prevent a lot of manual work at setting widths and heights.
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