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# Functions

INFO/CSE 100, Spring  
Fluency in Information Technology

<http://www.cs.washington.edu/100>

# Readings and References

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- Reading
  - » *Fluency with Information Technology*
    - Chapter 19, Bean Counter
    - Chapter 20, Abstraction and Functions
- Other References
  - » W3Schools JavaScript tutorial  
<http://www.w3schools.com/js/default.asp>
  - » W3Schools JavaScript HTML DOM Objects  
[http://www.w3schools.com/js/js\\_obj\\_htmlDOM.asp](http://www.w3schools.com/js/js_obj_htmlDOM.asp)
  - » Mozilla Browser  
<http://www.mozilla.org/>



# Functions

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A *function* is a way to bundle a set of instructions and give them a name so that you can reuse them easily

Functions have a specific layout

- » *<name>* ← the function name is an identifier
- » *<parameter list>* ← list of input variables for the function
- » *<statements>* ← the statements do the work

```
function <name> ( <parameter list> ) {  
    <statements>  
}
```

# Example Function

*template*

```
function <name> ( <parameter list> ) {  
    <statements>  
}
```

Write a simple function to compute the Body Mass Index when the inputs are in English units (ie, US units)

*example*

```
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units  
// weight in pounds  
// height in inches  
// returns body mass index  
  
function bmiE(weightLBS, heightIN) {  
    var heightFt = heightIn / 12; // convert to feet  
    return 4.89 * weightLBS / (heightFt * heightFt);  
}
```

# Develop the function

---

First, make sure you understand what you want the function to do and how it will accomplish the task.

```
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units
// weight in pounds
// height in inches
// returns body mass index

function name(parameter list) {

    statements

}
```

# Pick a name for the function

---

Function names are identifiers

- » start with a letter
- » should have a fairly obvious meaning
- » should not be one of the Javascript reserve words

```
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units
// weight in pounds
// height in inches
// returns body mass index

function bmiE(parameter list) {

    statements

}
```

# Pick the parameters

Parameter names are also identifiers

- » these are the variable names that your function will use when it is performing its calculations
- » should have a fairly obvious meaning

```
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units
// weight in pounds
// height in inches
// returns body mass index

function bmiE(weightLBS, heightIN) {

    statements;

}
```

# Functions without Parameters!

---

- Function do not have to have parameters
  - » But we still need to include the parentheses

```
// Print out Greeting
// Typical Greeting is "Hello World"

function giveGreeting() {

    document.write("Hello World!");

}
```



# Write the function body

---

The function body includes whichever statements are required to implement the desired capability.

```
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units
// weight in pounds
// height in inches
// returns body mass index

function bmiE(weightLBS, heightIN) {
    var heightFt = heightIn / 12; // convert to feet
    return 4.89 * weightLBS / (heightFt * heightFt);
}
```

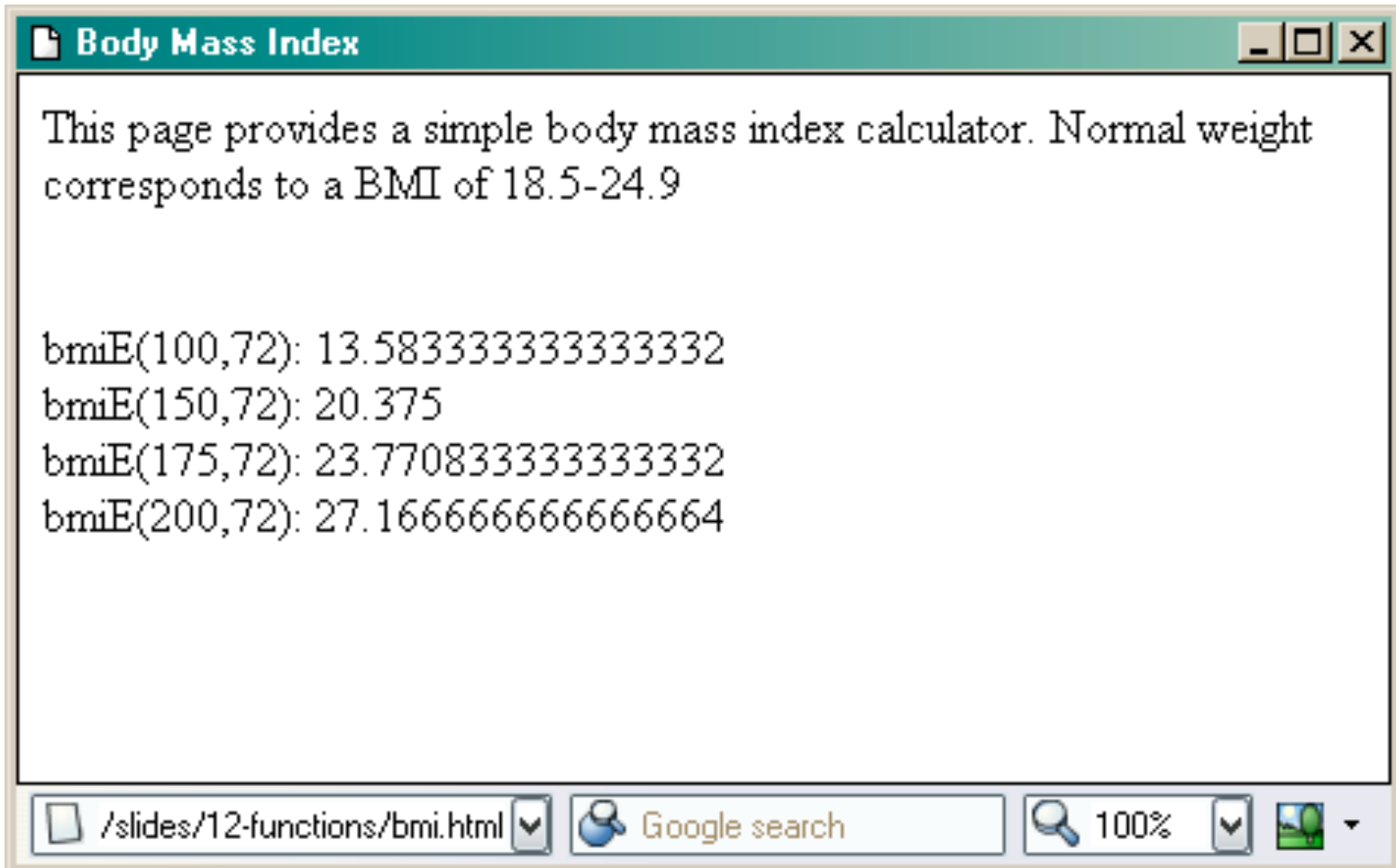
# A Simple Testing Template

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<title>Body Mass Index</title>
<script type="text/javascript">
  // Figure Body Mass Index in English units
  function bmiE( weightLBS, heightIn ) {
    var heightFt = heightIn / 12; // Change to feet
    return 4.89 * weightLBS / (heightFt * heightFt);
  }
</script>
</head>
<body>
<p>This page provides a simple body mass index calculator.
Normal weight corresponds to a BMI of 18.5-24.9</p>
<script type="text/javascript">
  document.writeln("<br>bmiE(100,72) : "+bmiE(100,72));
  document.writeln("<br>bmiE(150,72) : "+bmiE(150,72));
  document.writeln("<br>bmiE(175,72) : "+bmiE(175,72));
  document.writeln("<br>bmiE(200,72) : "+bmiE(200,72));
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

The new function

Test statements

# Try the function and see how it works



This page provides a simple body mass index calculator. Normal weight corresponds to a BMI of 18.5-24.9

```
bmiE(100,72): 13.583333333333332  
bmiE(150,72): 20.375  
bmiE(175,72): 23.770833333333332  
bmiE(200,72): 27.166666666666664
```

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "Body Mass Index". The main content area displays a paragraph of text and four lines of code output. The code output shows the function `bmiE` being called with two arguments (weight and height) and returning a BMI value. The browser's address bar shows the URL `/slides/12-functions/bmi.html`. The search bar contains the text "Google search". The zoom level is set to 100%.

# Fancy Function Features

---

```
<head>
<title>Body Mass Index</title>
<script type="text/javascript">
// Calculate Body Mass Index in English units
// weight in pounds
// height in inches
// returns body mass index
function bmiE(weightLBS, heightIN)  {
    var heightFt = heightIn / 12; // convert to feet
    return 4.89 * weightLBS / (heightFt * heightFt);
}
</script>
</head>
```

`<script>` in `<head>` location, comments, keywords, formal parameters, curly brackets, parentheses, operators, expressions, assignment statement, return statement, semi-colon



# Using Fancy Functions

```
<body>
<p>This page provides a simple body mass index
calculator.
Normal weight corresponds to a BMI of 18.5-24.9</p>
<script type="text/javascript">
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(100,72): "+bmiE(100,72)+");
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(150,72): "+bmiE(150,72)+");
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(175,72): "+bmiE(175,72)+");
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(200,72): "+bmiE(200,72)+");
</script>
</body>
```

<script> in <body> location, document, writeln function call, strings, string concatenation, bmiE function call, arguments (aka actual parameters)

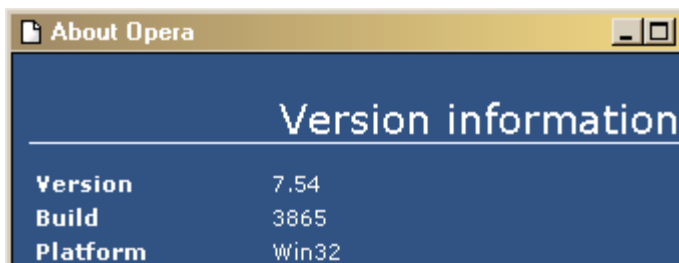
# Global or Local?!?

- Scope of a variable describes where and when it can be referenced
  - » Local variables are only known inside of a function (curly braces)
  - » Global variables are known by all the Javascript inside of `<script> </script>` pairs

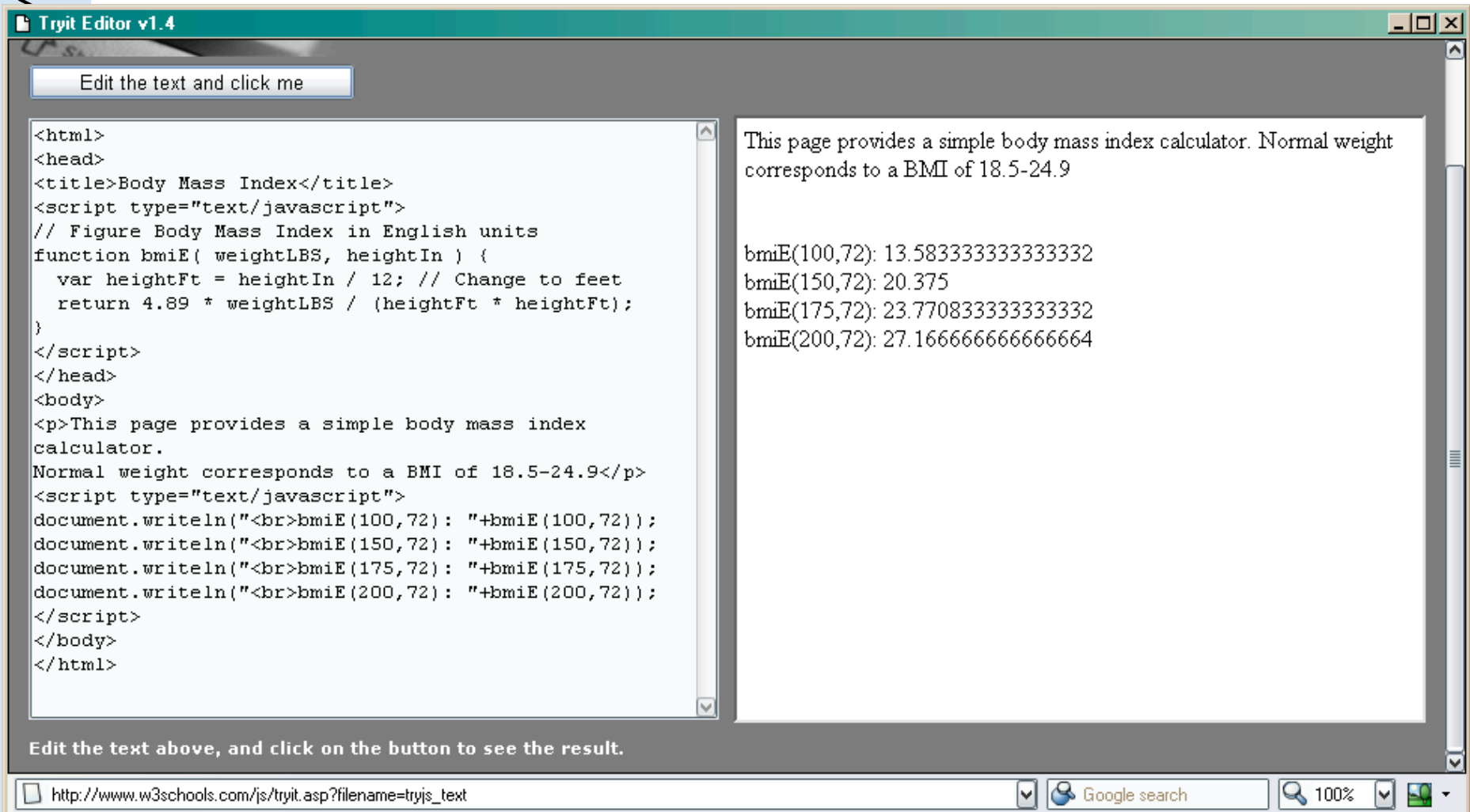
```
// Calculate Percentage of Study Hours/Week
// time in hours
// returns hours
var days = 7;
function calculateStudyHrs(time) {
    var totalHrs = 24 * days;
    return time/totalHrs;
}
```

# Comments on Debugging

- Debugging JavaScript can be hard
  - » The browsers all implement things a little differently, particularly old browsers
    - *upgrade* if you are using something old!



# Use the W3Schools TryIt Editor



The screenshot shows the W3Schools TryIt Editor interface. The title bar reads "Tryit Editor v1.4". At the top, there is a button labeled "Edit the text and click me". The main area is split into two panes. The left pane contains HTML and JavaScript code for a BMI calculator. The right pane shows the rendered output of the code.

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Body Mass Index</title>
<script type="text/javascript">
// Figure Body Mass Index in English units
function bmiE( weightLBS, heightIn ) {
  var heightFt = heightIn / 12; // Change to feet
  return 4.89 * weightLBS / (heightFt * heightFt);
}
</script>
</head>
<body>
<p>This page provides a simple body mass index
calculator.
Normal weight corresponds to a BMI of 18.5-24.9</p>
<script type="text/javascript">
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(100,72) : "+bmiE(100,72));
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(150,72) : "+bmiE(150,72));
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(175,72) : "+bmiE(175,72));
document.writeln("<br>bmiE(200,72) : "+bmiE(200,72));
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

This page provides a simple body mass index calculator. Normal weight corresponds to a BMI of 18.5-24.9

bmiE(100,72): 13.583333333333332  
bmiE(150,72): 20.375  
bmiE(175,72): 23.770833333333332  
bmiE(200,72): 27.166666666666664

At the bottom of the editor, there is a button labeled "Edit the text above, and click on the button to see the result." The address bar shows the URL: [http://www.w3schools.com/js/tryit.asp?filename=tryjs\\_text](http://www.w3schools.com/js/tryit.asp?filename=tryjs_text). There is also a "Google search" button and a zoom level of "100%".



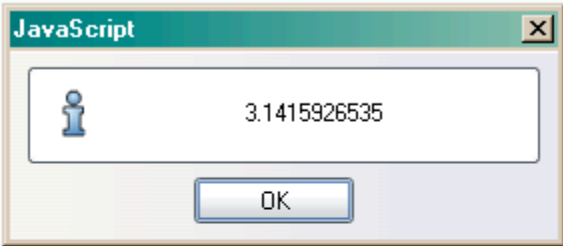
# Display results using alert(...)

Edit the text and click me

```
<html>
<head>
<title>Body Mass Index</title>
<script type="text/javascript">
var someVariable = 3.1415926535;
</script>
</head>

<body>
<script type="text/javascript">
alert (someVariable);
</script>
</body>
</html>
```

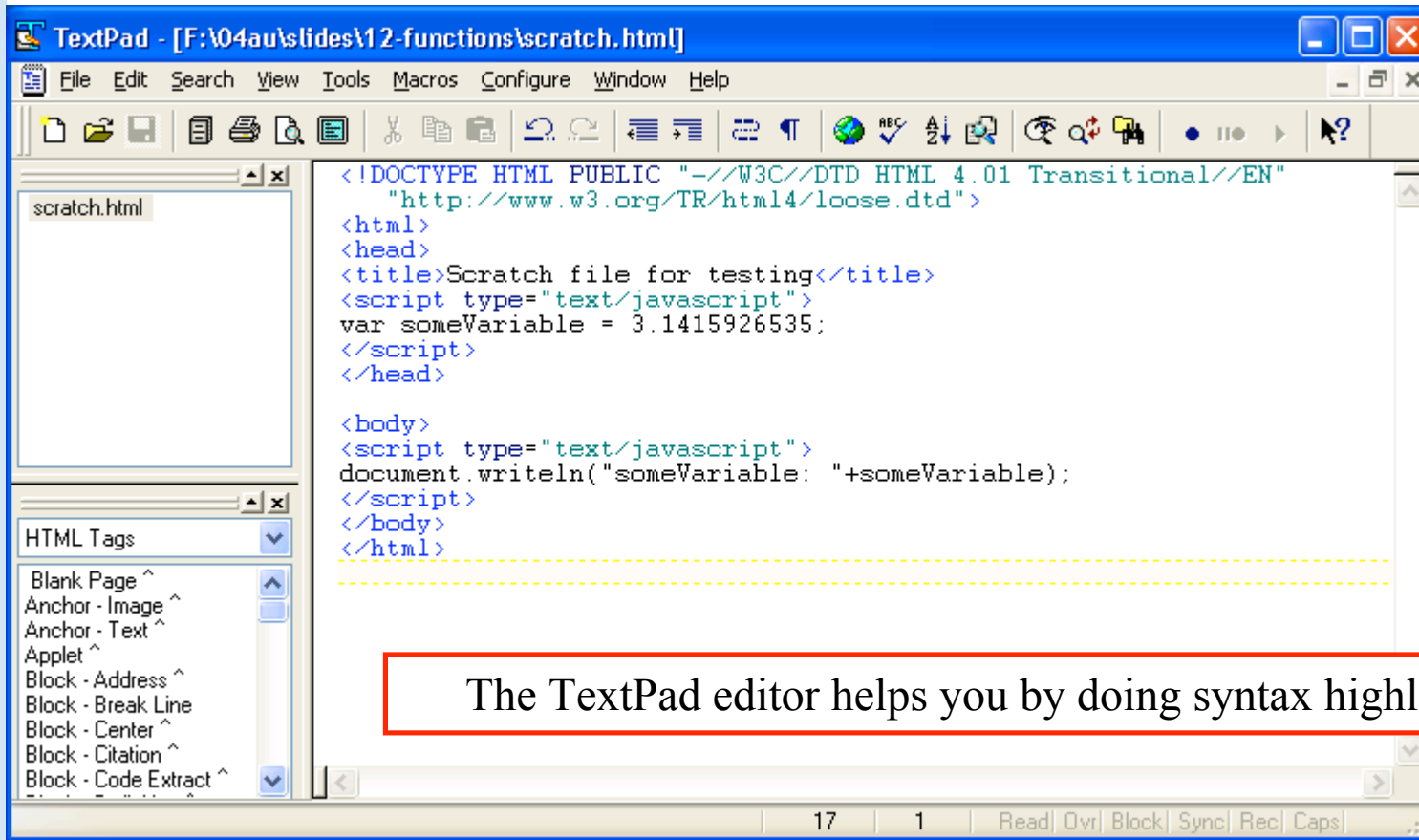
Edit the text above, and click on the button to see the result.



Use the alert("This is a message") function



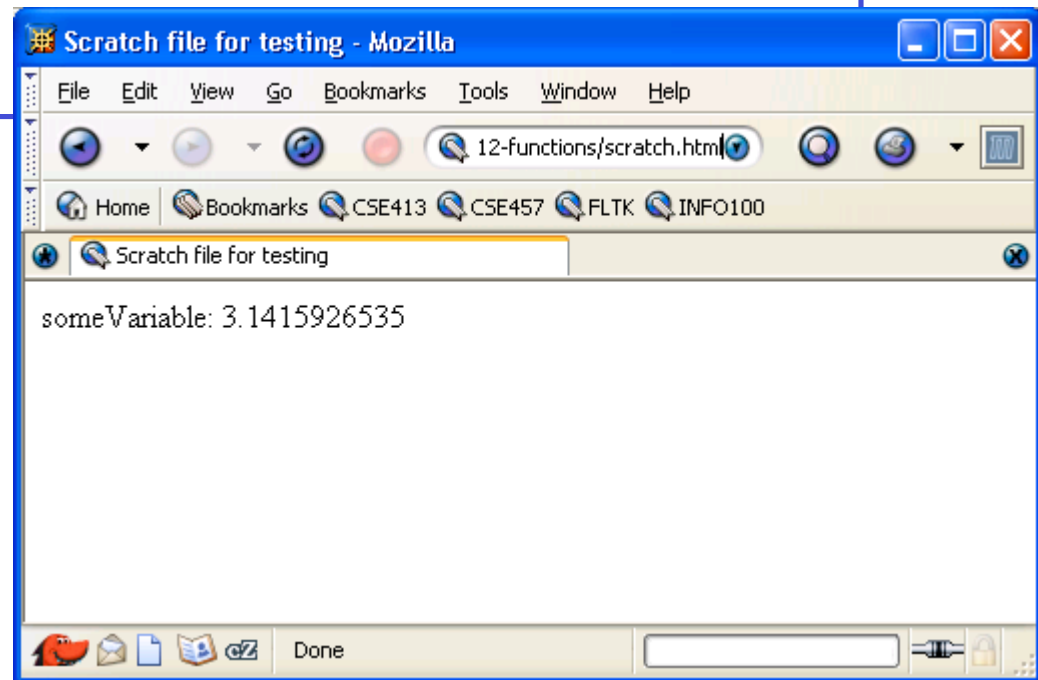
# Use an editor that helps you



The TextPad editor helps you by doing syntax highlighting.

# Display results using writeln(...)

```
<body>  
<script type="text/javascript">  
document.writeln("someVariable:  
"+someVariable);  
</script>  
</body>
```



# Use a browser that helps you

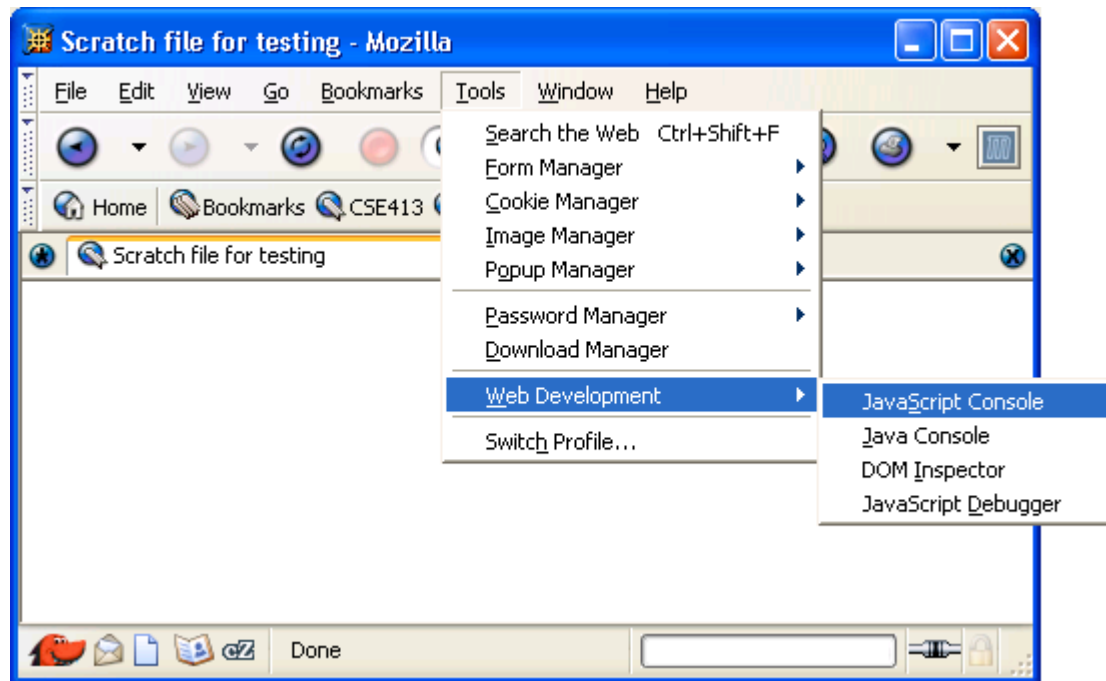
---

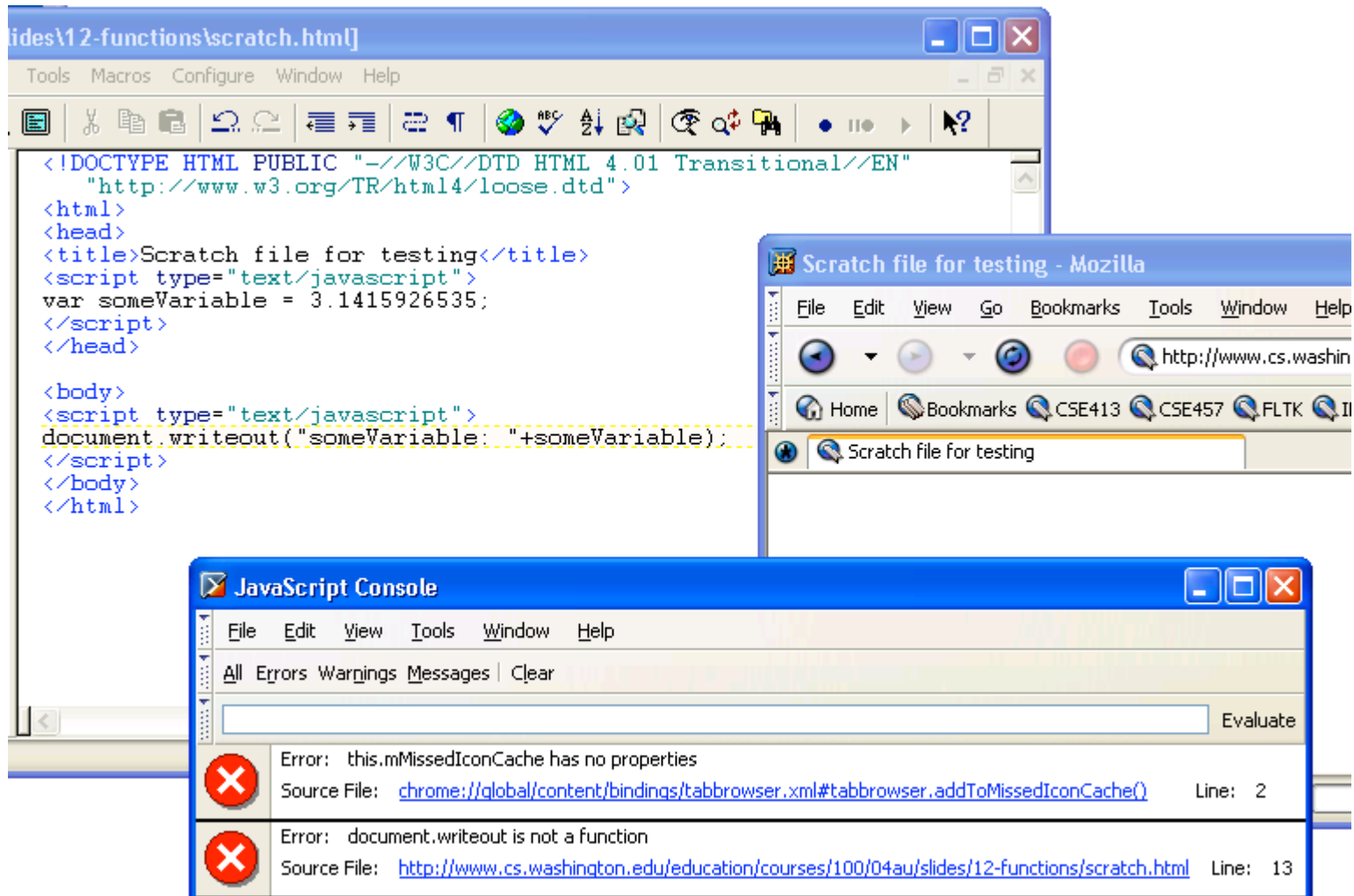
- All browsers try to be forgiving of errors, which means that they generally don't produce a lot of error messages
  - » use a browser that *helps you debug* like Mozilla





# enable Mozilla JavaScript Console



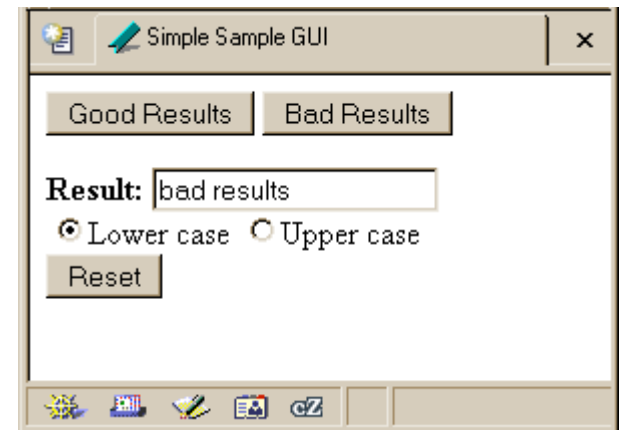
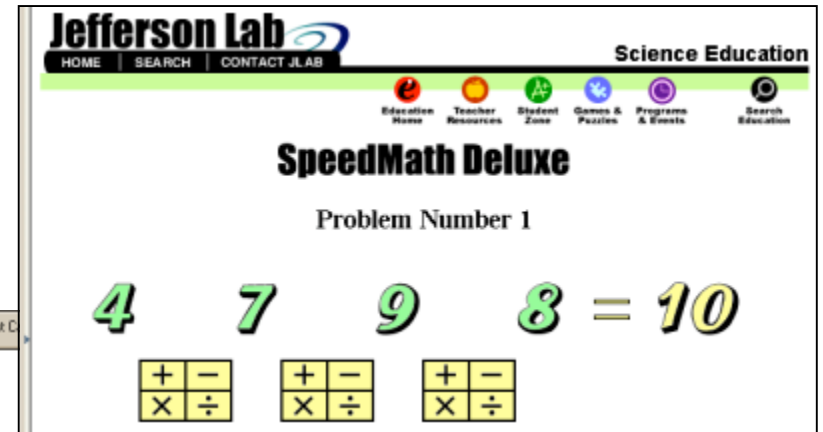
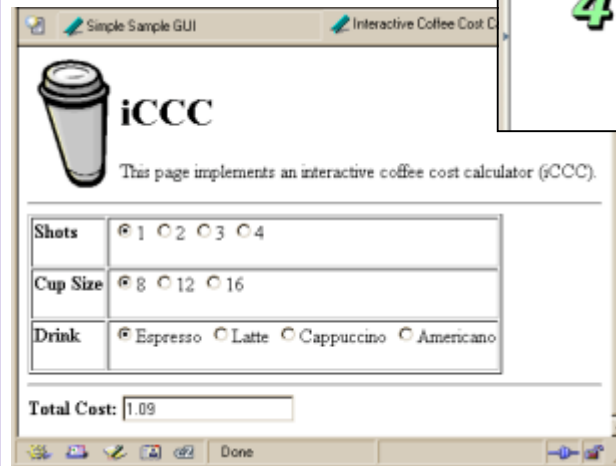
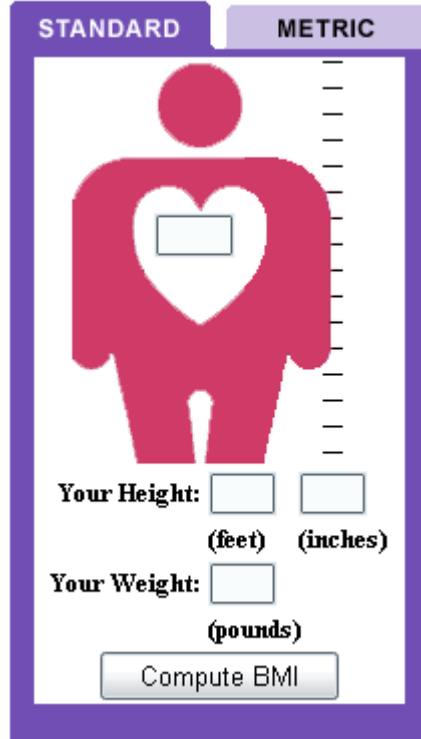


The Mozilla JavaScript console helps you by showing good error messages.



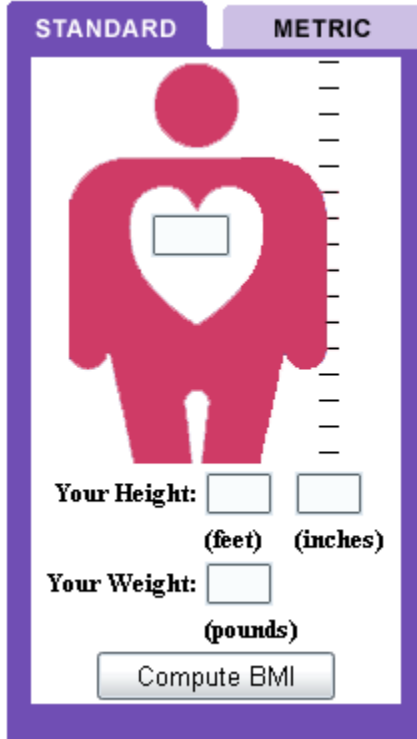
# Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs)

We can also use JavaScript to create Graphical User Interfaces.



# GUIs

A Graphical User Interface provides an intuitive way to control a program instead of having to memorize commands

A screenshot of a BMI calculator GUI. It features a purple border and two tabs at the top: 'STANDARD' (selected) and 'METRIC'. The main area contains a red silhouette of a person with a white heart in the center, which has a small white text box inside. To the right of the silhouette is a vertical height scale with tick marks. Below the silhouette are two rows of input fields: 'Your Height:' followed by two boxes labeled '(feet)' and '(inches)', and 'Your Weight:' followed by one box labeled '(pounds)'. At the bottom is a 'Compute BMI' button.

- text fields with labels to *request user entry*
- text fields with labels to *display results*
- buttons to *command action*
- radio buttons and checkboxes to *set conditions*



# A simple example

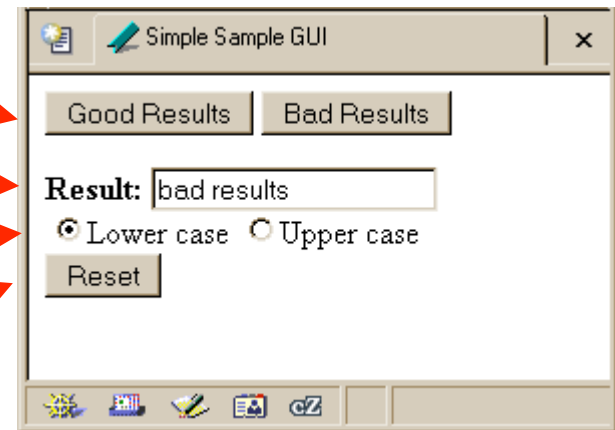
This GUI has several simple controls.

Two buttons to control the results

One text field to display the results

One pair of radio buttons to control the display

One button to reinitialize

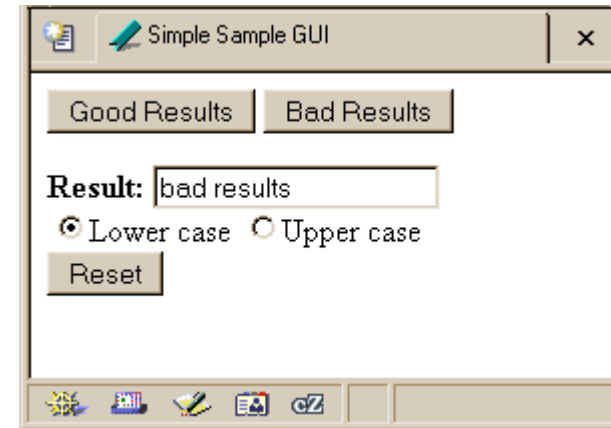


<http://www.cs.washington.edu/education/courses/100/04au/slides/13-gui/gui.html>

# A simple example

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"
  "http://www.w3.org/TR/html4/loose.dtd">
<html>
<head>
<title>Simple Sample GUI</title>
<script type="text/javascript">
  javascript function code
</script>
</head>

<body>
  HTML form layout and specification
</body>
</html>
```





# Layout of the GUI

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- The layout of the page is controlled with HTML in the body of the page

```
<body>
```

```
  HTML form layout and specification
```

```
</body>
```

```
</html>
```

- The layout and controls are provided using new tags
  - » `<form id="buttonForm">`
  - » `<button type="button" ...`
  - » `<input type="text" ...`
  - » `<input type="radio" ...`
  - » `<button type="reset" ...`

## <form>

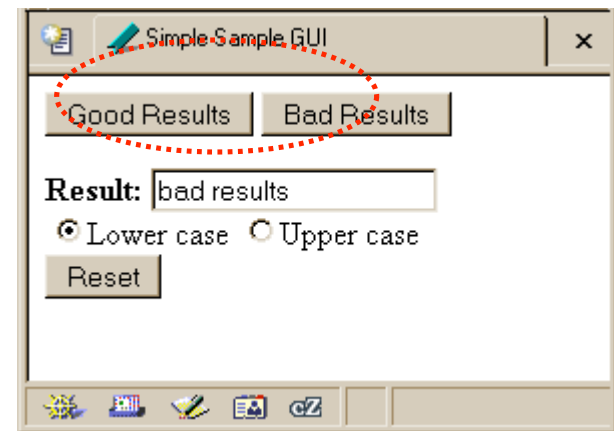
---

- HTML forms provide a way for the user to enter data into a web page
  - » A form can contain several different types of entry, control, and display elements
  - » The data in a form can be passed back to the web server, or it can be processed locally on the client
    - All of our forms will processed locally
- A form is defined with the `<form id="dmvForm"> ... </form>` tag
  - » The form has various attributes like *id*, so we can refer to it and its elements later
  - » the form *contains* various elements like `<input>` and `<button>`

# <button type="button" ...>

```
<form>
<button type="button"
  onclick="setResults('good results') ">Good Results</button>
<button type="button"
  onclick="setResults('bad results') ">Bad Results</button>
</form>
```

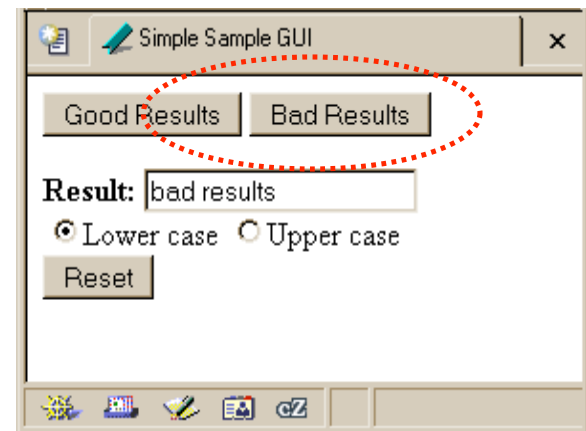
- a <button> can have one of three types
  - » type “button” is used locally
  - » type “submit” sends data back to the server
  - » type “reset” re-initializes the form
- the value of the “onclick” attribute is some JavaScript code, in this case a call to the function `setResults(string)`



# <input type="text" ...>

```
<form>
<b>Result:</b>
<input type="text" value="nada" readonly id="resultField">
<br>
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioLC" checked
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Lowercase
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioUC"
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Uppercase
<br><button type="reset">Reset</button>
</form>
```

- an `<input>` with `type="text"` is used for user input and program output
- `value="nada"` sets the initial (and reset) value
- `readonly` means that the user cannot set the value, only the script can set the value
- `id="resultField"` gives us a way to identify this particular control in our JavaScript



# <input type="radio" ...>

```

<form>
<b>Result:</b>
<input type="text" value="nada" readonly id="resultField">
<br>
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioLC" checked
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Lowercase
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioUC"
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Uppercase
<br><button type="reset">Reset</button>
</form>

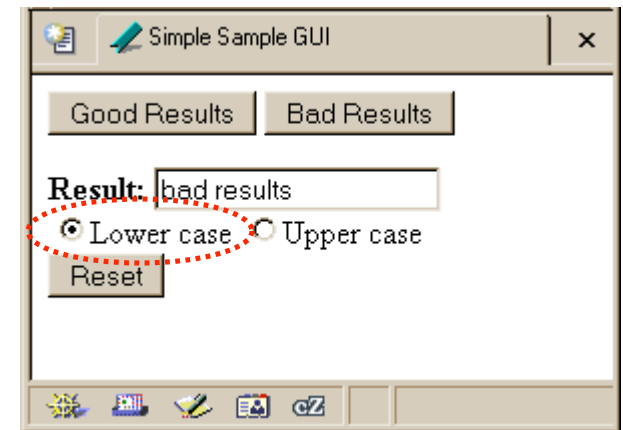
```

an `<input>` with `type="radio"` allows the user to select one of several choices

`name="case"` identifies all the buttons in the same group (only one will be selected at a time)

`onclick` attribute gives the JavaScript to execute when the user clicks this button

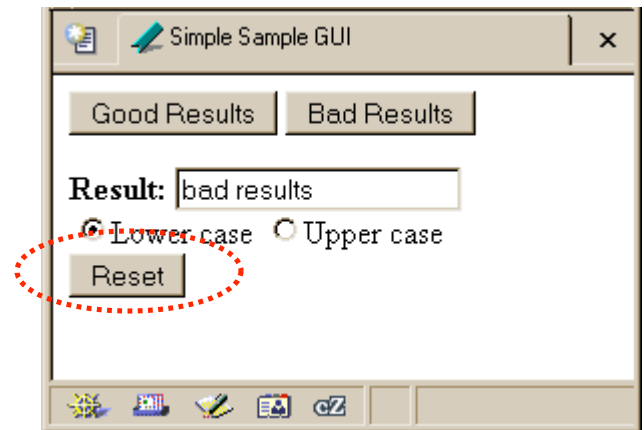
`id="radioLC"` gives us a way to identify this particular control in our JavaScript



# <button type="reset" ...>

```
<form>
<b>Result:</b>
<input type="text" value="nada" readonly id="resultField">
<br>
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioLC" checked
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Lowercase
<input type="radio" name="case" id="radioUC"
  onclick="setResults(document.getElementById('resultField').value)">Uppercase
<br><button type="reset">Reset</button>
</form>
```

- a <button> with type="reset" resets all the other controls in the same form to their original values





# Events Cause Processing

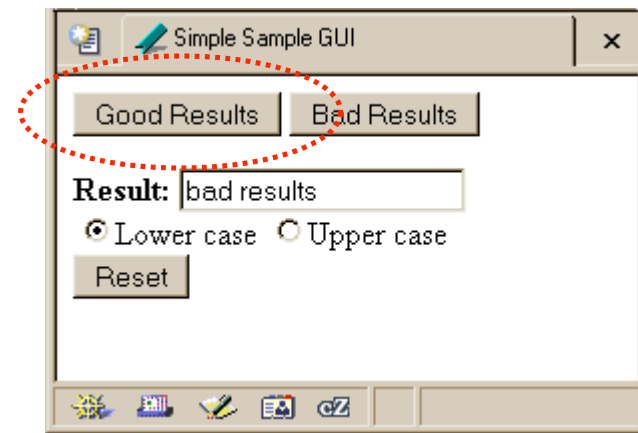
- After drawing a page, the browser sits idle waiting for something to happen ... when we give input, we cause *events*
- Processing events is the task of a block of code called an **event handler**
  - » The code to execute is identified in the tag using the appropriate attribute
  - » There are many event types
    - `onClick`, `onChange`, `onMouseOver` ...



# request processing of an event

```
<form>
<button type="button"
  onclick="setResults('good results')">Good Results</button>
<button type="button"
  onclick="setResults('bad results')">Bad Results</button>
</form>
```

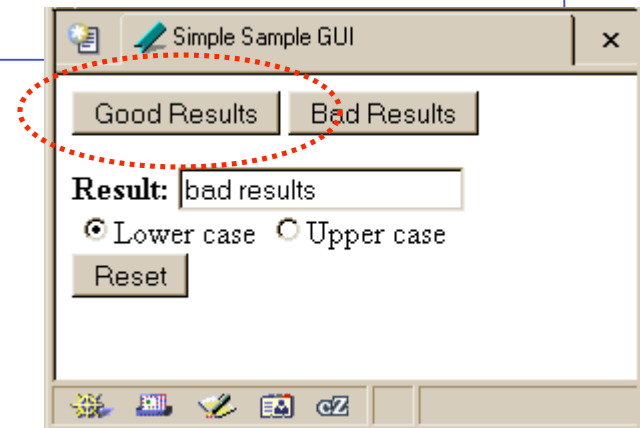
- the `onclick` attribute defines some JavaScript to call when the button is clicked
- in this case, the code is a call to the `setResults(string)` function defined in the page `<head>`
- the appropriate string value is supplied to the `setResults(string)` function and then the function executes



# process a button's onclick event

```
<script type="text/javascript">  
function setResultString(resultString) {  
    var tempString = resultString;  
    if (document.getElementById("radioLC").checked) {  
        tempString = tempString.toLowerCase();  
    } else if (document.getElementById("radioUC").checked) {  
        tempString = tempString.toUpperCase();  
    }  
    document.getElementById("resultField").value = tempString;  
}  
</script>
```

- the `setResults(string)` function is called by several event processors
- in every case, it takes the string that it is given, decides if upper or lower case is desired, and sets the `resultField` accordingly



# setResults(resultString)

```
<script type="text/javascript">  
function setResults(resultString) {  
    var tempString = resultString;  
    if (document.getElementById("radioLC").checked) {  
        tempString = tempString.toLowerCase();  
    } else if (document.getElementById("radioUC").checked) {  
        tempString = tempString.toUpperCase();  
    }  
    document.getElementById("resultField").value = tempString;  
}  
</script>
```

parameter variable, local variable, if/else statement, field reference,  
call to toLowerCase() function