

JavaScript for small business: a quote calculator, due-date reminders and API data

The three modules of the free JavaScript for Small Business Jump Start, practised there on real JSFiddle screens.

Page parts and a click

Find

`document.querySelector('#sqft')` finds the element with `id="sqft"`.

Read

`Number(box.value)` turns what was typed into a number.

Write

`result.textContent = 'Estimate: $' + price.toFixed(2);`

Click

`button.onclick = () => { ... };` runs on every click.

A price rule with a minimum

- `const RATE = 0.12;` and `const MINIMUM = 150;` at the top.
- `function quote(sqft) { return Math.max(sqft * RATE, MINIMUM); }`
- `Math.max` picks the bigger number: small jobs pay the minimum.

Due dates

- `const d = new Date(issued + 'T00:00');`
- `d.setDate(d.getDate() + 30);` adds 30 days (Net 30).
- `Math.round((due - today) / 86400000)` days left; below 0 is overdue.
- At work use `const today = new Date();`

Data from an API

- `const response = await fetch(url);`
- `const users = await response.json();` inside an async function.
- `for (const u of users) { ... u.company.name ... }` one row each.

Good habits

- Give every element you use an id.
- Keep business numbers in const lines at the top.
- Click the tidy icon in JSFiddle to indent your code.
- Never put a real API key in a public page or fiddle.

Remember: Put the business rule in one place and let the page do the arithmetic: one edit changes every quote, date and table.

Practice it free: JavaScript: An Instant Quote Calculator for Your Website at learn.ynteractive.com/modules/js-quote-calculator. This sheet: learn.ynteractive.com/content/cheat-sheets/javascript-small-business. Brightway Office Cleaning and Northgate Bookkeeping is a made-up business from the lesson. By Robert Breen, October 24, 2026.