



MAGIC METHODS

ENHANCE YOUR PYTHON CLASSES



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Dive into Python

What are Magic Methods?

1. They are defined within **classes** in **Python**.
2. They are special **double underscore** (__) or **dunder methods**.
3. They **control object behavior** with operations like **+**, **==**, or **print()**.

Examples:

✓ `__init__`

✓ `__str__`

✓ `__add__`

✓ `__format__`

✓ `__setattr__`



Magic Methods

1. `__init__(self, ...)`

Initializes a **new instance** of the **class** (it's the **constructor**).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)

print(earth.name, earth.distancefromSun, sep='\n')
Earth
150
```



Magic Methods

2. `__str__(self)`

Returns a **user-friendly string representation** of the class.

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __str__(self) -> str:
        return f"Planet {self.name} is {self.distancefromSun}
            million km from the Sun."

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)

print(earth) Calls earth.__str__()
Planet Earth is 150 million km from the Sun.
```



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3. `__eq__(self, other)`

Defines how **two objects** of the **class** are **compared** for **equality** (`==`).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __eq__(self, other) -> bool:
        if isinstance(other, Planet):
            return self.distancefromSun == other.distancefromSun
        return False

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)
mars: Planet = Planet("Mars", 228)

print(earth == mars) Calls earth.__eq__(mars)
False
```



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4. `__lt__(self, other)`

Defines behavior for the **less-than** operator (<).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __lt__(self, other) -> bool:
        if isinstance(other, Planet):
            return self.distancefromSun < other.distancefromSun
        return NotImplemented

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)
mars: Planet = Planet("Mars", 228)

print(earth < mars)
True
```

Calls earth.__lt__(mars)



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5. `__add__(self, other)`

Defines behavior for the **addition** operator (+).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __add__(self, other) -> int:
        if isinstance(other, Planet):
            return self.distancefromSun + other.distancefromSun
        return NotImplemented

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)
mars: Planet = Planet("Mars", 228)

print(distance_sum := earth + mars) 378
```

Calls earth.__add__(mars)



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6. `__radd__(self, other)`

Defines behavior for the **right-hand addition** (+).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __radd__(self, other) -> int | float:
        if isinstance(other, (int, float)):
            return other + self.distancefromSun
        return NotImplemented
```

*The method handles
adding the planet's
distance to a number.*

```
earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)
```

```
print(mars_distance_from_Sun := 78 + earth)
228
```

Calls `earth.__radd__(78)`



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7. `__mul__(self, other)`

Defines behavior for the **multiplication** operator (*).

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __mul__(self, other) -> int | float:
        if isinstance(other, (int, float)):
            return f"New distance from Sun is {self.distancefromSun * other} million km."
        return NotImplemented

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)

print(double_distance_earth := earth * 2)
New distance from Sun is 300 million km.
```

Calls earth.__mul__(2)



Magic Methods

8. `__len__(self)`

Allows to get the **length** of an **object** using the **len()** function.

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __len__(self) -> int:
        return len(self.name)

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)

print(name_length := len(earth)) Calls earth.__len__()
5
```



Magic Methods

9. `__contains__(self, item)`

Defines behavior for the **in** operator.

```
class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __contains__(self, item) -> bool:
        return item in self.name

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", 150)

print("art" in earth.name)
True
```

The method checks if the item is a substring of the name attribute.

Calls earth.__contains__("art")



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10. `__setattr__(self, name, value)`

Manages **attribute setting**, enabling validation or custom behavior.

```
import pretty_errors

class Planet:

    def __init__(self, name: str, distancefromSun: int) -> None:
        self.name = name
        self.distancefromSun = distancefromSun

    def __setattr__(self, name, value):
        if name == "distancefromSun" and value < 0:
            raise ValueError("Distance from the Sun cannot be negative")
        super().__setattr__(name, value)

earth: Planet = Planet("Earth", -150)

raise ValueError("Distance from the Sun cannot be negative")
ValueError:
Distance from the Sun cannot be negative
```



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Summary

10 Common Magic Methods

<code>__init__(self, ...)</code>	Initializes a new instance of the class (it's the constructor)
<code>__str__(self)</code>	Returns a user-friendly string representation of the class
<code>__eq__(self, other)</code>	Defines how two objects of the class are compared for equality (==)
<code>__lt__(self, other)</code>	Defines behavior for the less-than operator (<)
<code>__add__(self, other)</code>	Defines behavior for the addition operator (+)
<code>__radd__(self, other)</code>	Defines behavior for the right-hand addition (+)
<code>__mul__(self, other)</code>	Defines behavior for the multiplication operator (*)
<code>__len__(self)</code>	Allows to get the length of an object using the len() function
<code>__contains__(self, item)</code>	Defines behavior for the in operator
<code>__setattr__(self, name, value)</code>	Manages attribute setting, enabling validation or custom behavior





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