1. Why is file storage important when using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?

Without saving data to files saved on a local machine any data generated by a Python script would be lost once the current session is terminated. Storing data, either in text or binary form, allows for data to be saved and accessed again in the future.

2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

Pickles are streams of bytes that can be written to or read from binary files. Pickles are useful for saving complex data structures, such as dictionaries, to binary files, as it is not ideal to to use a basic text file for these more complex data structures. Using pickles allow for these types of structures to be easily saved to and accessed from binary files.

3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

In Python, you could use the command os.getcwd() command (using the os module) in order get which directory you are currently working in. To change directory, you could use the os modules, chdir() method: os.chdir().

4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

In this situation you could wrap the potentially problematic code with a try-except block, with except clauses designed to handle various error types, or generally respond to unforeseen errors. This would allow the script to provide responses to various error causing scenarios without causing the script to crash.

5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

I still feel like I am very early on in my journey of learning about Python, with there sill being a great deal to learn and digest. However, I feel like I am understanding the things I am learning well. If there was something I felt I needed more practice on I would say 1) efficiently implementing safeguards against crash-causing errors and 2) making logic that is efficient in achieving desired outcomes (and avoiding the inclusion of logic that is not necessary).