

# Python Koans: An Introduction to Python

---

David Stanek • CodeMash 2016

# Today

- Learn about Koans and the Koans process
- Learn a little about Python to set the tone
- Iterate through hands-on self-paced exercises and discussion
- I'll be walking around the room to help you get through issues
- We can also do some exercises together

# koan defined

a paradox to be meditated upon that is used to train Zen Buddhist monks to abandon ultimate dependence on reason and to force them into gaining sudden intuitive enlightenment

source: <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/koan>

# Python Koans

- “Learn Python through TDD”
- 305 exercises divided into 37 lessons aimed at teaching Python step-by-step (and growing)
- Exercises are executed using a test suite
  - Run the suite and you will get an error because something is broke

# Requirements

- Your favorite text editor
- Python 3.5 (other versions may also work)
- A clone of [https://github.com/dstanek/python\\_koans](https://github.com/dstanek/python_koans)
  - ( A zip is also available from [http://prereqs.codemash.org/Files/python\\_koans-master.zip](http://prereqs.codemash.org/Files/python_koans-master.zip) )

# Getting Started

1. Open up a terminal window
2. Change directory into the directory containing your Python Koans clone
3. Change directory into the python3 subdirectory
4. Execute the test suite

# Let's Do The First One Together

**off to the terminal**  $\rightarrow$   $(\text{ }^{\circ}\square^{\circ}) \text{ }^{\circ} \text{ }^{\circ} \text{ }^{\circ} \text{ }^{\circ}$

# SUPER helpful hints

- Read the name of the test as it tells you what the koan is trying to teach
- Follow the links in the comments to read the supporting materials
- Read the entire body of the test method and not just the line where the error occurred



# Quick Notes

- Some tests will require you to open interactive Python to do some experimenting -or- writing code in temporary scripts
- Using help is NOT cheating
  - `help()` in the interactive interpreter
  - <https://docs.python.org/3.5/tutorial/>
  - Internets

# Links

- Some tests will require you to open interactive Python to do some experimenting -or- writing code in temporary scripts
- Using help is NOT cheating
  - `help()` in the interactive interpreter
  - <https://docs.python.org/3.5/tutorial/>
  - Internets

**On your marks,  
Get set,  
GO**

**Nothing to see here. You  
should be working!**

**What did you learn?**  
**What surprised you?**

# About Us

David Stanek

Rackspace

<http://traceback.org>

@dstanek

[dstanek@dstanek.com](mailto:dstanek@dstanek.com)

Mike Pirnat

American Greetings

<http://mike.pirnat.com>

@mpirnat

[mpirnat@gmail.com](mailto:mpirnat@gmail.com)