Functions

Exercises

Week 4

Prior to attempting these exercises ensure you have read the lecture notes and/or viewed the video, and followed the practical. You may wish to use the Python interpreter in interactive mode to help work out the solutions to some of the questions.

Download and store this document within your own file space, so the contents can be edited. You will be able to refer to it during the test in Week 6.

Enter your answers directly into the highlighted boxes.

For more information about the module delivery, assessment and feedback please refer to the module within the My Beckett portal.

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What must be done before a function that is not *built-in* to Python can be used in a program?

*Answer:*

Before a function that is not built-in to python can be used in program , the steps can be followed:

1. Defining the Function

2. Import the Function

3. Install External Libraries

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Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sin() function be made?

import math

*Answer:*

import math

angle=0.5

output = math.sin(angle)

print(output)

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Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sqrt() function be made?

from math import sqrt

*Answer:*

from math import sqrt

a=sqrt(15)

print(a)

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What is the name of the common library that is available with all Python distributions?

*Answer:*

The name of the common library that is avaliable with all Python distributions are 'os', 'sys', 'math', 'datetime', 'random'.

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What keyword is used in Python to define a new function?

*Answer:*

def keyword is used in Python to define a new function.

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Write some Python code that defines a function called print\_header(msg). This should output the value provided by the ‘msg’ parameter to the screen (prefixed by five asterisk ‘\*\*\*\*\*’) characters.

*Answer:*

def print\_header(msg):

print("\*\*\*\*\*", msg)

message="Hello, I am Aarson"

print\_header(message)

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In the answer box below give an example of what the **docstring** may look like for the print\_header(msg) function.

*Answer:*

def print\_header(msg):

" " "

Print a formatted header with the given message

print("\*\*\*\*\*", a)

chats="Hello, My name is Aarson"

print\_header(chats)

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Where within a function definition should a **docstring** appear?

*Answer:*

It should be idented at the same level as the function itself.

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What statement should appear within a function’s code block to cause a specific value to be passed back to the caller of the function?

*Answer:*

Return statement should appear within a function’s code block to cause a specific value to be

passed back to the caller of the function.

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Write some Python code that defines a function called find\_min(a,b) that returns the smallest of the two given parameter values.

*Answer:*

def find\_min(a,b):

return min(a,b)

x=find\_min(5,8)

print(x)

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Given the following function definition, which of the *formal parameters* could be described as being a **default argument**?

def shouldContinue(prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:* The formal parameters **answer** could be described as being a default argument.

Provide two example calls to the above function, one which provides a value for the *default argument*, and one that does not.

*Answer:*

# Example 1: Providing a value for the default argument

a = should\_Continue("prompt" , answer=True):

print(a)

# Example 2: Not providing a value for the default argument

a = should\_Continue("prompt")

print(a)

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State why following function definition would **not** be allowed.

def do\_something(prefix="Message", prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:*

The following function would not be allowed as default value for parameters must be specified for non-default parameters.

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What single character is placed directly before the name of a *formal parameter*, to indicate that a variable number of actual parameters can be passed when the function is called?

*Answer:*

' - - - ' is placed directly before the name of a formal parameter, to indicate

that a variable number of actual parameters can be passed when the function is called.

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What commonly used built-in function, which displays output on the screen, can take a **variable number** of arguments?

*Answer:*

'print()' function displays output on the screen, and can take a variable number of arugments.

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Is it valid for a function’s parameter name to be prefixed by two asterisk characters ‘\*\*’ as shown below?

def send\_output(\*\*details):

# function body...

*Answer:* Yes, it is valid for a function's parameter name to be prefixed by two asterisk characters '\*\*' as shown below.

If present, what does this prefix indicate?

*Answer:* It indicate different functionalities and allows to accept any number of keyword arguments.

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What is the name given to a small ‘anonymous’ function that must be defined using a single expression?

*Answer:*

The name given to a small 'anonymous' function that must be defined using a single expression is often called a "lambda function" or a "lambda expression."

Give an example of such a function that calculates the *cube* of a given number (i.e. the value of the number raised to the power of three) -

*Answer:*

def calculate(a):

cube = a\*\*3

return cube

input = 4

result = calculate(input)

print(f" The cube of {input} is: {result}")

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**Exercises are complete**

Save this logbook with your answers. Then ask your tutor to check your responses to each question.