



# Python File Open

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## Open a File on the Server

Assume we have the following file, located in the same folder as Python:

demofile.txt

```
Hello! Welcome to demofile.txt  
This file is for testing purposes.  
Good Luck!
```

To open the file, use the built-in `open()` function.

The `open()` function returns a file object, which has a `read()` method for reading the content of the file:

### Example

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")  
print(f.read())
```

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## Read Only Parts of the File

By default the `read()` method returns the whole text, but you can also specify how many characters you want to return:

## Example

Return the 5 first characters of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")  
print(f.read(5))
```

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## Read Lines

You can return one line by using the `readline()` method:

## Example

Read one line of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")  
print(f.readline())
```

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By calling `readline()` two times, you can read the two first lines:

## Example

Read two lines of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")  
print(f.readline())  
print(f.readline())
```

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By looping through the lines of the file, you can read the whole file, line by line:

## Example

Loop through the file line by line:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
for x in f:
    print(x)
```

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## Close Files

It is a good practice to always close the file when you are done with it.

## Example

Close the file when you are finish with it:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
f.close()
```

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**Note:** You should always close your files, in some cases, due to buffering, changes made to a file may not show until you close the file.

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