Basics

- ## Functions

  - **Definition**: A reusable block of code that performs a specific task. Can be built-in (like `print`), imported from modules, or custom-written.

  - **Example**:

    `python print("hello world") # Output: hello world x = 5 print("x is", x) # Output: x is 5 print(f"x is {x}") # Output: x is 5 (f-string formatting)` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you write a Python function to check if a service is running?" - *Answer*: Use `subprocess` module to execute shell commands and check return codes or output - ### Literals - **Definition**: Fixed values that are directly written in code (actual data, not variables). - **Example**: `python 20 # Integer literal 0.1 # Float literal "Abhishek" # String literal True # Boolean literal (True or False)` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "What's the difference between `0`, `'0'`, and `0.0` as literals?" - *Answer*: `0` is an integer, `'0'` is a string, `0.0` is a float. Type matters in DevOps automation for comparison and data processing - ### Operators - **Definition**: Symbols that perform operations on values (arithmetic, comparison, logical, etc.) - **Arithmetic Operators**: `python 2 ** 3 # Exponentiation: 2^3 = 8 2 * 3 # Multiplication: 6 10 / 2 # Division: 5.0 (always returns float) 5 // 2 # Floor Division: 2 (returns integer) 5 % 2 # Modulo (remainder): 1 10 + 5 # Addition: 15 10 - 5 # Subtraction: 5` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why use floor division (`//`) instead of regular division (`/`) in DevOps scripts?" - *Answer*: Floor division returns an integer, which is useful for port numbers, counts, or any integer-only calculations. Regular division returns float which may cause type errors - ### Variables - **Definition**: Named containers that store values in memory. You can change the value they hold. - **Example**: `python name = "Abhishek" # String variable port = 8080 # Integer variable is active = True # Boolean variable name = "Gawade" # Can reassign to new value` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why avoid hardcoding values like IP addresses or ports directly in scripts?" - *Answer*: Use variables to store configuration values for reusability, maintainability, and easy updates across environments - ### Comments - **Definition**: Text in code that is ignored by Python. Used to explain code for developers. - **Example**: ```python

This is a single line comment

name = "Abhishek" # Comments can be inline too `- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why is commenting important in DevOps automation scripts?" - *Answer*: Comments document why decisions were made, making scripts maintainable for future troubleshooting and understanding complex logic - ### Input - **Definition**: Taking user input from keyboard or command line to use inside a program. - **Example**:` python name = input("Enter your name: ") # Takes user input as string age = int(input("Enter your age: ")) # Convert input to integer `- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you safely accept user input in a production DevOps script?" - *Answer*: Validate and sanitize all input, use type conversion with error handling, and avoid using `eval()` for security reasons - ### String - **Definition**: A sequence of characters (text) enclosed in quotes. Can be single `'`, double `"`, or triple quotes. - **Example**:` python print("ha" * 10) # Output: hahahahahahahahahaha (string repetition) message = "Hello DevOps" print(message[0]) # Output: H (indexing) print(message[6:]) # Output: DevOps (slicing) `- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you parse a configuration string from a log file?" - *Answer*: Use string methods like `.split()`, `.strip()`, `.replace()` to extract and manipulate configuration values - ### Comparison Operators: - **Definition**: Operators that compare two values and return `True` or `False`. - **Example**:` python 5 == 5 # Equal to: True 5 != 3 # Not equal to: True 5 > 3 # Greater than: True 5 < 3 # Less than: False 5 >= 5 # Greater or equal: True 5 <= 5 # Less or equal: True `` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you check if a service port is responding in a health check script?" - *Answer*: Use comparison operators to verify status codes (` response_code == 200 `) or response times (` latency < threshold`)

Conditional Statements

- **if/elif/else**
  - **Definition**: Execute different code blocks based on whether conditions are true or false.
  - **Example**: ```python age = 25

if age < 18: print("Age is below 18") elif age >= 18 and age <= 50: print("Age is middle age") else: print("Old Age") - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you use if/elif/else to validate environment configurations?" - *Answer*: Check environment variables or config values; execute different deployment strategies based on the environment (dev/staging/prod) - ### Loop - While - **Definition**: Repeat a block of code as long as a condition is `True`. - **Example**: python secret_number = 10 guessed_number = int(input("Enter a number: "))

while guessed_number != secret_number: guessed_number = int(input("Guess Again: ")) else: print("You have finally guessed the number right!!") - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you use a while loop to retry a failed API call?" - *Answer*: Loop while retry count < max retries, with backoff delays to handle transient failures gracefully - ### Loop - For - **Definition**: Iterate over a sequence (list, string, range) a fixed number of times. - **Example**: python for i in range(0, 10): print(i)

Output: 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you use a for loop to process multiple servers or log files?" - *Answer*: Iterate through a list of server IPs or file paths, execute commands on each, and aggregate results

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## Logic & Bitwise Operators

- **Definition**: Operators used to combine multiple conditions (and, or) or invert conditions (not).
- **Example**: ```python is_running = True is_healthy = False

  if is_running and is_healthy: # Both must be True print("Service OK")

  if is_running or is_healthy: # At least one must be True print("Something is working")

  if not is_running: # Opposite of condition print("Service is down") `` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you check multiple conditions in a health check script?" - *Answer*: Use and to ensure all critical checks pass (CPU < threshold AND memory < threshold), use or for fallback checks, use not` for error conditions

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Lists

- **Definition**: An ordered, mutable collection that can store multiple values of any type. Values can be added, removed, or modified.
- **Example**: `python countries = ["US", "UK", "IN"] print(countries[0]) # Output: US (indexing) countries[0] = "CN" # Modify element print(countries) # Output: ['CN', 'UK', 'IN'] print(countries[-1]) # Output: IN (last element) del countries[1] # Remove element print(countries) # Output: ['CN', 'IN']`
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you use lists in deployment automation?"
- *Answer*: Store lists of servers to deploy to, collect log lines, gather metrics, iterate and execute commands on each item

List Methods

- **Definition**: Built-in functions you can call on lists to manipulate them.
- **Common Methods**: `python list = [3, 1, 4, 1, 5] list.append(9) # Add element: [3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9] list.insert(0, 2) # Insert at position: [2, 3, 1, 4, 1, 5, 9] list.remove(1) # Remove first occurrence: [2, 3, 4, 1, 5, 9] list.pop() # Remove and return last: [2, 3, 4, 1, 5] list.sort() # Sort in place: [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] list.reverse() # Reverse order: [5, 4, 3, 2, 1]`
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you remove duplicate servers from a deployment list?"
- *Answer*: Use list methods like `.remove()`, or convert to a `set()` to automatically eliminate duplicates, then convert back to list

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Iterating Through For Loop

- **Definition**: Loop through each element in a list one by one.
- **Example**: ```python ages = [10, 20, 30, 40] total = 0

for age in ages: total = total + age

print(total) # Output: 100 ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you iterate through a list of configuration files and validate each?" - *Answer*: Use a for loop to process each file, read its contents, validate against schema, and log results

Enumerate

- **Definition**: Get both the index (position) and value while iterating through a list.

- **Example**: ```python fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"] for index, fruit in enumerate(fruits): print(index, fruit)

Output:

0 apple

1 banana

2 cherry

``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "When would you use enumerate instead of just iterating?" - *Answer*: When you need the position number, like logging which server (index 0, 1, 2) failed, or processing files in order

### Slicing

- **Definition**: Extract a portion of a list by specifying start and end positions.
- **Example**: `python letters = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5] new letters = letters[0:2] # Get elements at index 0 and 1: [1, 2] recent_logs = logs[-10:] # Get last 10 elements`
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you get the latest N log entries?"
  - *Answer*: Use negative indexing with slicing like `logs[-100:]` to get the last 100 entries

### Check in List

- **Definition**: Quickly check if a value exists in a list.
- **Example**: `python servers = ['web-1', 'web-2', 'db-1', 'cache-1'] print('web-1' in servers) # Output: True print('web-3' not in servers) # Output: True`
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you verify if a server is in the allowed deployment list?"
  - *Answer*: Use `if server in allowed_servers:` to validate before deployment

### Find Index of Element

- **Definition**: Get the position (index) of an element in a list.
- **Example**: `python my list = [0, 3, 4, 1, 2] print(my_list.index(1)) # Output: 3 (element 1 is at index 3)`
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you find which server in the list needs to be restarted?"
  - *Answer*: Use `.index()` to find its position, then use that index to access or manipulate that specific server

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Function

- **Definition**: A reusable block of code that performs a specific task, accepts inputs (parameters), and returns outputs.
- **Example**: ```python def sum(num1, num2): return num1 + num2

  result = sum(5, 10) # Output: 15 ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why is writing reusable functions important in DevOps scripts?" - *Answer*: Functions reduce code duplication, make testing easier, improve maintainability, and allow you to deploy the same logic across multiple scripts

Variable Scope

- **Definition**: The region of code where a variable can be accessed. Variables defined in functions are local; outside are global.
- **Example - Local Scope**: ```python num = 10

  def square(): print(num) # Can access outer num

  square() # Output: 10 `- **Example - Function Scope Override**:` python num = 10

  def square(): num = 20 # Creates new local variable print(num)

  square() # Output: 20 print(num) # Output: 10 (outer num unchanged) `- **Example - Global Keyword**:` python num = 10

  def change_global(): global num num = 20 # Modifies global variable

  change_global() print(num) # Output: 20 ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why should you be careful with global variables in DevOps automation?" - *Answer*: Global variables can cause unexpected side effects, make debugging difficult, and cause state management issues in parallel execution

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Tuples

- **Definition**: An ordered, immutable (unchangeable) collection. Once created, elements cannot be added, removed, or modified.
- **Example**: ```python tuple1 = (1, 2, 3) # Using parentheses tuple2 = 1, 2, 3 # Without parentheses (also valid)

  print(tuple1[0]) # Output: 1

tuple1[0] = 99 # ERROR! Cannot modify tuples

coordinates = (40.7128, -74.0060) # Lat, Long immutable ``` - **Use Cases**: - Storing constant data like configuration values, coordinates, or fixed options - Using as dictionary keys (lists can't be keys because they're mutable) - Function return values that shouldn't be accidentally modified - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why would you use tuples for server coordinates or configuration constants?" - *Answer*: Tuples prevent accidental modification of critical configuration data, can be used as dictionary keys, and signal to other developers that data is fixed

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Dictionaries

- **Definition**: An unordered collection of key-value pairs. Each key is unique and maps to a value. Mutable and flexible.

- **Example**: ```python usernames = { 'Abhishek': 'abhishek123', 'Gawade': 'gawade123' }

  print(usernames["Abhishek"]) # Output: abhishek123 print(usernames.keys()) # Output: dict_keys(['Abhishek', 'Gawade']) print(usernames.values()) # Output: dict_values(['abhishek123', 'gawade123']) print(usernames.items()) # Output: dict_items([('Abhishek', 'abhishek123'), ('Gawade', 'gawade123')]) ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you use dictionaries to store configuration data?" - *Answer*: Use dicts for config files (YAML/JSON), store server metadata (IP, port, status), or map environment variables to values

Modifying Dictionaries

- **Definition**: Ways to change, add, or remove key-value pairs from a dictionary.

- **Example**: ```python usernames = {'Abhishek': 'abhishek123', 'Gawade': 'gawade123'}

  usernames["Abhishek"] = "abhishekNew123" # Modify existing usernames.update({"prajakta": "prajakta123"}) # Add new key del usernames["Gawade"] # Delete specific key usernames.clear() # Delete all entries usernames.popitem() # Delete last key-value pair `` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you dynamically update a server configuration dictionary?" - *Answer*: Use .update() to merge new config, check with .keys() before updating to avoid overwrites, use .pop()` to safely remove deprecated entries

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List vs Tuples vs Set

- ◦ **Definition**: Three different collection types with different properties.
- ◦ **Quick Reference** (Ordered means insertion order, not sorting):

Feature	List	Tuple	Set
Syntax	`[1, 2, 3]`	`(1, 2, 3)`	`{1, 2, 3}`
Ordered	✅ Yes	✅ Yes	❌ No (unordered)
Mutable	✅ Yes (can change)	❌ No (immutable)	✅ Yes (can add/remove)
Allows duplicates	✅ Yes	✅ Yes	❌ No (unique elements)
Indexing	✅ Supported	✅ Supported	❌ Not supported
Use case	General collection	Fixed collection	Unique items, set ops

- **DevOps Example Usage**: ```python # List: Track logs in order error_logs = ["error1", "error2", "error1", "error3"]

Tuple: Immutable server config

server_config = ("prod-server", 8080, "active")

Set: Unique server names (remove duplicates)

deployed_servers = {"web-1", "web-2", "db-1"} unique_servers = set(error_logs) # Removes duplicates ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you efficiently find unique errors in a log file?" - *Answer*: Read logs into a list, convert to set to eliminate duplicates, then iterate for analysis

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Errors and Exceptions

- **Definition**: Errors occur when code doesn't work as expected. Exceptions are errors that Python detects at runtime. Handle them to prevent crashes.
- **Example**: `python try: result = 10 / 0 # This will cause an error except ZeroDivisionError as e: print(f"Error caught: {e}") # Output: Error caught: division by zero`

- **Common Exception Types**:
    - `ZeroDivisionError`: Division by zero
    - `ValueError`: Invalid value (e.g., `int("abc")`)
    - `FileNotFoundError`: File doesn't exist
    - `KeyError`: Dictionary key doesn't exist
    - `IndexError`: List index out of range
    - `TypeError`: Wrong data type operation

- **Example - Multiple Exceptions**: `python try: print("abc") except ZeroDivisionError: print("Cannot divide by zero") except ValueError: print("Invalid value provided") except Exception as e: print(f"Unexpected error: {e}")`

- **Raising Exceptions**: ```python def validate_port(port): if port < 1 or port > 65535: raise ValueError("Port must be between 1 and 65535")

  validate_port(70000) # Will raise ValueError ``` - **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why is exception handling critical in DevOps scripts?" - *Answer*: Gracefully handle failures (network issues, missing files, API timeouts) to prevent entire deployments from failing; log errors for debugging; implement retry logic

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Internals

- **Definition**: Understanding how Python works internally - how it processes code.

- **Key Concepts**:
    - **Python is an Interpreted Language**: Executes code line-by-line (not compiled upfront like Java/C++)
        - Interpreter reads code and converts to machine instructions immediately
        - Slower but more flexible and easier to debug
    - **CPython**: Python written in C language
        - Most common implementation, default Python you download
        - Good for general-purpose use
    - **Cython**: Translates Python to C for faster execution
        - Use when performance is critical (data processing)
    - **Jython**: Python written in Java
        - Runs on Java Virtual Machine (JVM)
        - Useful for Java ecosystem integration

- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Why is Python suitable for DevOps automation despite being interpreted?"
    - *Answer*: Interpreted nature allows quick development and testing, huge standard library for system operations, easy cross-platform compatibility, and sufficient performance for most infrastructure tasks. Use Cython only if profiling shows bottlenecks

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Some Common Python Packages/ Modules for DevOps

- **Definition**: Pre-written code libraries that add functionality. Some are built-in (standard library), others need installation.
- **Common DevOps Packages**:
    - **ansible**: Configuration management and infrastructure automation
    - **pytest**: Testing framework for writing and running tests
    - **docker**: Docker SDK to interact with Docker containers programmatically
    - **requests**: HTTP library for making API calls to services
    - **paramiko**: SSH & SFTP client for remote server access
    - **tensorflow / pytorch**: Machine learning (for anomaly detection, predictions)
    - **transformers**: NLP models (for log analysis, text processing)
    - **openai**: Integrate AI capabilities into automation scripts
    - **os**: Built-in module for operating system operations
- **Example - OS Module**: ```python import os print(os.getcwd()) # Show current working directory os.chdir("/path/to/your/folder") # Change to desired directory print(os.getcwd()) # Verify change

  ## DevOps example: Process files in a directory

  for file in os.listdir("/var/log"): if file.endswith(".log"): print(f"Processing: {file}") ```

- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "Which Python packages would you use to automate server provisioning?"
    - *Answer*: `ansible` for configuration management, `paramiko` for SSH operations, `requests` for API calls to cloud providers, `docker` to manage containers

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Modules & Custom Packages

- **Definition**: Modules are Python files containing code. You can import them to reuse code across multiple scripts.
- **Example - Creating and Using a Module**: ```python # my_module.py def greet(name): return f"Hello, {name}!"

  # main.py

  import my_module

  print(my_module.greet("Alice")) # Output: Hello, Alice! ```
- **Example - Importing Specific Functions**: ```python # main.py from my_module import greet

  print(greet("Bob")) # Output: Hello, Bob! (works directly without my_module prefix) ```
- **Common DevOps Interview Q**: "How would you structure a DevOps automation project with multiple scripts?"
  - *Answer*: Create reusable modules for common functions (logging, API calls, validation), import them into main scripts, version control everything, write tests for each module

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Courses

Free

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfscVS0vtbw

Paid

- https://learn.kodekloud.com/courses/python-basics