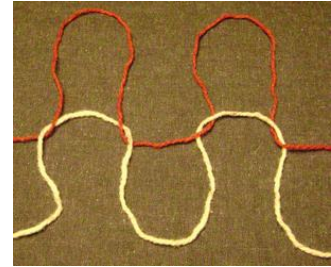


## Activity 1.3.7 For Loops

### Introduction

As you've learned in the previous activities, computers can calculate and make decisions. A single calculation or decision would be unimpressive. Computers (and brains!) are impressive because they can make billions of calculations and decisions per second. Most programs don't have billions of instructions. A small handful of instructions repeated in a loop can be very powerful. In *Python*®, `for` and `while` loops are two of the control structures for iteration.

Iteration is a powerful idea even without computers. In knitting for example, a simple pair of stitches (knit and purl shown above) can be repeated with iteration in various patterns. What is something you enjoy doing that relies on iteration?



### Procedure

1. Form pairs as directed by your teacher. Meet or greet each other to practice professional skills and establish norms.
2. Launch Canopy and open an editor window.
3. Start a new program in the code editor by choosing **File > New > Python file**. Save the file as `JDoe_BSmith_1_3_7.py`.

### Part I: `for` loops and `range()`

4. You can **loop** over a block of code once for each item in a list, a tuple, or any other **iterable** data structure. Here we show a `for` loop using the list `numbers`, but you can use any iterable. You can make up any variable name for `item` here, and it will be assigned to each element in turn for each iteration through the loop:

```
In []: numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4]
In []: for item in numbers:
...:     print(item**2)
...:
1
4
9
16
```

The colon is required. The indentation tells the *Python* interpreter which **block of code** to repeat. Just as the Scratch™ programming language grouped the code to be repeated as a chunk inside a looping block, *Python* uses indentation to group code. Always use 4 spaces for each level of indentation.



You might have noticed that the output didn't come after an `Out[]:`. Recall that this is because `print` sends output to the screen but does not return a value.

5. A handy list for making loops is returned by the function:

```
range([start,] stop [, step])
```

This is a **reference** description of this function. Within this kind of notation, square brackets are used to mean “this part is optional.” Italics are used to mean “this word should be replaced with a value for what the word describes.” You can find this kind of information by using the help function:

```
In []: help(range)
```

This built-in documentation is one place for reference, but there are many sources for additional help in programming. The official *Python* site has both tutorial help and reference material. Note that we are using *Python* version 2.7 because of the powerful libraries available:

<http://docs.python.org/2.7>

The reference material on `range()` shows the **function name** `range` and the parentheses that are there for every function. Inside the parentheses are the **arguments**, separated by commas. In the case of `range()`, there are three arguments: they are listed as `start, stop, step`. The square brackets around two of the arguments indicate that they are optional.

The `range()` function will return a list that begins at `start` and keeps adding `step`, reporting results that do not go beyond `stop`. The argument `start` has a **default value** of 0, and `step` has a default value of 1.

```
In []: range(4)
Out[]: [0, 1, 2, 3]
In []: range(20, 12, -3)
Out[]: [20, 17, 14]
```

Write code with `range()` that will return the list shown here:

```
In []: # 6. range()
In []: (Use range to get the output shown here.)
```

```
Out[]: [4, 6, 8, 10]
```

6. Paste the following code at the bottom of your *Python* file in the code editor and execute it. Call the function from the iPython session. Explain the output using a multi-line comment next to the function in the *Python* file.

```
x1 def days():
x2     ''' Explain the function here
x3     '''
x4     for day in 'MTWRFSS':
x5         print(day + 'day')
x6     for day in range(5,8):
x7         print('It is the ' + str(day) + 'th of September')
```

```
In []: days()
```

7. Once you import a package (e.g., `import random`), the iPython session keeps the package's functions in the **namespace**. However, each time you run a program from the code editor, Canopy interprets the program in a “clean” namespace that contains only the built-in functions. There are only a few built-in functions but they do include, for example, `range()`. Any packages you want to use in a program must be imported in the program. Do a quick Internet search to see if you can determine the names of some other built-in *Python* functions. List five additional *Python* functions below.

8. Try this code. Don't forget to call it from the iPython session.

```
x1 import matplotlib.pyplot as plt # standard short name
x2 import random
x3
x4 plt.ion() # sets "interactive on": figures redrawn when updated
x5
x6 def picks():
x7     a = [] # make an empty list
x8
x9     # Why all the brackets below?
x10    # a += [ brackets here to add an iterable onto a list ]
x11    # random.choice( [brackets here to choose from a list] )
x12    a += [random.choice([1, 3, 10])]
x13
x14    for choices in range(5):
x15        a += [random.choice([1, 3, 10])]
x16
x17    plt.hist(a)
x18    plt.show()
```

You can create a histogram from loop results as well. Explain what you see.

9. Complete the following. Pair program, strategizing first.

- a. Define a function `dice(n)` that returns the sum of a random roll of *n* 6-sided dice. Example output shown here:

```
In []: dice(5)
Roll was 16
```

The code inside a for loop occurs once for each element in the iterable.

```
for element in iterable:
```

Do not write code that changes the iterable inside the for loop.

- b. A lottery ticket contains five **unique** numbers. A set of unique numbers does not contain repeated elements. The winning combination of this lottery is chosen by picking five unique numbers. Define a function `matches(ticket, winners)` that takes two lists and returns an integer that says how many numbers the two lists have in common.

```
In []: matches([11, 12, 13, 14, 15], [3, 8, 12, 13, 17])
Out[]: 2
```

10. Complete the following.

- a. Define a function `roll_hundred_pair()` that produces a histogram of the results of 100 rolls of two 6-sided dice.

Start with the example in #8 and make modifications needed. Explain the results you see in the window which pops up.

- b. Define a function `hangman_display(guessed, secret)` that returns the string a hangman player would see. The arguments are:

`guessed`: letters guessed so far

`secret`: the full secret word or phrase

*Hint: Start with the null string and add onto it one character at a time.*

```
In []: hangman_display('aer', 'earth orbit')
Out[]: ear-- -r---

In []: hangman_display('fun', 'program puzzles')
Out[]: ----- -u-----
```

## Conclusion

1. Sometimes code using an iterative loop can be written without a loop, simply repeating the iterated code over and over as separate lines in the program. Explain the disadvantages of developing a program this way.

2. Name a large collection of data of which you might iterate.

3. What is the relationship between iteration and the analysis of a large set of data?