|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| %a | Weekday, short version | Wed |  |
| %A | Weekday, full version | Wednesday |  |
| %w | Weekday as a number 0-6, 0 is Sunday | 3 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| %d | Day of month 01-31 | 31 |  |
| %b | Month name, short version | Dec |  |
| %B | Month name, full version | December |  |
| %m | Month as a number 01-12 | 12 |  |
| %y | Year, short version, without century | 18 |  |
| %Y | Year, full version | 2018 |  |
| %H | Hour 00-23 | 17 |  |
| %I | Hour 00-12 | 05 |  |
| %p | AM/PM | PM |  |

Import the datetime module and display the current date:

import datetime  
  
x = datetime.datetime.now()  
print(x)

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/python/trypython.asp?filename=demo_datetime1)

Date Output

When we execute the code from the example above the result will be:

2020-08-07 15:51:48.977903

The date contains year, month, day, hour, minute, second, and microsecond.

The datetime module has many methods to return information about the date object.

Here are a few examples, you will learn more about them later in this chapter:

Example

Return the year and name of weekday:

import datetime  
  
x = datetime.datetime.now()  
  
print(x.year)  
print(x.strftime("%A"))

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/python/trypython.asp?filename=demo_datetime2)

Creating Date Objects

To create a date, we can use the datetime() class (constructor) of the datetime module.

The datetime() class requires three parameters to create a date: year, month, day.

Example

Create a date object:

import datetime  
  
x = datetime.datetime(2020, 5, 17)  
  
print(x)

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/python/trypython.asp?filename=demo_datetime3)

The datetime() class also takes parameters for time and timezone (hour, minute, second, microsecond, tzone), but they are optional, and has a default value of 0, (None for timezone).

The strftime() Method

The datetime object has a method for formatting date objects into readable strings.

The method is called strftime(), and takes one parameter, format, to specify the format of the returned string:

Example

Display the name of the month:

import datetime  
  
x = datetime.datetime(2018, 6, 1)  
  
print(x.strftime("%B"))

A reference of all the legal format codes:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Directive** | **Description** | **Example** | **Try it** |
| %a | Weekday, short version | Wed |  |
| %A | Weekday, full version | Wednesday |  |
| %w | Weekday as a number 0-6, 0 is Sunday | 3 |  |
| %d | Day of month 01-31 | 31 |  |
| %b | Month name, short version | Dec |  |
| %B | Month name, full version | December |  |
| %m | Month as a number 01-12 | 12 |  |
| %y | Year, short version, without century | 18 |  |
| %Y | Year, full version | 2018 |  |
| %H | Hour 00-23 | 17 |  |
| %I | Hour 00-12 | 05 |  |
| %p | AM/PM | PM |  |
| %M | Minute 00-59 | 41 |  |
| %S | Second 00-59 | 08 |  |
| %f | Microsecond 000000-999999 | 548513 |  |