The Learning Journal is a tool for self-reflection on the learning process. In addition to completing directed tasks, you should use the Learning Journal to document your activities, record problems you may have encountered and to draft answers for Discussion Forums and Assignments. The Learning Journal should be updated regularly (on a weekly basis), as the learning journals will be assessed by your instructor as part of your Final Grade.

**Your learning journal entry must be a reflective statement that considers the following questions:**

* Describe what you did. This does not mean that you copy and paste from what you have posted or the assignments you have prepared. You need to describe what you did and how you did it.
* Describe your reactions to what you did
* Describe any feedback you received or any specific interactions you had. Discuss how they were helpful
* Describe your feelings and attitudes
* Describe what you learned

**Another set of questions to consider in your learning journal statement include:**

* What surprised me or caused me to wonder?
* What happened that felt particularly challenging? Why was it challenging to me?
* What skills and knowledge do I recognize that I am gaining?
* What am I realizing about myself as a learner?
* In what ways am I able to apply the ideas and concepts gained to my own experience?

**Finally, describe one important thing that you are thinking about in relation to the activity**

I was thinking, as I am going through this week`s material (and reflecting on last weeks), it doesn`t seem that cleanly commented code is being evaluated anymore. This is something I have lapsed on, but recognize is extremely important. I will make sure to keep commenting my code, to make it clear and to build it up as a habit, which will be essential for readability of more complex programs.

This week we learned about sub routines – which are essentially methods, grouping of reusable code within a java program or package. I think of them as similar to functions, but object-oriented.

I also found a really great analogy for the two, (although it used python as an example so there are of course difference and assumptions there). It states that methods are functions, but functions are not necessarily methods, and can be outside or not belonging to a class.

“Think of methods as things only one entity can do, so if you have a Dog class it would make sense to have a bark function only inside that class and that would be a method, if you have also a Person class it could make sense to write a function "feed" for that doesn't belong to any class since both humans and dogs can be fed and you could call that a function since it does not belong to any class in particular.”

---

I had a lot of fun with the programming assignment, and I really appreciated learning how the subroutines fit together within the main routine. It also made clear to me the function of the return statement. Since now we have a string that is coming out of the subroutine (and declared as an input to the subroutine), we use return to specify what the output is.