Random File Access

To move the file pointer, use the $\mbox{.seek}\,\mbox{()}$ method.

file.seek(position-in-file, whence)

- Set whence to 0 to set pointer to the beginning of the file (default).
- Set whence to 1 to set pointer to the current position of the file.
- Set whence to 2 to set pointer to the end of the file

For example

file.seek(5, 0)

This will move the pointer to position 5 from the beginning of the file

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	J	а	С	k		j	а	O	k	@	t	е	s	t		С	0	m
18	Р	е	t	е		р	е	t	е	@	t	е	s	t		С	0	m
36	J	i	I	I		j	i	Ī	I	@	s	i	t	е		С	o	m

file.seek(23, 0)

This will move the pointer to position 23 from the beginning of the file

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	J	а	С	k		j	а	С	k	@	t	е	s	t		С	0	m
18	Р	е	t	е		р	е	t	е	@	t	е	s	t		С	О	m
36	J	i	I	I		j	i	Ι	I	@	s	i	t	е		С	0	m

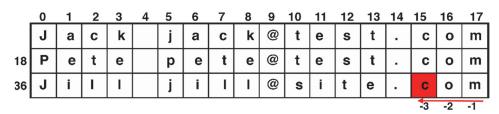
If you want to read from the current position to the end of the line

dataInFile = file.readline()

If you want to read from the end of the file, you'll need to count backwards from the end of the file, you do this with a negative offset. The seek () function with negative offset only works when file is opened in binary mode.

To move the pointer from the end of the file

f.seek(-3, 2)



Use .decode ('utf-8') to convert the binary back to text.

datafromfile = f.readline().decode('utf-8')