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Learning Python   Python (programming language)   Learning to Program

Programming Languages   Computer Programming

What should I know before learning Python as my first programming language?

14 Answers

Cody Jackson, Python author (https://authorcentral.amazon.com/gp/books)
Answered Oct 11, 2016 · Author has **2.1k** answers and **1.9m** answer views

Here are some of things to know about Python before you start:

- Python is a dynamic-typed language; you don't have to explicitly state that a variable is an integer number, for example. The Python interpreter will figure that out.

- Python is interpreted, meaning it is ran "on-the-fly". This makes it very easy to write and test programs. Many other languages are compiled to machine code before they will run; this makes them run faster than Python, but for most things you won't notice it.

- Python allows you to use procedural programming (via functions) or object-oriented programming (via classes). Some other languages make you use one or the other.

- Python has built-in data structures, such as lists and dictionaries, so you don't have to create these structures from scratch. It also handles memory management for you.

- Whitespace in Python is significant. Code blocks are delineated using indentation rather than special symbols.

There are a number of other things about Python that you'll discover as you work with it. I mention these ones up-front because they make Python somewhat unique compared to other languages you may end up working with. Hence, you may find it difficult to learn another language because the paradigm will be very different, e.g. whitespace vs. special symbols to mark blocks of code.

On the other hand, Python generally has only one way to do something, a.k.a. the Python-way. Other languages like to let programmers have a variety of ways of doing the same thing, so you may have to learn multiple ways of accomplishing the same task when you switch languages. The Python-way may be frustrating at times, but it makes it easy when you have to read someone

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students, guiding them through the different lessons and helping them understand the concepts they are learning. Students who learn 1-on-1 have been shown to perform better than 98% of students who learn in a traditional classroom .

So beyond just learning how to copy and paste some code in a lesson, mentors provide additional knowledge of the hows and whys behind writing code in a particular way.

We can also show alternative ways of writing code, just for students to understand that there is no "right way" to code; as long as it gets the job done, it's a successful application. However, a mentor can demonstrate a different or more optimized way to write a particular code block, allowing the student to see new ways to be creative and identify new thought processes.

If you're not yet sure that Python should be your first language, check this video out — it's one of my colleagues explaining the benefits of different programming languages: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...

14.2k Views · View Upvoters · Answer requested by Gheith Dellai

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Amara Lee, Unintentionally intelligent
Answered Jan 26, 2017 · Author has **68** answers and **160k** answer views

There is no pre-requisite for learning Python. In fact, **Python should be the first programming language to learn if you are a newbie** because it is one of the easiest languages and you don't have to memorize complex syntax. Just look at the following code.

```
1  print "Hello World!"
```

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any other language.

You can learn Python from Codesdope   which provides the best courses for learning this language. The way and order in which the topics are explained in this site with a lot of examples is such that even the ones having no knowledge programming can easily learn from the site. This site also has a forum where you can discuss your doubts from fellow learners as well as from experts there.

6k Views · View Upvoters

Kelvin Whyte, Staff at Holberton School (2017-present)
Answered Jun 5, 2017

Nothing really! python is easy enough to get started with straight up. If you decide to go learn by yourself, here are some tips:

Find a mentor: the Software world is big and there is a lot that you can find on the Internet about it, to be honest there is too much and it's hard to know where to start. Find someone who's been in the industry for a while and who is staying up to date. Define a plan with this person about what you should study

Get your code reviewed: there are usually a lot of ways to achieve something, and a lot of very bad ways. While the Internet is full of great resources, it's far from being perfect. Make sure to ask your mentor to review your work time to time, so that you are not learning the wrong way.

Practice on something meaningful: following tutorials tends to be annoying, once you become comfortable enough with a technology, try to come up with a personal project idea where you have to use what ever you are learning. That will greatly help you to stay motivated and to be proud of yourself. Remember that YOU CAN DO IT, it's a matter of time and perseverance, but the road can be long. To be a great software engineer, you will need 3 skills:

1.**Having a knowledge of the full stack**: Software applications are complicated systems composed of a lot of technologies and parts: frontend, backend, database, web server, network. For example: changing a query in the frontend will affect the database if the developer has no clue about how databases work the query might bring the site down.Algorithm and data structureHigh-level programming (oriented object programming languages)System administration and a bit of networking. With this, a software engineer will be able to navigate pretty much any system/application and will be able to make well-thought engineering decision.

2. **Being able to learn by yourself** : The basics of software rarely change, but the

make their application faster, better and more reliable. New programming languages and libraries are constantly coming and one can't go back to college every time there is a new technology coming up. The best software engineers are the one who are able to stay up to date with the latest trends. That's why it's critical for you to be able to learn by yourself.

3. Soft skills: Unless you are willing to work alone, it might be the most important skill. There is a good book about this, "How to Win Friends and Influence People" because this book is so important in learning how to be a successful human being.You can't imagine how being nice with people and helping them do their job will bring far. Remember that for a company, if you do your job well, you are a 1X. But let's say you are also helping 10 people to do their job well, then you are a 11X and that is the type of people successful companies need.If you can get this 3 things, you will be an amazing programmer and everybody will want to hire you. This is what we do at Holberton School. www.holbertonschool.com   Good luck on your way becoming a great programmer!

5.1k Views · View Upvoters

Drew Rice, data geek.
Answered Sep 22, 2016

First, congrats. Welcome to programming. It's pretty awesome.

Python is a great choice for a first language. With Python, most things are relatively clear and simple.

Things you'll need for your journey:

1. **Python** (check out the official website   to get started)

2. **A text editor** (can use something as simple as Notepad, but I prefer Atom   )

3. **A way to run your code** (terminal or command prompt; basically you'll be typing "my_program_name.py" to execute) (NOTE: some text editors can run your code)

4. **Determination**. Beginning to program is by no means easy. It takes time. But at some point you'll start understanding how the world around you is built on code.

Another thing to note: programming languages are just means to solve a problem, tools in the toolbelt. Initially, sure, you'll be learning Python syntax and how Python works, but the real goal is to learn HOW to program.

4.5k Views · View Upvoters

Shishu Raj, studied at Learning to Program
Answered Oct 7, 2017 · Author has **188** answers and **185.7k** answer views

Nothing, I would say. If you are interested in learning python then you can take this course. This is the **most comprehensive, yet straight forward, course for**

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Course link-Complete Python Bootcamp: Go from zero to hero in Python

Whether you have never programmed before, already know basic syntax, or want to learn about the advanced features of Python, this course is for you! In this course we will **teach you both versions of Python (2 and 3)** so you can easily adapt your skill set to either version!

With **over 100 lectures** and more than 10 hours of video this comprehensive course leaves no stone unturned! This course includes quizzes, tests, and homework assignments as well as 3 major projects to create a Python project portfolio!

This course will teach you Python in a practical manner, with every lecture comes a full coding screencast and a corresponding code notebook! Learn in whatever manner is best for you!

We will start by helping you get Python installed on your computer, regardless of your operating system, whether its Linux, MacOS, or Windows, we've got you covered!

You will get lifetime access to over 100 lectures plus corresponding Notebooks for the lectures!

This course comes with a **30 day money back guarantee!** If you are not satisfied in any way, you'll get your money back. Plus you will keep access to the Notebooks as a thank you for trying out the course!

So what are you waiting for? Learn Python in a way that will advance your career and increase your knowledge, all in a fun and practical way!

Who is the target audience?

- Beginners who have never programmed before.

- Programmers switching languages to Python.

- Intermediate Python programmers who want to level up their skills!

Click on below link to see course contents.

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2.1k Views · View Upvoters

Justin Eloff, I know them, they make the things do things.
Answered Sep 20, 2016 · Author has **59** answers and **43.2k** answer views

About programming? Nothing

What is absolutely necessary?

- Having a text editor, personally I prefer Sublime Text. Others are Notepad++, Pythons own IDE and many more.

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What would be nice?

- Being comfortable with the terminal in terms of navigating through directories, creating them and deleting them. Running the file from the terminal.

Other than that, there is nothing more I can think of right now.

1.9k Views

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Harry Green, c, c++
Updated Sep 23, 2016 · Author has **186** answers and **93.9k** answer views

Prior stepping in learning Python language, you should have practical knowledge regarding all the basic of HTML , CSS , JavaScript and also aware with the concepts.

1.4k Views

Satyabrata Pal, Learn at my blog https://goo.gl/qc6Jly
Answered Dec 1, 2016 · Author has **207** answers and **120.1k** answer views

Frankly you just need to know how to operate a computer :) This is all you need in order to start learning Python. Python is a very easy to learn programming language and being a open source project there is a huge community supporting Python so during the course of your learning if you get stuck somewhere then there lots of people who can help you out with your stuff.

You can also refer to automatetheboringstuff ebook which is an excellent resource. There are other eBooks , blogs, you tube channels and websites which you can refer to get started in you quest to learn Python. You can also refer to my blog TheCodingProject where I regularly put some excerpts on different python topics or you can suggest me one and I will be happy to help.

2.1k Views · View Upvoters

Dhirendra Singh, former Project Engineer at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (2016-2017)
Answered Oct 6, 2017 · Author has **796** answers and **276.3k** answer views

Python is an open source language. This gives you the freedom and power to do anything without any limitations. Because of this characteristic, it has become researchers' favourite programming tool. And so it becomes one of the most used and loved programming language.

Why python is so popular?

841 Views

Shai Tal, Msc Computer Science & Artificial, Bar-Ilan University (2018)
Answered Sep 20, 2016

You need to:

1.not be afraid to look for stuff online, many of my python work was done with online knowledge.

2.have a computer (i prefer using python with linux, but everything else works

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Lol...I'm afraid I would recommend learning another language before learning Python. Although the structure of Python language is similar to both C and Java, Python has complexities that are much more forgiving in a language like Java, for example.

519 Views

MS Rikas, Since 2010 I am a Coder So Far.
Answered Sep 19, 2016 · Author has **64** answers and **17.6k** answer views

You just have to know how to access computers.

I've recommend you to take python class from udacity. it's much nicer and give you essentials to the computer science.

The Course Name is "Computer Science 101   "

1.4k Views · View Upvoters

Adeel Ahmed, C#,Php, C++, Python, Asp.Net, Vb.net, Java
Answered Sep 20, 2016 · Author has **602** answers and **1m** answer views

If you want to be a web developer , then you have to have practical knowledge about:

- **Html and Css**
- **JavaScript/JQuery/JavaScript Framework**
- **Databases such as mySql or Oracle**
- **AJAX**

216 Views · Answer requested by Gheith Dellai

Walid Aly, Java C C# VB.NET PHP JavaScript
Answered Sep 19, 2016 · Author has **132** answers and **173.7k** answer views

Literally nothing.

Actually if you try anything else before Python, u will end missed up.

908 Views · View Upvoters

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Why do most developers study only very simple languages like JavaScript and Python instead of learning a true language like C++?

Which programming language should I learn first, Python or Ruby?

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