



Tkinter Cursors

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Summary: in this tutorial, you'll learn how to set the cursors for widgets in the Tkinter application.

Changing the cursor for the root window

The root window has only two cursors:

- Normal cursor
- Busy cursor

The Normal cursor has the value of `""` while the busy cursor has the value of `"watch"` .

The following program shows how to change the cursor of the root window from normal to busy:

```
import tkinter as tk

root = tk.Tk()

root.geometry("300x300")
root.config(cursor="watch")
```

```
root.mainloop()
```

How it works.

- First, set the width and height of the root windows to 300×300.
- Second, change the cursor to busy using the cursor parameter.

If you want to change the cursor for an area of the root window, you can use the <Motion> event and track the x (and/or y) coordinate of the cursor. For example:

```
import tkinter as tk

root = tk.Tk()
root.geometry("300x300")

def change_cursor(event):
    if event.x in range(100, 300):
        root.config(cursor="watch")
    else:
        root.config(cursor="")

root.bind("<Motion>", change_cursor)
root.mainloop()
```

In this example, the cursor changes to busy when the mouse is starting on the x-coordinates from 100 to 300.

Changing cursor for widgets

All [ttk widgets](https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-ttk/) (<https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-ttk/>) have the cursor parameter that allows you to change the cursor when the mouse hovers them.

For example, if you want to change the cursor of a [button](https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-button/) (<https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-button/>), you can set the cursor name using the cursor parameter as follows:

```
from tkinter import ttk

#...

button = ttk.Button(cursor=cursor_name)
```

The cursor name can be one of the following values:

- arrow
- based_arrow_down
- based_arrow_up
- boat
- bogosity
- bottom_left_corner
- bottom_right_corner
- bottom_side
- bottom_tee
- box_spiral
- center_ptr
- circle
- clock
- coffee_mug
- cross
- cross_reverse
- crosshair
- diamond_cross
- dot
- dotbox
- double_arrow
- draft_large

- draft_small
- draped_box
- exchange
- fleur
- gobbler
- gumby
- hand1
- hand2
- heart
- icon
- iron_cross
- left_ptr
- left_side
- left_tee
- leftbutton
- ll_angle
- lr_angle
- man
- middlebutton
- mouse
- pencil
- pirate
- plus
- question_arrow
- right_ptr
- right_side
- right_tee
- rightbutton

- rtl_logo
- sailboat
- sb_down_arrow
- sb_h_double_arrow
- sb_left_arrow
- sb_right_arrow
- sb_up_arrow
- sb_v_double_arrow
- shuttle
- sizing
- spider
- spraycan
- star
- target
- tcross
- top_left_arrow
- top_left_corner
- top_right_corner
- top_side
- top_tee
- trek
- ul_angle
- umbrella
- ur_angle
- watch
- xterm
- X_cursor

To change the cursor of the root window, you can:

- First, create a new [Frame](https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-frame/) (<https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-frame/>) .
- Second, place it on the root window and expand it 100%.
- Third, set the cursor on the frame.

The following program allows you to change the cursor by selecting it in a [combobox](https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-combobox/) (<https://www.pythontutorial.net/tkinter/tkinter-combobox/>) :

```
from tkinter import ttk
import tkinter as tk

root = tk.Tk()

# config the root window
root.geometry('600x400')
root.resizable(False, False)
root.title('Tkinter Cursors')

frame = ttk.Frame(root)

# Label
label = ttk.Label(frame, text="Cursor:")
label.pack(fill=tk.X, padx=5, pady=5)

# cursor list
selected_cursor = tk.StringVar()
cursor_list = ttk.Combobox(frame, textvariable=selected_cursor, cursor='arrow')
cursors = ['arrow', 'man', 'based_arrow_down', 'middlebutton', 'based_arrow_up',
           'sb_up_arrow', 'dot', 'sb_v_double_arrow', 'dotbox', 'shuttle', 'do']
cursor_list['values'] = cursors
cursor_list['state'] = 'readonly'

cursor_list.pack(fill=tk.X, padx=5, pady=5)

frame.pack(expand=True, fill=tk.BOTH)
```

```
# bind the selected value changes
def cursor_changed(event):
    frame.config(cursor=selected_cursor.get())

cursor_list.bind('<<ComboboxSelected>>', cursor_changed)

root.mainloop()
```



Summary

- The root window has only two cursors: normal (`""`) and busy (`"watch"`).
- The widget has many cursors with fixed names.
- Use the `cursor` parameter to change the cursor for the root window or a widget.