

How to learn Python

AJ Norton

January 18, 2014

1 Introduction

If you are interested in programming and think that it is too intimidating, I highly suggest trying to pick up python as a first programming language (or add it to your arsenal). It is extremely powerful yet simple at the same time. Python is not as syntactically strict as other languages and is really easy to jump into without knowing a lot about coding.

Take this following code sample:

```
#this is how you make a comment.  
print "hello_world"
```

The above program prints "hello world" to the console. See how easy it is? There are no brackets, semi-colons, or painful things you need to do. I love it for the fact that you can simply think about what you want to do and that's more or less what you have to type.

Let's look at another example:

```
list = [1,2,3,4,5] #creates a list  
if 1 in list:  
    print "this_is_awesome"
```

This code sample creates something called a list and then I check if a certain element is in this list. If this condition is true print something out, if not do not print anything out. The only crazy thing that you need is the colon (:) after the "if 1 in list"

2 Learn More

The best advice I can give for learning a new language is the same any mother gives. PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE. Just like anything you begin you will probably be terrible in the beginning. It takes a lot of time and experimenting to fully understand programming and you need to be able to dedicate time to it.

These are the steps I advise to try to learn Python in no particular order.

- [Start downloading Python HERE.](#)
- [If you are new to programming, start doing tutorials on code academy for free HERE.](#)
- [Watch youtube videos on Python HERE.](#)
- [Look at my Git Hub repository of all of my Python notes and code snippets HERE.](#)
- [Keep this cheatsheet handy and try to understand all of it HERE.](#)
- [If you get stuck on something, feel free to contact me or literally Google your answer \(it really works!\)](#)
- [If you feel it up for a challenge, try solving any of these projects yourself HERE.](#)
- [Try learning new things and incorporating it with Python \(databases, regular expressions...\) HERE.](#)

3 Conclusion

I hope this helped. Good luck.