# W3 Schools - Python Getting Started

## Python Install

Many PCs and Macs will have python already installed.

To check if you have python installed on a Windows PC, search in the start bar for Python or run the following on the Command Line (cmd.exe):

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>python --version**

To check if you have python installed on a Linux or Mac, then on linux open the command line or on Mac open the Terminal and type:

**python --version**

If you find that you do not have Python installed on your computer, then you can download it for free from the following website: <https://www.python.org/>

## Python Quickstart

Python is an interpreted programming language, this means that as a developer you write Python (.py) files in a text editor and then put those files into the python interpreter to be executed.

Let's write our first Python file, called hello.py, which can be done in any text editor:

hello.py:

**print("Hello, World!")**

Simple as that. Save your file. Open your command line, navigate to the directory where you saved your file, and run:

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>python hello.py**

The output should be:

**Hello, World!**

Congratulations, you have written and executed your first Python program.

The Python Command Line

To test a short amount of code in python sometimes it is quickest and easiest not to write the code in a file. This is made possible because Python can be run as a command line itself.

Type the following on the Windows, Mac or Linux command line:

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>python**

Or, if the "python" command did not work, you can try "py":

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>py**

From there you can write any python, including our hello world example from earlier in the tutorial:

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>python  
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit (Intel)] on win32  
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.  
>>> print("Hello, World!")**

Which will write "Hello, World!" in the command line:

**C:\Users\*Your Name*>python  
Python 3.6.4 (v3.6.4:d48eceb, Dec 19 2017, 06:04:45) [MSC v.1900 32 bit (Intel)] on win32  
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.  
>>> print("Hello, World!")  
Hello, World!**

Whenever you are done in the python command line, you can simply type the following to quit the python command line interface:

**exit()**

# Keywords:

**Command Line (cmd.exe)** - A command-line interpreter for Windows operating systems that allows users to interact with the system by typing text-based commands. It is used for running scripts, managing files, and performing administrative tasks.

**Linux** - An open-source, Unix-like operating system kernel that powers a wide variety of distributions (such as Ubuntu, Fedora, and Debian). It is widely used for servers, development, and system programming.

**Mac** - A family of personal computers developed by Apple Inc., running macOS, a Unix-based operating system known for its graphical interface, performance, and strong developer tools (like Xcode and Terminal).

**Terminal** - A text-based interface used to interact with the operating system by entering commands. It's available on macOS, Linux, and other systems, and often used for scripting, development, and system administration.

**MSC (Microsoft Management Console)** - A Windows framework that provides a unified interface for system administrators to manage hardware, software, and network components through various plug-ins or "snap-ins" (like Device Manager or Group Policy Editor).