# Functions

## Exercises

### Week 4

Prior to attempting these exercises ensure you have read the lecture notes and/or viewed the video, and followed the practical. You may wish to use the Python interpreter in interactive mode to help work out the solutions to some of the questions.

Download and store this document within your own filespace, so the contents can be edited. You will be able to refer to it during the test in Week 6.

Enter your answers directly into the highlighted boxes.

For more information about the module delivery, assessment and feedback please refer to the module within the MyBeckett portal.

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What must be done before a function that is not *built-in* to Python can be used in a program?

*Answer:*

We must import the function.

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Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sin() function be made?

import math

*Answer:*

The sin() function call can be made by using module name i.e. 'math.' as a prefix to the sin() function.

e.g. math.sin(10)

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Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sqrt() function be made?

from math import sqrt

*Answer:*

sqrt() can be called normally without any prefixes.

e.g. sqrt(4)

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What is the name of the common library that is available with all Python distributions?

*Answer:*

Python Standard Library

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What keyword is used in Python to define a new function?

*Answer:*

def

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Write some Python code that defines a function called print\_header(msg). This should output the value provided by the ‘msg’ parameter to the screen (prefixed by five asterisk ‘\*\*\*\*\*’) characters.

*Answer:*

def print\_header(msg):

print("\*\*\*\*\*" + msg)

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In the answer box below give an example of what the **docstring** may look like for the print\_header(msg) function.

*Answer:*

"""Displays header message prefixed by \*\*\*\*\*"""

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Where within a function definition should a **docstring** appear?

*Answer:*

A docstring should appear in 1st line of body of function definition.

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What statement should appear within a function’s code block to cause a specific value to be passed back to the caller of the function?

*Answer:*

return

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Write some Python code that defines a function called find\_min(a,b) that returns the smallest of the two given parameter values.

*Answer:*

def find\_min(a, b):

if a<b:

return a

else:

return b

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Given the following function definition, which of the *formal parameters* could be described as being a **default argument**?

def shouldContinue(prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:*

answer=False

Provide two example calls to the above function, one which provides a value for the *default argument*, and one that does not.

*Answer:*

shouldContinue("Do you want to continue?", True)

shouldContinue("Do you want to continue?")

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State why following function definition would **not** be allowed.

def do\_something(prefix="Message", prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:*

Default arguments are only allowed to the right of parameters without default. Since, 'prefix="Message"' is left to 'prompt', this function definition is not allowed.

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What single character is placed directly before the name of a *formal parameter*, to indicate that a variable number of actual parameters can be passed when the function is called?

*Answer:*

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What commonly used built-in function, which displays output on the screen, can take a **variable number** of arguments?

*Answer:*

print()

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Is it valid for a function’s parameter name to be prefixed by two asterisk characters ‘\*\*’ as shown below?

def send\_output(\*\*details):

# function body...

*Answer:*

Yes, it is valid

If present, what does this prefix indicate?

*Answer:*

It indicates that the parameter should receive any unknown keyword parameter.

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What is the name given to a small ‘anonymous’ function that must be defined using a single expression?

*Answer:*

Lambda expressions

Give an example of such a function that calculates the *cube* of a given number (i.e. the value of the number raised to the power of three) -

*Answer:*

cube = lambda n : n\*\*3

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## **Exercises are complete**

Save this logbook with your answers. Then ask your tutor to check your responses to each question.