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# global variables Global variables

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>> In this section, we'll be looking at global variables, and how they can be used

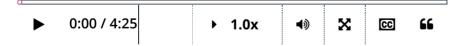
within your programs.

Something important to note is that if

you have a value for a global variable,

that value will be expressed in all of the functions within your program.

So, they should be used with



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# **Concepts**

A global variable is assigned outside all functions and lives within the global scope of the module. It exists from the time of its assignment until the program ends. Global variables are visible to all functions within the module and can be used within their different local scopes. Additionally, global variables can be used by expressions in the global scope. The value of a global variable can be changed from the global scope, and can also be modified from a local scope using the global statement (i.e. global x =4). If (global) was not used, a local variable would be defined instead, and any changes to this new variable will not affect the global variable that bears the same name.

Global variables are highly discouraged because they make your code hard to understand and follow, imagine that 20 functions written by different developers are all changing one global variable. Tracking the functionality of the program will be very challenging. Global variables are covered in this lesson because some developers use them for very specialized applications when there are no alternatives. But please know, that you can write very complicated Python scripts without the need to use global variables. It is OK, however, to use constant global variables that are accessible from all functions but will not (and cannot) be changed.

#### Generally speaking:

- Global variables are accessible from local scopes
- Global variables can be changed from the global scope
- Global variables can be changed from a local scope using the global statement
- If a local variable shares the same name with a global variable, changes in the local will not affect the global

# **Examples**

In the following examples, you will see how to define, read, and modify global variables.

### Global variables are accessible from local scopes

Numerical variable

```
# Global variable
PI = 3.14
# Compute the area of a circle
def circle area (radius):
    # PI is accessible from this local scope
    area = PI * radius ** 2
    return area
# Global scope
a = circle area(4)
print("circle area =", a)
```

```
# Global variable
vowels = 'AaEeIiOoUiYy'
# count the number of vowels in a sentence
def count vowels(sentence):
    # vowels is accessible from this local scope
    count = 0
    for c in sentence:
        if c in vowels:
            count = count + 1
    return count
# Global scope
s = 'Monty Python'
print('Number of vowels in "{:s}" = {:d}'.format(s, count_vowels(s))
```

### Global variables can be changed from a local scope

When the value of a global variable is changed from a local scope, it stays changed even after the local scope has been destroyed

#### **Numerical Variable**

```
# Global variable
PI = 3.14
# Compute the area of a circle
def circle area (radius):
    # Define PI as a global variable in this scope
    global PI
    PI = 3.14159265359 # more accurate pi
    area = PI * radius ** 2
    return area
# Global scope
print("PI =", PI)
a = circle area(4)
print("More accurate circle area =", a)
print("Updated PI =", PI) # Global PI changed in circle area
```

```
# String global variable
planet = 'Mercury'
# function to change the current planet
def planet change(new planet):
    # Define planet as a global variable in this scope
    global planet
    planet = new_planet
# Global scope
print("Planet =", planet)
planet change('Mars')
print("Planet =", planet)
```

### Assigning a value to a global variable in a local scope without global

Changes to a local variable sharing the same name as a global variable is not reflected in the global variable

#### Numerical variables

```
# Global variable
PI = 3.14
# Compute the area of a circle
def circle area (radius):
    # Assigning a value to PI without (global) makes it a local va
    PI = 3.14159265359 # more accurate pi
    area = PI * radius ** 2
    return area
# Global scope
print("PI =", PI)
a = circle area(4)
print("More accurate circle area =", a)
print("Unchanged PI =", PI) # Global PI didn't change
```

```
# String global variable
planet = 'Mercury'
# function to change the current planet
def planet change(new planet):
    planet = new planet # planet is a local variable
# Global scope
print("Planet = ", planet)
planet_change('Mars')
print("Planet = ", planet)
```

### Global variables can be changed from the global scope

#### Numeric variable

```
# Global variable
PI = 3.14
# Compute the area of a circle
def circle area (radius):
    # PI is accessible from this local scope
    area = PI * radius ** 2
    return area
# Global scope
# PI is changed before it is used in circle area
PI = 0
a = circle area(4)
print("PI =", PI)
print("Wrong circle area =", a)
```

```
# String global variable
planet = 'Mercury'
# function to change the current planet
def planet change (new planet):
    planet = new planet # planet is a local variable
print("Planet = ", planet)
planet change('Mars')
print("Planet = ", planet) # global variable (planet) did not chan
planet = "Earth" # changing global variable (planet)
print("Planet = ", planet)
```

# Task 3

Global variables

**Currency Converter** 

```
# [ ] The program below converts amount from US Dollars to Indian
# complete the function USD2INR so it performs the conversion
XCHANGE RATE = 63.6856 # = 1 USD
def USD2INR(amount):
    Convert amount from US Dollars to Indian Rupees.
    Use XCHANGE_RATE
    args:
        amount: US dollar amount (float)
    returns:
        value: the equivalent of amount in Indian Rupees (float)
    #TODO: Your code goes here
    return value
print("Current exchange rate $1 USD = {} INR".format(XCHANGE RATE)
amount = 220 #USD
inr = USD2INR(amount)
print("${} = {}".format(amount, inr))
```

```
# [ ] The following program calculate the equivalent of $220 USD i
# and perform the conversion again
# Complete the functions USD2INR and change rate so they function
XCHANGE RATE = 63.6856 # = 1 USD
def USD2INR(amount):
    Convert amount from US Dollars to Indian Rupees.
    Use XCHANGE RATE
    args:
        amount: US dollar amount (float)
    returns:
        value: the equivalent of amount in Indian Rupees (float)
    #TODO: Your code goes here
    return value
def change rate():
    Change the exchange rate to 63.6782
    args:
        None
    returns:
        None
    #TODO: Your code goes here
print("Current exchange rate $1 USD = {} INR".format(XCHANGE RATE)
amount = 220 #USD
inr = USD2INR(amount)
print("${} = {}".format(amount, inr))
print()
change rate()
print("After changing the exchange rate $1 USD = {} INR".format(XC
inr = USD2INR(amount)
print("${} = {}".format(amount, inr))
```

### Flip

```
# [ ] In the following program, the function `flip()` is designed
# Fix the `UnboundLocalError` exception without changing the expre
NUMBERS = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
def flip():
    NUMBERS = NUMBERS[-1::-1]
print("Before flipping, NUMBERS =", NUMBERS)
flip()
print("After flipping, NUMBERS =", NUMBERS)
```

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