

Save-the-word Haskell

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1. The easiest way: Haskell platform

- (a) GHC: the most widely used Haskell compiler.

How to use:

- Start (use them both, one by one):
`ghci`
`:set prompt "ghci> "`
- Load up a file (provided **myfunctions.hs**):
`:l myfunctions`
- Reload:
`:r`

2. Basic knowledge

- (a) Always surround a negative number with parentheses.

- (b) inequality symbol:

`/=`

(watch out for the difference between `4` and `"4"`)

- (c) Functions are called by writing the function name, a space and then the parameters, separated by spaces. For examples,

`min 9 10`

So,

`bar (bar 3)` means `bar(bar(3))` in C.

And there is no `bar(bar 3)` in Haskell.

- (d) Function application has the highest precedence, which means these two statements are equivalent:

`succ 9 + max 5 4 + 1`

`(succ 9) + (max 5 4) + 1`

- (e) If a function takes two parameters, we can also call it as an infix function by surrounding it with backticks.

`div 92 10`

`92 `div` 10`

- (f) Write your own functions:

- how to make functions (contents in **myfilename.hs**):
`doubleMe x = x + x`

- how to make use of it:

```
:l myfilename
doubleMe 9
```

- some examples:

```
doubleMe x = x + x
doubleUs x y = x*2 + y*2
```

by having these, we can also run:

```
doubleUs 28 88 + doubleMe 123
```

we can also redefine the function `doubleUs` as:

```
doubleUs x y = doubleMe x + doubleMe y
```

- Functions in Haskell don't have to be in any particular order, so it doesn't matter if you define `doubleMe` first and then `doubleUs` or if you do it the other way around.

- if statement:

```
doubleSmallNumber x = if x > 100
.....then x
.....else x*2
```

(Each '.' indicates a space. Because I fail to create spaces :P)

- the `else` part is mandatory in Haskell.

- if statement in Haskell is an expression:

```
doubleSmallNumber' x = (if x > 100 then x else x*2)
+ 1
```

notes: That apostrophe (') doesn't have any special meaning in Haskell's syntax. It's a valid character to use in a function name. We usually use ' to either denote a strict version of a function (one that isn't lazy) or a slightly modified version of a function or a variable.

- what is more:

- Functions can't begin with uppercase letters.

- When a function doesn't take any parameters, we usually say it's a definition (or a name):

```
conanO'Brien = "It's a-me, Conan O'Brien!"
```