

Object-Oriented Python: Takeaways

by Dataquest Labs, Inc. - All rights reserved © 2020

Syntax

- Define an empty class:

```
class MyClass():  
    pass
```

- Instantiate an object of a class:

```
class MyClass():  
    pass  
  
mc_1 = MyClass()
```

- Define an init function in a class to assign an attribute at instantiation:

```
class MyClass():  
    def __init__(self, param_1):  
        self.attribute_1 = param_1  
  
mc_2 = MyClass("arg_1")
```

- Define a method inside a class and call it on an instantiated object:

```
class MyClass():  
    def __init__(self, param_1):  
        self.attribute_1 = param_1  
  
    def add_20(self):  
        self.attribute_1 += 20  
  
mc_3 = MyClass(10) # mc_3.attribute is 10  
mc_3.add_20()      # mc_3.attribute is 30
```

Concepts

- In **Object-Oriented Programming**, the fundamental building blocks are objects.
 - It differs from **Procedural** programming, where sequential steps are executed.

- An **object** is an entity that stores data.
- A **class** describes an object's type. It defines:
 - What data is stored in the object, known as attributes.
 - What actions the object can do, known as methods.
- An **attribute** is a variable that belongs to an instance of a class.
- A **method** is a function that belongs to an instance of a class.
- Attributes and methods are accessed using **dot notation**. Attributes do not use parentheses, whereas methods do.
- An **instance** describes a specific example of a class. For instance, in the code `x = 3` , `x` is an instance of the type `int` .
 - When an object is created, it is known as **instantiation**.
- A **class definition** is code that defines how a class behaves, including all methods and attributes.
- The `__init__` method is a special method that runs at the moment an object is instantiated.
 - The `__init__` method (`__init__()`) is one of a number of special methods that Python defines.
- All methods must include `self` , representing the object instance, as their first parameter.
- It is convention to start the name of any attributes or methods that aren't intended for external use with an underscore.

Resources

- [Python Documentation: Classes](#)

