



# Introduction to Python 2

## Objectives

To become familiar with the environment used for this course, and some basics of Python 2.

## Reference Material

Chapter 1, Introduction to Python, in particular the slide "Anatomy of a Python script". It is also a good idea to start getting familiar with the online Python documentation.

## Overview

These are simple exercises designed to get you used to your environment. Solution code may be found after the questions, and online in the `solutions` folder.

**Note: these exercises assume your current directory is the `labs` folder (Windows) or your home directory (Linux).**

## Questions

1. Which version of python is being used?
2. Using an editor, create a new script called `ex1.py`. Within this script create two variables, one containing your first name and another containing your last name. Display them using `print` with a space between each one.

Run the script:

- a) From a command-line
  - b) From IDLE
3. We have a simple module for displaying a playing card, called `showcard`. It has a function called `display_file` which takes one parameter: the name of a .gif file. The playing card filenames are of the following format:

**`BMPn.gif`**

Where *n* is a number between 1 and 52, indicating the ordinal number of the card in the pack.

Write a Python program called `pickacard.py` which uses this module to display a single card. Prompt the user for a number, as follows:

```
number = raw_input("Pick a card (1-52):")
```

Then construct a filename from `number`, and then display the card by passing the filename to `showcard.display_file` as a parameter.

Do not worry about out-of-range numbers for the time being.



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**Notes:** if IDLE cannot find the showcard module then add:

```
import sys
sys.path.append("C:/labs")
```

## Solutions

From IDLE, open the file using the menus File/Open, which will create a new window displaying the source code. Run that code from the new window using Run/Run module (or by pressing <F5>).

1. Which version of python is being used?

```
$ python -v
Python 2.6.2
```

2. Using an editor, create a new script called **ex1.py**. Within this script create two variables, one containing your first name and another containing your last name. Display them using **print** with a space between each one.

Run the script:

- a) From a command-line
- b) From IDLE

Our solution has this code in it:

```
first = 'Fred'
last  = 'Bloggs'
print first,last
```

Notice that the separating the two variables with a comma inserts a space for us.

3. Write a Python program called **pickacard.py** which uses the **showcard** module to display a single card. Here is our solution:

```
import showcard

number = raw_input("Pick a card (1-52):")

filename = "BMP"+number+".gif"
showcard.display_file(filename)
```

If you had a problem loading any of the files (including the **showcard** module) then check that your current directory is the **labs** folder.

