

Reference:

`print(objects, sep=' ', end='\n')`

## Formatting and Substitution

**The Format Specification Mini-Language** is a **fixed** series of codes used to format strings and values by the **FORMAT FUNCTION, FORMAT METHOD** and **F-STRINGS**

decimal places  
defaults to 6 if  
not specifiedthousands separator -  
(used with specific types  
only) float, d, b, o, x, Xmin field  
width in  
characterswikipython.com  
Format mini-languageSign: " " (space) - force leading space  
on +\- sign; + - sign all; - neg only  
(sign/align err with strings)align can pad with  
any character;  
default is space**String:** `s` or `none` -  
string format**Integer types:**

**b** - binary  
**c** - Unicode char  
**d** - base 10 integer  
**none** - same as `d`  
**o** - Octal format  
**x** - Hex - lower cs  
**X** - Hex - upper cs  
**n** - d with local separators

**Float/decimal types:**

**e** - scientific, `e` - exponent  
**E** - `E` for exponent  
**f** - fixed point (default 6)  
**F** - fixed, NAN and INF  
**g** - general format  
**G** - `g` except `E` for large #  
**n** - `g` with local separators  
**%** - percentage; \* 100;  
adds `"%"`  
**none** - for decimal, same  
as `g` or `G`

forces 0 between sign & number  
w/o align specified, like `'0=;'`;  
(err with string)only for conversion of integer, float,  
or complex #s, non-decimal integers  
add prefix, float and complex #s  
always have a decimal pointalign (ft), > (rt), ^ (centered)  
or = which forces padding  
after a sign

**Special Note:** The "printf-style" string formatting, a.k.a, interpolation, using the built in `%` (modulo) operator is buggy and being deprecated - it is no longer recommended.

**Built-in String Format Functions and Methods**

**.capitalize()** - 1<sup>st</sup> letter  
**.ljust( width[, fillchar])** - left justify  
**.upper()** - convert to uppercase  
**.strip( [char list])** - remove leading and trailing chars, defaults to whitespace  
**.lstrip([char list])** - remove leading chars  
**.title()** - return a titlecased version  
**.swapcase()** - upper to lower, visa versa  
**.removeprefix(prefix, /)**  
**.center(width[, fillchar default: space])**  
**.rjust(width[, fillchar])** - right justify  
**.lower( )** - convert to lowercase  
**.rstrip([char list])** remove trailing chars  
**.zfill(width)** - left fill with 0 to width  
**separator\_str.join([string\_list])**  
**.removesuffix(suffix, /)**

**Common Examples of Format Specification Formatting**

Numeric examples using 0123456.789 and -0123456.789 for 1st five examples

Format String	Result	Description
"%.2f"	123456.79 and -123456.79	standard 2 decimal places
"%,2f"	123,456.79 and -123,456.79	add comma for thousands sep
">15.2f"	123,456.79 and -123,456.79	right align in 15 space field
"*>15.2f"	*****123,456.79 and *****-123,456.79	force fill with leading character
".2e"	1.23e+05 and -1.23e+05	scientific notation
">#8x"	0x100 and -0x100	<- integer 256/-256 to alt hex
"<10s"	00123456  <-end of field	string "00123456" in 10 space field

**format Function:** easy to use (no substitution fields) text / number format and conversions:

**Syntax:** `format(value, "format string")`

**ex:** `print("|" + format(-12345.6789, ">12,.2f") + "|")` | -12,345.68|

**.format Method:** format and substitution in one statement **Syntax and example:**  
"string w/ {[replacement data] [! r/s/a] [:" + format string]}".**.format(sub source(s))**

**literal string with embedded replacement placeholders and formatting command** substitution sources

`data_tuple = ("cash", "credit card", "check", "bit coin", 5.50, 10, 25.00, 100)`  
`print("Paid by {1s:<}: ${5:>7.2f}. Thank you.".format(*data_tuple))`  
Paid by **credit card**: \$ **10.00**. Thank you.

`dt1 = ("cash", "credit card", "check", "bit coin")`  
`dt2 = ( 5.50, 10, 25.00, 100)`  
`print("Paid by {0[2]!s:<}: ${1[0]:>5.2f}. Thank you.".format(dt1, dt2))`  
Paid by **check**: \$ **5.50**. Thank you.

`mydict={"paidby":"cash", "amount":5.50}`  
`mydict["paidby"]="bitcoin"`  
`print("Paid by {paidby:<}: ${amount:>5.2f}. Thank you.".format(**mydict))`  
Paid by **bitcoin**: \$ **5.50**. Thank you.

**More examples:**

**Objects in the following examples**

`OrderString = '{1}, {0}, {2}'`  
`ShirtTuple = ('red', 'white', 'blue', 'purple')`  
`StoogeDict = {'Straight':'Larry', 'Dunce':'Moe', 'Foil':'Curley', 'Boob':'Don'}`  
`PetDict = {1: "cow", 2: "dog", 3: "fish"}`  
`StoogeTuple = ('Larry', 'Moe', 'Curley', 'Don')`  
# Simple selection and ordering of values with **literals**  
`mystring = "The tourney ranking: {1}, {3}, {0}"`  
`format / ('Larry', 'Moe', 'Curley', 'Donald')`  
`print(mystring)`  
The tourney ranking is: Moe, Donald, Larry  
# String holding **substitution/replacement** selections  
`print('The tourney rank is: ' + OrderString.format('Abe', 'Bob', 'Cal', 'Don'))`  
The tourney rank is: Bob, Abe, Cal  
# **Named items**  
`print("Winners: {First}, {Second}".format(First = "Bob", Second = "Don"))`  
Winners: Bob, Don  
# Use **\*** to **unpack a single tuple** (BUT not a list—  
for lists use `0[val]` )

`print("The stooges are: {2}, {1}, and {0}.".format(*StoogeTuple))` # note \* & sub syntax  
The stooges are: Curley, Moe, and Larry.  
# Use the **{index[value index]}** without having to use \*  
or for a list `print("My favorite stooge is {0 [1]}.".format(StoogeTuple))`  
My favorite stooge is Moe. The use of index allows  
sub of multiple tuples and lists.  
# The **'[0[]]'** structure enables us to select from **multiple tuples**:  
`print("I saw {0[1]} in a {1[2]} shirt.".format(StoogeTuple, /ShirtTuple))`  
I saw Moe in a blue shirt.  
# Use **\*\*** to access **dictionary values** by their keys with **unpacking**:  
`print("The stooges are: {Straight}, {Foil}, {Dunce}.".format(**StoogeDict))`  
The stooges are: Larry, Curley, Moe.  
# Select a **single dictionary item** by **unpacking**:  
`print("My favorite stooge is {Foil}.".format(**StoogeDict))`  
My favorite stooge is Curley.  
# using **!r** and **!s** - example borrowed from  
<https://docs.python.org/3/library/string.html#formatspec>  
`print("repr() shows quotes: {!r}; str() doesn't: {!s}.".format('test1', 'test2'))`

...plus a LOT more at:  
[www.wikipython.com](http://www.wikipython.com)

## Formatting and Substitution Options

### Class Attributes and .format substitution

```
class Flowers(object):
    def __init__(self, center, petals):
        self.center=center
        self.petals=petals
Daisy = Flowers("black","yellow")
Dogwood = Flowers("brown","white")
print("Daisy petals are bright {0.petals}, its center {0.center}, while the \
Dogwood petals are {1.petals}." .format(Daisy, Dogwood))
⚡ Daisy petals are bright yellow, its center black, while the Dogwood petals are white.
```

**The String Constants Module:** was the basis for much of the format function and method including the format mini-language. It contains some useful constants and **Template strings** which "provide simpler string substitutions as described in PEP 292" supporting \$-based subs. **from String import Template** Module example:  
 s = Template('\$who likes \$what')  
 s.substitute(who = "Tim", what = "kung pao")  
 ⚡ 'Tim likes kung pao'  
 Helper function: string.capwords(s, sep=None)

**Formatting Dates:** Datetime, time, and calendar are vast modules with many methods and class objects. Their instances expose a built-in special format method called **strftime()**. Strftime uses modulo-plus-letter **format codes** (like "%m" for a 2 digit month) to display date and time attributes of their class objects. The full list of code "directives" is at: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/datetime.html>. These use the modulo operator but are **not part of the old interpolation formatting**. Conversely, a properly formatted string can be used to create a datetime object using the class method called **strptime()**. Since format can access instance attributes we can use it with dates, though it may not be our best choice.

For example, given: `from datetime import *`  
`today = date.today()` #today's date assigned to variable "today"

(see abbreviated strftime codes list at page lower right)

we could use the instance attributes:  
 months = ('0','Jan','Feb','Mar','Apr','May','Jun','Jul','Aug','Sep','Oct','Nov','Dec')  
 days = ('Monday','Tuesday','Wednesday','Thursday','Friday','Saturday','Sunday')  
 print("Today is {1!s}, {2!s} {0.day}, {0.year}." .format(  
 (today, days[today.weekday()], months[today.month]))

⚡ Today is Saturday, Jan 1, 2022.

or we can get about the same result more easily with strftime:  
 print("Today is", today.strftime("%A, %b %d, %Y"))

⚡ Today is Saturday, Jan 01, 2022.

### New in version [3.6]: f-strings - formatted string literals - prefixed with letters f or F

see: [https://docs.python.org/3/reference/lexical\\_analysis.html#f-strings](https://docs.python.org/3/reference/lexical_analysis.html#f-strings) (2.4.3 Formatted string literals), ALSO see PEP 498

Text except }, {, or NULL - {{ & }} are replaced with single braces

"s" | "r" | "a"  
 str(), repr(), ascii()

See mini-language described on page 1 Example:  
 format(12345.678,"\*+=+15,.2f") ⚡ +\*\*\*\*\*12,345.68  
 In **f string** would be f"{12345.678:\*+=+15,.2f}" ⚡

**f or F** • opening quote " • [literal text] • {replacement fields [:format string]} • [literal text] • closing quote "

**f\_expression** : (conditional\_expression | **"\*"**  
 or\_expr) ("," conditional\_expression | "," " "\*  
 or\_expr)\* [","] (NO BACKSLASHES IN EXPRESSION PARTS;  
 Must put LAMBDA in parens ( ))

"{f\_expression [!" conversion] [":" format\_spec]}"  
 \*no backslashes var!s var!r var!a → 'var' is literal variable

```
# variables for examples  nametup = ("Larry","Curley","Moe")
myindex, Name, width, value, x = 2, 'Curley', 12, 12345.678, 75
state, subpart, subpart2 = 'Mississippi', 'iss', 'x'
lamstate = lambda state: state if subpart in state else "unknown"
intro_string, fmt_str = "Cost: $", "<#8x"
# substitution using an indexed tuple
print(f"He said his name is {nametup[myindex]}.") ⚡ He said his name is Moe.
# substitution and string format
print(f'{Name.upper(): ^10} center & caps!') ⚡ CURLEY center & caps!
# literal string holding formatted variable : thousand comma, 2 places, float
print(f'{intro_string}{value: {width},.2f} is cheap?') ⚡ Cost: $ 12,345.68 is cheap?
# conditional f_expression using lambda, built-in format and column placement
print(f'Going to {(lamstate(state)).upper():^20}!') ⚡ Going to MISSISSIPPI !
# conditional f_expression using ternary "if"
print(f'Go to {state if subpart in state else "unknown"}!') ⚡ Go to Mississippi!
print(f'Going to {state if subpart2 in state else "unknown"}!') ⚡ Going to unknown!
# conversion of float or integer
print(f'Curley's IQ is about {x!r}.') ⚡ Curley's IQ is about 75.
# Date formatting using strftime: import datetime
print(f'Today is {datetime.date.today():%m/%d/%Y}.') ⚡ Today is 03/06/2020.
# Conversion to scientific notation: 4 decimal places
print(f'Estimated precision is: {value:.04e}') ⚡ Estimated precision is: 1.2346e+04
# get and print today's date using datetime strftime values:
from datetime import date
today = date.today()
print(f'Today is {today:%A, %b %d, %Y}.') ⚡ Today is Sunday, Jan 02, 2022.
# print 8 space right aligned columns of tuple values converted to hexadecimal:
val=(1,256,1028, 65536)
print(f'{val[0]:<#8x}{val[1]:<#8x}{val[2]:<#8x}{val[3]:<#8x}')
# 0x1 0x100 0x404 0x10000 or alternatively — yielding same result:
for v in range(0, len(val)):
    print(f'{val[v]:{fmt_str}}",end="") ⚡ note use of {fmt_str}
```

**formatter module** - deprecated since [3.4]

**pprint module**—Data Pretty Printer provides a quick, simple way to format complex data consisting of Python literals and make it visually intelligible. See blogs on [www.wikipython.com](http://www.wikipython.com)

import pprint

# now create a pretty printer instance

pp = **pprint.PrettyPrinter**(indent=1, width=80,  
 depth=None, stream=None, \*, compact=False,  
 sort\_dicts=True, underscore\_numbers=False)

For output, send the object to be formatted to the method of the object you created.

pp.pprint(your\_object)

There are also several "shortcut functions" in the module:

pprint.pformat() - returns a string holding the formatted representation of the object

pprint.pp() - prints formatted object plus "\n"

...more at: <https://docs.python.org/3/library/pprint.html#module-pprint>

### strftime and strptime() format codes

%a	abbreviated weekday	%A	weekday, full
%d	day of mo, 2 digits	%w	weekday #
%b	abbreviated month	%B	month, full
%m	month, 2 digits	%y	year w/o century
%Y	year with century	%H	hour, 0 padded
%M	minute, 0 padded	%S	second, 0 padded
%j	day of year, 0 padded	%Z	time zone name
%c	locale's date and time	%x	locale's date
%X	locale's time	%p	- literal % char
%U	wk of the year, Sunday 1st day		
%W	wk of the year, Monday 1st day		
%f	microsecond 6 digit zero padded decimal		