Python

Introduction: Overview of Python and Setup

Python and features

What is Python?

Python is a high-level, interpreted, and general-purpose programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum in 1991 and has become one of the most popular programming languages worldwide. Known for its simplicity and readability, Python is widely used for web development, data analysis, artificial intelligence, machine learning, scientific computing, and more.

Key Features of Python:

Easy to Learn and Use:
Python's syntax is straightforward and similar to natural language, making it beginner-friendly.

Interpreted Language:
Python code is executed line by line, which makes debugging easier.

Dynamically Typed:
You don't need to declare the type of variables, as Python determines it at runtime.

Open Source and Free:
Python is free to use, and its source code is publicly available.

Extensive Libraries and Frameworks:
Python comes with a vast standard library and third-party libraries like NumPy, Pandas, TensorFlow, Django, Flask, and more, which support diverse tasks.

Cross-Platform:
Python works seamlessly across different operating systems like Windows, macOS, and Linux.

Versatile and Multi-Purpose:
Python is used in various fields, such as web development, data science, machine learning, automation, and more.

What is Python?

Python is a popular programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum, and released in 1991.

It is used for:

- web development (server-side),
- software development,
- mathematics,
- system scripting.

What can Python do?

- Python can be used on a server to create web applications.
- Python can be used alongside software to create workflows.
- Python can connect to database systems. It can also read and modify files.
- Python can be used to handle big data and perform complex mathematics.
- Python can be used for rapid prototyping, or for production-ready software development.

Why Python?

- Python works on different platforms (Windows, Mac, Linux, Raspberry Pi, etc).
- Python has a simple syntax similar to the English language.
- Python has syntax that allows developers to write programs with fewer lines than some other programming languages.
- Python runs on an interpreter system, meaning that code can be executed as soon as it is written. This means that prototyping can be very quick.
- Python can be treated in a procedural way, an object-oriented way or a functional way.

Good to know

- The most recent major version of Python is Python 3, which we shall be using in this tutorial. However, Python 2, although not being updated with anything other than security updates, is still quite popular.
- In this tutorial Python will be written in a text editor. It is possible to write Python in an Integrated Development Environment, such as Thonny, Pycharm, Netbeans or Eclipse which are particularly useful when managing larger collections of Python files.

Python Syntax compared to other programming languages

- Python was designed for readability, and has some similarities to the English language with influence from mathematics.
- Python uses new lines to complete a command, as opposed to other programming languages which often use semicolons or parentheses.
- Python relies on indentation, using whitespace, to define scope; such as the scope of loops, functions and classes. Other programming languages often use curly-brackets for this purpose.

Example

```
print("Hello, World!")
```

Python Comments

Comments can be used to explain Python code.

Comments can be used to make the code more readable.

Comments can be used to prevent execution when testing code.

Creating a Comment

Comments starts with a #, and Python will ignore them:

Example

```python
#This is a comment
print("Hello, World!")
```

Comments can be placed at the end of a line, and Python will ignore the rest of the line:

Example

```python
print("Hello, World!") #This is a comment
```

A comment does not have to be text that explains the code, it can also be used to prevent Python from executing code:

Example

```python
#print("Hello, World!")
print("Cheers, Mate!")
```

Multiline Comments

Python does not really have a syntax for multiline comments.

To add a multiline comment you could insert a # for each line:

Example

```python
#This is a comment
#written in
#more than just one line
print("Hello, World!")
```

Or, not quite as intended, you can use a multiline string.

Since Python will ignore string literals that are not assigned to a variable, you can add a multiline string (triple quotes) in your code, and place your comment inside it:

Example

```python
"""
This is a comment
written in
more than just one line
"""
print("Hello, World!")
```

Python Variables

Variables

Variables are containers for storing data values.

Creating Variables

Python has no command for declaring a variable.

A variable is created the moment you first assign a value to it.

Example
```python
x = 5
y = "John"
print(x)
print(y)
```

Variables do not need to be declared with any particular *type*, and can even change type after they have been set.

Example
```python
x = 4        # x is of type int
x = "Sally" # x is now of type str
print(x)
```

Casting

If you want to specify the data type of a variable, this can be done with casting.

Example

```python
x = str(3)    # x will be '3'
y = int(3)    # y will be 3
z = float(3)  # z will be 3.0
```

Get the Type

You can get the data type of a variable with the `type()` function.

Example

```python
x = 5
y = "John"
print(type(x))
print(type(y))
```

Single or Double Quotes?

String variables can be declared either by using single or double quotes:

Example

```python
x = "John"
# is the same as
x = 'John'
```

Case-Sensitive

Variable names are case-sensitive.

Python - Variable Names

Variable Names

A variable can have a short name (like x and y) or a more descriptive name (age, carname, total_volume). Rules for Python variables:

- A variable name must start with a letter or the underscore character
- A variable name cannot start with a number
- A variable name can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and _)
- Variable names are case-sensitive (age, Age and AGE are three different variables)
- A variable name cannot be any of the [Python keywords](#).

Example

Legal variable names:

```python
myvar = "John"
my_var = "John"
_my_var = "John"
myVar = "John"
MYVAR = "John"
myvar2 = "John"
```

Example

Illegal variable names:

```python
2myvar = "John"
my-var = "John"
my var = "John"
```

Multi Words Variable Names

Variable names with more than one word can be difficult to read.

There are several techniques you can use to make them more readable:

Camel Case

Each word, except the first, starts with a capital letter:

```
myVariableName = "John"
```

Pascal Case

Each word starts with a capital letter:

```
MyVariableName = "John"
```

Snake Case

Each word is separated by an underscore character:

```
my_variable_name = "John"
```

Python Variables - Assign Multiple Values

Many Values to Multiple Variables

Python allows you to assign values to multiple variables in one line:

Example
```
x, y, z = "Orange", "Banana", "Cherry"
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
```

One Value to Multiple Variables

And you can assign the *same* value to multiple variables in one line:

Example

```python
x = y = z = "Orange"
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
```

Unpack a Collection

If you have a collection of values in a list, tuple etc. Python allows you to extract the values into variables. This is called *unpacking*.

Example

Unpack a list:

```python
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
x, y, z = fruits
print(x)
print(y)
print(z)
```

Python - Output Variables

Output Variables

The Python `print()` function is often used to output variables.

Example

```python
x = "Python is awesome"
print(x)
```

Python - Global Variables

Global Variables

Variables that are created outside of a function (as in all of the examples in the previous pages) are known as global variables.

Global variables can be used by everyone, both inside of functions and outside.

Example

Create a variable outside of a function, and use it inside the function

```python
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  print("Python is " + x)

myfunc()
```

==

If you create a variable with the same name inside a function, this variable will be local, and can only be used inside the function. The global variable with the same name will remain as it was, global and with the original value.

Example

Create a variable inside a function, with the same name as the global variable

```python
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  x = "fantastic"
  print("Python is " + x)

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

out put

`Python is fantastic`

The global Keyword

Normally, when you create a variable inside a function, that variable is local, and can only be used inside that function.

To create a global variable inside a function, you can use the `global` keyword.

Example

If you use the `global` keyword, the variable belongs to the global scope:

```python
def myfunc():
  global x
  x = "fantastic"

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

Also, use the `global` keyword if you want to change a global variable inside a function.

Example

To change the value of a global variable inside a function, refer to the variable by using the `global` keyword:

```python
x = "awesome"

def myfunc():
  global x
  x = "fantastic"

myfunc()

print("Python is " + x)
```

Exercise

Consider the following code:

```python
x = 'awesome'
def myfunc():
  x = 'fantastic'
myfunc()
print('Python is ' + x)
```

What will be the printed result?

- ✓ Python is awesome
- ● Python is fantastic

Python Data Type

Built-in Data Types

In programming, data type is an important concept.

Variables can store data of different types, and different types can do different things.

Python has the following data types built-in by default, in these categories:

Text Type: `str`

Numeric Types: `int`, `float`, `complex`

Sequence Types: `list`, `tuple`, `range`

Mapping Type: `dict`

Set Types: `set`, `frozenset`

Boolean Type: `bool`

Setting the Data Type

In Python, the data type is set when you assign a value to a variable:

Example	Data Type
x = "Hello World"	str
x = 20	int
x = 20.5	float
x = 1j	complex
x = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]	list
x = ("apple", "banana", "cherry")	tuple
x = range(6)	range
x = {"name" : "John", "age" : 36}	dict
x = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}	set

Getting the Data Type

You can get the data type of any object by using the `type()` function:

Example

Print the data type of the variable x:

```python
x = 5
print(type(x))
```

Setting the Specific Data Type

If you want to specify the data type, you can use the following constructor functions:

Example	Data Type
x = str("Hello World")	str
x = int(20)	int
x = float(20.5)	float
x = complex(1j)	complex
x = list(("apple", "banana", "cherry"))	list
x = tuple(("apple", "banana", "cherry"))	tuple
x = range(6)	range
x = dict(name="John", age=36)	dict
x = set(("apple", "banana", "cherry"))	set

Python Casting

Specify a Variable Type

There may be times when you want to specify a type on to a variable. This can be done with casting. Python is an object-orientated language, and as such it uses classes to define data types, including its primitive types.

Casting in python is therefore done using constructor functions:

- int() - constructs an integer number from an integer literal, a float literal (by removing all decimals), or a string literal (providing the string represents a whole number)
- float() - constructs a float number from an integer literal, a float literal or a string literal (providing the string represents a float or an integer)
- str() - constructs a string from a wide variety of data types, including strings, integer literals and float literals

Example

Integers:

```python
x = int(1)   # x will be 1
y = int(2.8) # y will be 2
z = int("3") # z will be 3
```

Example

Floats:

```python
x = float(1)     # x will be 1.0
y = float(2.8)   # y will be 2.8
z = float("3")   # z will be 3.0
w = float("4.2") # w will be 4.2
```

Example

Strings:

```python
x = str("s1") # x will be 's1'
y = str(2)    # y will be '2'
z = str(3.0)  # z will be '3.0'
```

Python Strings

Strings

Strings in python are surrounded by either single quotation marks, or double quotation marks.

`'hello'` is the same as `"hello"`.

You can display a string literal with the `print()` function:

Example

```python
print("Hello")
print('Hello')
```

Quotes Inside Quotes

You can use quotes inside a string, as long as they don't match the quotes surrounding the string:

Example

```python
print("It's alright")
print("He is called 'Johnny'")
print('He is called "Johnny"')
```

Assign String to a Variable

Assigning a string to a variable is done with the variable name followed by an equal sign and the string:

Example

```python
a = "Hello"
print(a)
```

Multiline Strings

You can assign a multiline string to a variable by using three quotes:

Example

You can use three double quotes:

```python
a = """Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua."""
print(a)
```

Or three single quotes:

Example

```
a = '''Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.'''
print(a)
```

Strings are Arrays

Like many other popular programming languages, strings in Python are arrays of bytes representing unicode characters.

However, Python does not have a character data type, a single character is simply a string with a length of 1.

Square brackets can be used to access elements of the string.

Example

Get the character at position 1 (remember that the first character has the position 0):

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a[1])
```

Try it Yourself »

Looping Through a String

Since strings are arrays, we can loop through the characters in a string, with a for loop.

Example

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

```
for x in "banana":
  print(x)
```

Try it Yourself »

Learn more about For Loops in our [Python For Loops](#) chapter.

String Length

To get the length of a string, use the `len()` function.

Example

The `len()` function returns the length of a string:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(len(a))
```

Check String

To check if a certain phrase or character is present in a string, we can use the keyword `in`.

Example

Check if "free" is present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("free" in txt)
```

Use it in an `if` statement:

Example

Print only if "free" is present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "free" in txt:
  print("Yes, 'free' is present.")
```

Learn more about If statements in our chapter.

Check if NOT

To check if a certain phrase or character is NOT present in a string, we can use the keyword `not in`.

Example

Check if "expensive" is NOT present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("expensive" not in txt)
```

Try it Yourself »

Use it in an `if` statement:

Example

print only if "expensive" is NOT present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "expensive" not in txt:
  print("No, 'expensive' is NOT present.")
```

Python Booleans

Booleans represent one of two values: `True` or `False`.

Boolean Values

In programming you often need to know if an expression is `True` or `False`.

You can evaluate any expression in Python, and get one of two answers, `True` or `False`.

When you compare two values, the expression is evaluated and Python returns the Boolean answer:

Example

```python
print(10 > 9)
print(10 == 9)
print(10 < 9)
```

Python Operators

Python Operators

Operators are used to perform operations on variables and values.

In the example below, we use the + operator to add together two values:

Example

```python
print(10 + 5)
```

Python divides the operators in the following groups:

- Arithmetic operators
- Assignment operators
- Comparison operators
- Logical operators
- Identity operators
- Membership operators
- Bitwise operators

Python Arithmetic Operators

Arithmetic operators are used with numeric values to perform common mathematical operations:

Operator	Name	Example
+	Addition	x + y
-	Subtraction	x - y
*	Multiplication	x * y
/	Division	x / y
%	Modulus	x % y
**	Exponentiation	x ** y
//	Floor division	x // y

Python Assignment Operators

Assignment operators are used to assign values to variables:

Operator	Example	Same As
=	x = 5	x = 5
+=	x += 3	x = x + 3
-=	x -= 3	x = x - 3
*=	x *= 3	x = x * 3
/=	x /= 3	x = x / 3
%=	x %= 3	x = x % 3
//=	x //= 3	x = x // 3
**=	x **= 3	x = x ** 3
&=	x &= 3	x = x & 3
|=	x |= 3	x = x | 3
^=	x ^= 3	x = x ^ 3
>>=	x >>= 3	x = x >> 3
<<=	x <<= 3	x = x << 3
:=	print(x := 3)	x = 3 print(x)

Python Comparison Operators

Comparison operators are used to compare two values:

Operator	Name	Example
==	Equal	x == y
!=	Not equal	x != y
>	Greater than	x > y
<	Less than	x < y
>=	Greater than or equal to	x >= y
<=	Less than or equal to	x <= y

Python Logical Operators

Logical operators are used to combine conditional statements:

Operator	Description	Example
and	Returns True if both statements are true	x < 5 and x < 10
or	Returns True if one of the statements is true	x < 5 or x < 4
not	Reverse the result, returns False if the result is true	not(x < 5 and x < 10)

Python Identity Operators

Identity operators are used to compare the objects, not if they are equal, but if they are actually the same object, with the same memory location:

Operator	Description	Example
is	Returns True if both variables are the same object	x is y
is not	Returns True if both variables are not the same object	x is not y

Python Membership Operators

Membership operators are used to test if a sequence is presented in an object:

Operator	Description	Example
in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is present in the object	x in y
not in	Returns True if a sequence with the specified value is not present in the object	x not in y

Python Bitwise Operators

Bitwise operators are used to compare (binary) numbers:

Operator	Name	Description	Example
&	AND	Sets each bit to 1 if both bits are 1	x & y
|	OR	Sets each bit to 1 if one of two bits is 1	x | y
^	XOR	Sets each bit to 1 if only one of two bits is 1	x ^ y
~	NOT	Inverts all the bits	~x
<<	Zero fill left shift	Shift left by pushing zeros in from the right and let the leftmost bits fall off	x << 2
>>	Signed right shift	Shift right by pushing copies of the leftmost bit in from the left, and let the rightmost bits fall off	x >> 2

Python Lists

```
mylist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
```

List

Lists are used to store multiple items in a single variable.

Lists are one of 4 built-in data types in Python used to store collections of data, the other 3 are Tuple, Set, and Dictionary, all with different qualities and usage.

Lists are created using square brackets:

Example

Create a List:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
print(thislist)
```

List Items

List items are ordered, changeable, and allow duplicate values.

List items are indexed, the first item has index [0], the second item has index [1] etc.

Ordered

When we say that lists are ordered, it means that the items have a defined order, and that order will not change.

If you add new items to a list, the new items will be placed at the end of the list.

Changeable

The list is changeable, meaning that we can change, add, and remove items in a list after it has been created.

Allow Duplicates

Since lists are indexed, lists can have items with the same value:

Example

Lists allow duplicate values:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry", "apple", "cherry"]
print(thislist)
```

List Length

To determine how many items a list has, use the `len()` function:

Example

Print the number of items in the list:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
print(len(thislist))
```

List Items - Data Types

List items can be of any data type:

Example

String, int and boolean data types:

```
list1 = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
list2 = [1, 5, 7, 9, 3]
list3 = [True, False, False]
```

Try it Yourself »

A list can contain different data types:

Example

A list with strings, integers and boolean values:

```
list1 = ["abc", 34, True, 40, "male"]
```

Try it Yourself »

type()

From Python's perspective, lists are defined as objects with the data type 'list':

```
<class 'list'>
```

Example

What is the data type of a list?

```
mylist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
print(type(mylist))
```

Try it Yourself »

The list() Constructor

It is also possible to use the `list()` constructor when creating a new list.

Example

Using the `list()` constructor to make a List:

```
thislist = list(("apple", "banana", "cherry")) # note the double round-brackets
print(thislist)
```

Try it Yourself »

Python Collections (Arrays)

There are four collection data types in the Python programming language:

- **List** is a collection which is ordered and changeable. Allows duplicate members.
- **Tuple** is a collection which is ordered and unchangeable. Allows duplicate members.
- **Set** is a collection which is unordered, unchangeable*, and unindexed. No duplicate members.
- **Dictionary** is a collection which is ordered** and changeable. No duplicate members.

*Set *items* are unchangeable, but you can remove and/or add items whenever you like.

**As of Python version 3.7, dictionaries are *ordered*. In Python 3.6 and earlier, dictionaries are *unordered*.

When choosing a collection type, it is useful to understand the properties of that type. Choosing the right type for a particular data set could mean retention of meaning, and, it could mean an increase in efficiency or security.

Python - Access List Items

Access Items

List items are indexed and you can access them by referring to the index number:

Example[Get your own Python Server](#)

Print the second item of the list:

```python
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
print(thislist[1])
```

Note: The first item has index 0.

Negative Indexing

Negative indexing means start from the end

-1 refers to the last item, -2 refers to the second last item etc.

Example

Print the last item of the list:

```python
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
print(thislist[-1])
```

Range of Indexes

You can specify a range of indexes by specifying where to start and where to end the range.

When specifying a range, the return value will be a new list with the specified items.

Example

Return the third, fourth, and fifth item:

```python
thislist =
["apple", "banana", "cherry", "orange", "kiwi", "melon", "mango"]
print(thislist[2:5])
```

Note: The search will start at index 2 (included) and end at index 5 (not included). Remember that the first item has index 0.

By leaving out the start value, the range will start at the first item:

Example

This example returns the items from the beginning to, but NOT including, "kiwi":

```
thislist =
["apple", "banana", "cherry", "orange", "kiwi", "melon", "mango"]
print(thislist[:4])
```

By leaving out the end value, the range will go on to the end of the list:

Example

This example returns the items from "cherry" to the end:

```
thislist =
["apple", "banana", "cherry", "orange", "kiwi", "melon", "mango"]
print(thislist[2:])
```

Check if Item Exists

To determine if a specified item is present in a list use the `in` keyword:

Example

Check if "apple" is present in the list:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
if "apple" in thislist:
  print("Yes, 'apple' is in the fruits list")
```

Python - Change List Items

Change Item Value

To change the value of a specific item, refer to the index number:

Example

Change the second item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist[1] = "blackcurrant"
print(thislist)
```

Change a Range of Item Values

To change the value of items within a specific range, define a list with the new values, and refer to the range of index numbers where you want to insert the new values:

Example

Change the values "banana" and "cherry" with the values "blackcurrant" and "watermelon":

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry", "orange", "kiwi", "mango"]
thislist[1:3] = ["blackcurrant", "watermelon"]
print(thislist)
```

If you insert *more* items than you replace, the new items will be inserted where you specified, and the remaining items will move accordingly:

Example

Change the second value by replacing it with *two* new values:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist[1:2] = ["blackcurrant", "watermelon"]
print(thislist)
```

Note: The length of the list will change when the number of items inserted does not match the number of items replaced.

If you insert *less* items than you replace, the new items will be inserted where you specified, and the remaining items will move accordingly:

Example

Change the second and third value by replacing it with *one* value:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist[1:3] = ["watermelon"]
print(thislist)
```

Insert Items

To insert a new list item, without replacing any of the existing values, we can use the insert() method.

The insert() method inserts an item at the specified index:

Example

Insert "watermelon" as the third item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.insert(2, "watermelon")
print(thislist)
```

Python - Add List Items

Append Items

To add an item to the end of the list, use the `append()` method:

Example

Using the `append()` method to append an item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.append("orange")
print(thislist)
```

Insert Items

To insert a list item at a specified index, use the `insert()` method.

The `insert()` method inserts an item at the specified index:

Example

Insert an item as the second position:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.insert(1, "orange")
print(thislist)
```

Note: As a result of the examples above, the lists will now contain 4 items.

Extend List

To append elements from *another list* to the current list, use the extend() method.

Example

Add the elements of tropical to thislist:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
tropical = ["mango", "pineapple", "papaya"]
thislist.extend(tropical)
print(thislist)
```

The elements will be added to the *end* of the list.

Add Any Iterable

The extend() method does not have to append *lists*, you can add any iterable object (tuples, sets, dictionaries etc.).

Example

Add elements of a tuple to a list:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thistuple = ("kiwi", "orange")
thislist.extend(thistuple)
print(thislist)
```

Python - Remove List Items

Remove Specified Item

The `remove()` method removes the specified item.

Example

Remove "banana":

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.remove("banana")
print(thislist)
```

If there are more than one item with the specified value, the `remove()` method removes the first occurrence:

Example

Remove the first occurrence of "banana":

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry", "banana", "kiwi"]
thislist.remove("banana")
print(thislist)
```

Remove Specified Index

The `pop()` method removes the specified index.

Example

Remove the second item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.pop(1)
print(thislist)
```

If you do not specify the index, the `pop()` method removes the last item.

Example

Remove the last item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.pop()
print(thislist)
```

The `del` keyword also removes the specified index:

Example

Remove the first item:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
del thislist[0]
print(thislist)
```

The `del` keyword can also delete the list completely.

Example

Delete the entire list:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
del thislist
```

Clear the List

The `clear()` method empties the list.

The list still remains, but it has no content.

Example

Clear the list content:

```
thislist = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
thislist.clear()
print(thislist)
```