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Python For Beginners

Welcome! Are you [completely new to programming](http://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/NonProgrammers)? If *not* then we presume you will be looking for information about why and how to get started with Python. Fortunately an experienced programmer in any programming language (whatever it may be) can pick up Python very quickly. It's also easy for beginners to use and learn, so [jump in](http://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/NonProgrammers)!

Installing

Installing Python is generally easy, and nowadays many Linux and UNIX distributions include a recent Python. Even some Windows computers (notably those from HP) now come with Python already installed. If you *do* need to install Python and aren't confident about the task you can find a few notes on the [BeginnersGuide/Download](http://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/Download) wiki page, but installation is unremarkable on most platforms.

Learning

Before getting started, you may want to find out which [IDEs](http://wiki.python.org/moin/IntegratedDevelopmentEnvironments) and [text editors](http://wiki.python.org/moin/PythonEditors) are tailored to make Python editing easy, browse the list of [introductory books](http://wiki.python.org/moin/IntroductoryBooks), or look at [code samples](http://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/Examples) that you might find helpful.

There is a list of tutorials suitable for experienced programmers on the [BeginnersGuide/Tutorials](http://wiki.python.org/moin/BeginnersGuide/Programmers) page. There is also a list of [resources in other languages \(/doc/nonenglish/\)](#) which might be useful if English is not your first language.

The [online documentation](http://docs.python.org) is your first port of call for definitive information. There is a fairly brief [tutorial](http://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/) that gives you basic information about the language and gets you started. You can follow this by looking at the [library reference](http://docs.python.org/3/library/) for a full description of Python's many libraries and the [language reference](http://docs.python.org/3/reference/) for a complete (though somewhat dry) explanation of Python's syntax. If you are looking for common Python recipes and patterns, you can browse the [ActiveState Python Cookbook](http://code.activestate.com/recipes/langs/python/)

Looking for Something Specific?

If you want to know whether a particular application, or a library with particular functionality, is available in Python there are a number of possible sources of information. The Python web site provides a [Python Package Index](http://pypi.python.org/pypi?%3Aaction=index) (also known as the *Cheese Shop*, a reference to the Monty Python script of that name). There is also a [search page](#)