Rather thanhaving allof its functionality builtinto its core,Python was designed to  
be highlyextensible. This compact modularity hasmade itparticularly popularas a  
means of addingprogrammable interfaces to existing applications. Van Rossum's  
visionof asmallcore language with a large standard libraryand easilyextensible  
interpreter stemmedfrom his frustrations with ABC,which espoused the opposite  
approach.  
Python strives for asimpler, less-cluttered syntax and grammar while giving  
developers a choice intheir coding methodology. In contrastto Perl's "thereis more  
thanone way todo it" motto, Python embraces a"thereshould be one—and  
preferably only one—obvious way to doit" design philosophy. Alex Martelli, aFellow  
atthePython SoftwareFoundationandPython bookauthor,writesthat"Todescribe  
something as'clever' is not considered a complimentin the Python culture."  
Python'sdevelopers strive to avoid premature optimization, and reject patches to  
non-critical partsof theCPython reference implementation that wouldoffer marginal  
increases inspeed at thecost of clarity.When speedis important, aPython  
programmercan movetime-critical functions to extension modules written in  
languagessuch asC, oruse PyPy, a just-in-timecompiler. Cython is alsoavailable,  
whichtranslates aPython scriptintoC and makes direct C-level API calls intothe  
Python interpreter.  
An importantgoal of Python'sdevelopers is keeping itfun to use. This is reflectedin  
thelanguage's name—a tribute to theBritish comedygroup Monty Python —and in  
occasionally playful approaches to tutorials and reference materials, suchas  
examplesthatrefer to spam and eggs(from a famousMonty Python sketch) instead  
of the standardfoo and bar.  
A commonneologismin the Python communityis pythonic, which can havea wide  
range of meanings relatedto program style. Tosay thatcode is pythonic isto say  
thatit usesPython idioms well, thatit is naturalor shows fluency in the language,  
thatit conformswith Python'sminimalist philosophy and emphasison readability.In  
contrast, code thatis difficult to understand orreads like a rough transcription from  
anotherprogramming language is called unpythonic.  
Users and admirers of Python, especiallythose considered knowledgeable or  
experienced, are oftenreferred to asPythonistas.