

Python Tutorial

- [Python HOME](#)
- [Python Intro](#)
- [Python Get Started](#)
- [Python Syntax](#)
- [Python Comments](#)
- [Python Variables](#)
- [Python Data Types](#)
- [Python Numbers](#)
- [Python Casting](#)
- [Python Strings](#)
- [Python Booleans](#)
- [Python Operators](#)
- [Python Lists](#)
- [Python Tuples](#)
- [Python Sets](#)
- [Python Dictionaries](#)
- [Python If...Else](#)
- [Python While Loops](#)
- [Python For Loops](#)



Python File Open

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

Open a File on the Server

Assume we have the following file, located in the same folder as Python:

demofile.txt

```
Hello! Welcome to demofile.txt
This file is for testing purposes.
Good Luck!
```

To open the file, use the built-in `open()` function.

The `open()` function returns a file object, which has a `read()` method for reading the content of the file:

Example

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

[Run Example »](#)

If the file is located in a different location, you will have to specify the file path, like this:

Example

Open a file on a different location:

```
f = open("D:\\myfiles\\welcome.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

[Run Example »](#)

Read Only Parts of the File

By default the `read()` method returns the whole text, but you can also specify how many characters you want to return:

Example

Return the 5 first characters of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.read(5))
```

[Run Example »](#)

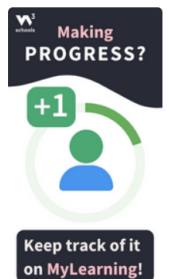
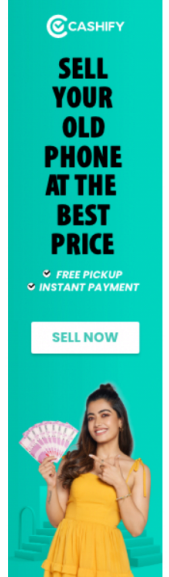
ADVERTISEMENT



Read Lines

You can return one line by using the `readline()` method:

ADVERTISEMENT



COLOR PICKER

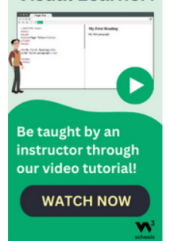


Get certified by completing a Python course today!



Get started

Visual Learner?



ADVERTISEMENT



Example

Read one line of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
```

[Run Example »](#)

By calling `readline()` two times, you can read the two first lines:

Example

Read two lines of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
print(f.readline())
```

[Run Example »](#)

By looping through the lines of the file, you can read the whole file, line by line:

Example

Loop through the file line by line:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
for x in f:
    print(x)
```

[Run Example »](#)

Close Files

It is a good practice to always close the file when you are done with it.

Example

Close the file when you are finish with it:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
f.close()
```

[Run Example »](#)

Note: You should always close your files, in some cases, due to buffering, changes made to a file may not show until you close the file.


[← Previous](#)

[Next →](#)

SELL
YOUR
OLD
PHONE
IN
ONE
MINUTE



[Sell Now](#)

ADVERTISEMENT



**BUILD YOUR CAREER. GET
FULL ACCESS. SAVE 770\$**

[Start today](#)



ADVERTISEMENT



**Put old
marketing
tactics in
timeout**



Top Tutorials

[HTML Tutorial](#)
[CSS Tutorial](#)
[JavaScript Tutorial](#)
[How To Tutorial](#)
[SQL Tutorial](#)
[Python Tutorial](#)
[W3.CSS Tutorial](#)
[Bootstrap Tutorial](#)
[PHP Tutorial](#)
[Java Tutorial](#)
[C++ Tutorial](#)
[jQuery Tutorial](#)

Top References

[HTML Reference](#)
[CSS Reference](#)
[JavaScript Reference](#)
[SQL Reference](#)
[Python Reference](#)
[W3.CSS Reference](#)
[Bootstrap Reference](#)
[PHP Reference](#)
[HTML Colors](#)
[Java Reference](#)
[Angular Reference](#)
[jQuery Reference](#)

Top Examples

[HTML Examples](#)
[CSS Examples](#)
[JavaScript Examples](#)
[How To Examples](#)
[SQL Examples](#)
[Python Examples](#)
[W3.CSS Examples](#)
[Bootstrap Examples](#)
[PHP Examples](#)
[Java Examples](#)
[XML Examples](#)
[jQuery Examples](#)

Get Certified

[HTML Certificate](#)
[CSS Certificate](#)
[JavaScript Certificate](#)
[Front End Certificate](#)
[SQL Certificate](#)
[Python Certificate](#)
[PHP Certificate](#)
[jQuery Certificate](#)
[Java Certificate](#)
[C++ Certificate](#)
[C# Certificate](#)
[XML Certificate](#)

[FORUM](#) | [ABOUT](#)

W3Schools is optimized for learning and training. Examples might be simplified to improve reading and learning. Tutorials, references, and examples are constantly reviewed to avoid errors, but we cannot warrant full correctness of all content. While using W3Schools, you agree to have read and accepted our [terms of use](#), [cookie and privacy policy](#).

Copyright 1999-2022 by Refsnes Data. All Rights Reserved.
W3Schools is Powered by W3.CSS.

