Built-in Python Functions Guide

Below you will find a table that includes the built-in functions and methods we have covered so far.

Common and Useful Functions

These are some common functions you'll likely use frequently in your code.

Function	Description	Common Types It Works On	Examples
print()	"Prints" the value to the screen (especially useful for strings)	Practically all Python types	print(1) print('two', True)
display()	Very similar to print() but used most often in Jupyter Notebook	Practically all Python types	display(1) display('two', True)
help()	Gives "help" and documentation on Python objects, including functions	Practically all Python types	help(print)
type()	Returns the Python type	Practically all Python types	type(1) type(1.0)
str()	Casts other Python objects to strings	Practically all Python types	str(1) str(1.0)
int()	Casts other Python objects to integers	Most types with some exceptions	int('10') int(10.8675309)
float()	Casts other Python objects to floating point numbers	Most types with some exceptions	float('10') float(10)
bool()	Casts other Python objects to either True or False	Practically all Python types	bool('Hi') bool(0)

range()	Returns a sequence of numbers starting from 0, incrementing by 1 by default	Integer types	range(5) range(5, 100, 5)

Type Specific Functions & Methods

Remember, functions and methods are very similar but methods use the "dot" notation.

Function or Method	Description	Common Types It Works On	Examples
.upper()	Method to capitalize all letters in string	Strings	"What's that?".upper() "1 + 1 is two".upper()
.lower()	Method to lowercase all letters in string	Strings	"What's that?".upper() "1 + 1 Is TWO".upper()
.split()	Method to break string up into elements in a list by some separator	Strings	'1;1;2;3;5;7'.split(';') 'How are you?'.split()
.join()	Method to join elements in a list using some separator	Lists, Strings, Tuples	' '.join(['Hello', 'world'])
len()	Returns the size of the object	Strings, Lists	len('expialidocious') len(['one','two','three'])
min()	Returns the smallest value in a list	Lists (of comparable types)	min([1, 2.01, 3]) min(['a', 'b', 'c'])
max()	Returns the largest value in a list	Lists (of comparable types)	max([1, 2.01, 3]) max(['a', 'b', 'c'])

Data Structure Functions & Methods

Lists and dictionaries have some useful functions and methods specific to them.

Function or Method	Description	Common Types It Works On	Examples
sum()	Adds all the values in a list together to get a total	List (of numerical values)	sum([2, 4, 3, 1])
.append()	Adds one new element to a list	Lists	my_list.append('new')
.pop()	Removes the element at the given index. Defaults to removing the last element	Lists	my_list.pop() my_list.pop(2)
.keys()	Gives all the "keys" from a dictionary	Dictionaries	my_dictionary.keys()
.values()	Gives all the "value" from a dictionary	Dictionaries	my_dictionary.values()
.items()	Gives all the "keys" and "values" as pairs from a dictionary	Dictionaries	my_dictionary.items()