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# CMSC 115 Reading Guide

Please enter your responses in red.

# 7.1 What is a list Re-read

1. What drawbacks might there be to allowing a list to hold any type of element, including different types in the same list? Some drawbacks to allowing lists to hold any type of element is that you could assign data that is not compatible or overflows such as if you are running a 32-bit system for some reason, you could only assign up to 536,870,912 elements. Another drawback is that you, and even the computer, might not know what type of element is in the list if you attempt to read from it.
2. Why are lists of lists such a powerful concept? Lists of lists are a powerful concept because it allows you to nest the lists and represent many types of data.

# 7.2 What you already know how do to with lists Read

## 7.2.1 Read

## 7.2.2 Read

## 7.2.3 Read

1. What does the sum() function do on a list? The sum() function on a list adds up all of the numbers in the list.

## 7.2.4 Read

# 7.3 Lists are Different than Strings Read

## 7.3.1 Read

1. What does it mean that a list is *mutable*? A list being mutable means that it can change, more importantly the individual values can be changed.

## 7.3.2 Re-read

1. What does it mean to say Python will “throw an error” if you try to remove(x) from a list that doesn’t contain x? Python will not be able to read the empty data from the list in order for you to remove that element. You will receive a traceback error and I believe value error saying that it is not in the list.

# 7.4 Old and new friends Read

## 7.4.1 Read

1. What does the split() method do? The split() method creates a list of substrings from the calling string by splitting the calling string at a specific argument string.

Note: This section talks about multiple assignment. While it’s important to be able to read multiple assignment code, because it shows up in the book and in other code, I often avoid using it when possible, since it can make the code more difficult to read, and there is generally another way to accomplish the same task.

## 7.4.2 Read

1. What does the join() method do? The join() method takes a list of strings as an argument and concatenates (in order) each of those string into a new string.