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# CMSC 115 Reading Guide

Please enter your responses in red.

# 9.4 Sets Read

1. What are the characteristics of a set? The characteristics of a set are that they are a collection of objects, and there are elements or members of the set. Only one copy of an element may exist in the set, and there is no order. An empty or null set is a set without elements.

## 9.4.1 Read

## 9.4.2 Read

## 9.4.3 Read

## 9.4.4 Read

## 9.4.5 Read

1. Why do the recommend using the method names rather than the binary operators for doing set operations? They recommend using the method names rather than the binary operators for doing set operations as it allows the argument to be any iterable collection. It makes it clear what operation is being performed.

# 9.5 Set Applications Skim

1. Why is a set a good data structure to use for comparing the words used in two different documents? A set is a good data structure to use for comparing word in two documents as it allows you to discover properties such as the common words, the number of unique words used by both, and the number of unique words used in each.

# 9.6 Scope: The Full Story Skim

1. How can an understanding of variable scope help understand error messages? An understanding of variable scope helps understand error messages as it allows the programmer to tell if outer variables have changed and where the scope is being called.

# 9.7 Using Zip Re-read

1. What does the zip operator do? The zip operator creates pairs from two parallel sequences, by working like a zipper to merge multipole sequences into a list of tuples.