

You're running `sys.getrefcount()` in Python to check how many references exist to an object. But something strange is happening in your output — the reference count is coming back as a **huge number (4294967295)** for many values like `'dorje'`, `1`, and `'d'`.

Let's break it down step-by-step:

✅ What works as expected:

```
python
```

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```
sys.getrefcount(24601)
```

returns `3`. That makes sense:

- One reference in your code.
- One temporary reference from passing it to `getrefcount`.
- Possibly one internal reference from Python.

⚠️ What looks wrong:

```
python
```

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```
sys.getrefcount('dorje') # Returns 4294967295
```

This number is **suspicious** — it's $2^{32} - 1$, which usually represents an error or invalid value in low-level systems.

🔍 What's likely the issue?

This is probably a **bug or limitation on your system**, or the specific **Python version (3.12.2 on Windows)** you're using.

When using `getrefcount()`:

- It returns a **C `Py_ssize_t` value**, which can misbehave if something's off in memory or object tracking.
- This very high number means something went wrong internally — **not an actual reference count**.

✅ Recommendation:

Try this to test further:

```
python
```

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```
x = 'dorje' print(sys.getrefcount(x))
```

Also try:

```
python
```

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```
s = 'hello world' print(sys.getrefcount(s))
```

🔧 If the issue continues:

- Try reinstalling Python.
- Use Python in a different environment (e.g. `venv`, Anaconda, or WSL).
- Check if the issue appears in **IDLE** or **Python from terminal**, not just in **VS Code**.