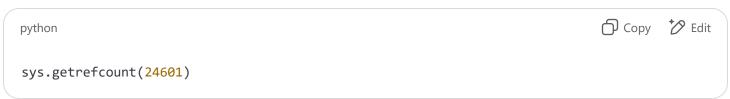
You're running sys.getrefcount() in Python to check how many references exist to an object. But something strange is happening in your output — the reference count is coming back as a huge number (4294967295) for many values like 'dorje', 1, and 'd'.

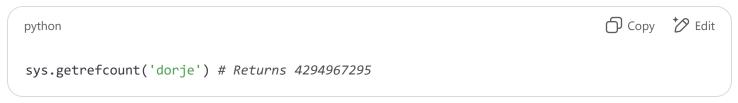
Let's break it down step-by-step:

✓ What works as expected:



returns 3. That makes sense:

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



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:

% 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.