2\_1\_5\_3\_Section\_Summary

**Key takeaways**

1. Comments can be used to leave additional information in code. They are omitted at runtime. The information left in source code is addressed to human readers. In Python, a comment is a piece of text that begins with #. The comment extends to the end of line.

2. If you want to place a comment that spans several lines, you need to place # in front of them all. Moreover, you can use a comment to mark a piece of code that is not needed at the moment (see the last line of the snippet below), e.g.:

# This program prints

# an introduction to the screen.

print("Hello!") # Invoking the print() function

# print("I'm Python.")

3. Whenever possible and justified, you should give **self-commenting names** to variables, e.g., if you're using two variables to store a length and width of something, the variable names length and width may be a better choice than myvar1 and myvar2.

4. It's important to use comments to make programs easier to understand, and to use readable and meaningful variable names in code. However, it's equally important **not to use** variable names that are confusing, or leave comments that contain wrong or incorrect information!

5. Comments can be important when *you* are reading your own code after some time (trust us, developers do forget what their own code does), and when *others* are reading your code (can help them understand what your programs do and how they do it more quickly).

**Exercise 1**

What is the output of the following snippet?

# print("String #1")

print("String #2")  
Check

String #2

**Exercise 2**

What will happen when you run the following code?

# This is

a multiline

comment. #

print("Hello!")  
Check

SyntaxError: invalid syntax