

6.6: LOOPING AND COUNTING



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The following program counts the number of times the letter `a` appears in a string:

CODE 6.6.1 (PYTHON):

```
%%python3

word = 'banana'
count = 0
for letter in word:
    if letter == 'a':
        count = count + 1
print(count)
```

This program demonstrates another pattern of computation called a *counter*. The variable `count` is initialized to 0 and then incremented each time an `a` is found. When the loop exits, `count` contains the result: the total number of `a`'s.

Exercise 3:

Encapsulate this code in a function named `count`, and generalize it so that it accepts the string and the letter as arguments.