

## 4.G: FUNCTIONS (GLOSSARY)



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### **algorithm**

A general process for solving a category of problems.

### **argument**

A value provided to a function when the function is called. This value is assigned to the corresponding parameter in the function.

### **body**

The sequence of statements inside a function definition.

### **composition**

Using an expression as part of a larger expression, or a statement as part of a larger statement.

### **deterministic**

Pertaining to a program that does the same thing each time it runs, given the same inputs.

### **dot notation**

The syntax for calling a function in another module by specifying the module name followed by a dot (period) and the function name.

### **flow of execution**

The order in which statements are executed during a program run.

### **fruitful function**

A function that returns a value.

### **function**

A named sequence of statements that performs some useful operation. Functions may or may not take arguments and may or may not produce a result.

### **function call**

A statement that executes a function. It consists of the function name followed by an argument list.

### **function definition**

A statement that creates a new function, specifying its name, parameters, and the statements it executes.

### **function object**

A value created by a function definition. The name of the function is a variable that refers to a function object.

### **header**

The first line of a function definition.

### **import statement**

A statement that reads a module file and creates a module object.

### **module object**

A value created by an `import` statement that provides access to the data and code defined in a module.

### **parameter**

A name used inside a function to refer to the value passed as an argument.

### **pseudorandom**

Pertaining to a sequence of numbers that appear to be random, but are generated by a deterministic program.

### **return value**

The result of a function. If a function call is used as an expression, the return value is the value of the expression.

### **void function**

A function that does not return a value.