

POSITIONAL AND KEYWORD ARGUMENTS

Positional Arguments

Most common way of assigning arguments to parameters: via the **order** in which they are passed
i.e. their **position**

```
def my_func(a, b):  
    # code ...
```

```
my_func(10, 20)    → a = 10, b = 20
```

```
my_func(20, 10)    → a = 20, b = 10
```


Default Values

A positional arguments can be made **optional** by specifying a **default value** for the corresponding parameter

```
def my_func(a, b=100):  
    # code ...
```

`my_func(10, 20)` → `a = 10, b = 20`

`my_func(5)` → `a = 5, b = 100`

Consider a case where we have three arguments, and we want to make one of them optional:

```
def my_func(a, b=100, c):  
    # code ...
```

How would we call this function without specifying a value for the second parameter?

`my_func(5, 5) ???`

If a positional parameter is defined with a default value

every positional parameter after it

must also be given a default value

Default Values

```
def my_func(a, b=5, c=10):  
    # code ...
```

`my_func(1)` → `a = 1, b = 5, c = 10`

`my_func(1, 2)` → `a = 1, b = 2, c = 10`

`my_func(1, 2, 3)` → `a = 1, b = 2, c = 3`

But what if we want to specify the 1st and 3rd arguments, but omit the 2nd argument?

i.e. we want to specify values for `a` and `c`, but let `b` take on its default value?

→ Keyword Arguments (named arguments)

`my_func(a=1, c=2)` → `a = 1, b = 5, c = 2`

`my_func(1, c=2)` → `a = 1, b = 5, c = 2`

Keyword Arguments

Positional arguments can, **optionally**, be specified by using the parameter name
whether or not the parameters have default values

```
def my_func(a, b, c)      my_func(1, 2, 3)
                           my_func(1, 2, c=3)
                           my_func(a=1, b=2, c=3)
                           my_func(c=3, a=1, b=2)
```

→ a=1, b=2, c=3

But once you use a named argument, all arguments **thereafter must** be named too

my_func(c=1, 2, 3) ❌

my_func(1, b=2, 3) ❌

my_func(1, b=2, c=3) ✅

my_func(1, c=3, b=2) ✅

Keyword Arguments

All arguments after the first named (keyword) argument, must be named too

Default arguments may still be omitted

```
def my_func(a, b=2, c=3)
```

```
my_func(1)           → a=1, b=2, c=3
```

```
my_func(a=1, b=5)    → a=1, b=5, c=3
```

```
my_func(c=0, a=1)    → a=1, b=2, c=0
```


Code

© 2018 Mathlete Academy