Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals ● Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions
1. Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?

File storage is important because it preserves data after a program is closed. It will be lost after the script finishes running if data is not written to a storage file.

2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the pickle.dump() method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

Pickles are a package of streamed bytes that have been converted from complex data. Pickles are what is needed to translate a binary file. Without pickles data would be unreadable in a binary file.

3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

By using the os.getcwd() command, you can find out which directory you are in. You can also use the os.chdir() command to change the directory you are currently working in.

4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

You can write code in a try/except/else block if you encounter a section of code that may throw an error. If the code is successful, it will continue to the else section and then the rest of the script. However, if there is an error, it will be caught by the except section informing the user of the error before moving along to the else section.

5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

I am enjoying Achievement 1. I feel like I am grasping python quicker than javascript or maybe I feel that way because I enjoy python more. I think error handling is an important part that I should utilize more often when writing any code. The amount of time it can save is important when working on any project.