Searching - BeautifulSoupDocument

Tags	Tools
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```
html_doc = """
<html><head><title>The Dormouse's story</title></head>
<body>
<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>

<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
<a href="http://example.com/elsie" class="sister" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
<a href="http://example.com/lacie" class="sister" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
<a href="http://example.com/tillie" class="sister" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>

<p class="story">...</p>
"""

from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
soup = BeautifulSoup(html_doc, 'html.parser')
```

Kinds of filters

A string

```
soup.find_all('b')
# [<b>The Dormouse's story</b>]
```

A regular expression

```
import re
for tag in soup.find_all(re.compile("^b")):
    print(tag.name)
# body
# b

for tag in soup.find_all(re.compile("t")):
    print(tag.name)
# html
# title
```

A list

```
soup.find_all(["a", "b"])
# [<b>The Dormouse's story</b>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]
```

True

```
for tag in soup.find_all(True):
    print(tag.name)
# html
# head
# title
# body
# p
# b
# p
# a
# a
# a
# p
```

Function

```
def has_class_but_no_id(tag):
    return tag.has_attr('class') and not tag.has_attr('id')

soup.find_all(has_class_but_no_id)
# [<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>,
#  <p class="story">Once upon a time there were...</p>,
#  <p class="story">...</p>]

# If you pass in a function to filter on a specific attribute like href, the argument passed into the function will be the attribute value,

def not_lacie(href):
    return href and not re.compile("lacie").search(href)
soup.find_all(href=not_lacie)
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]
```

The function can be as complicated as you need it to be. Here’s a function that returns `True` if a tag is surrounded by string objects:

```
from bs4 import NavigableString
def surrounded_by_strings(tag):
    return (isinstance(tag.next_element, NavigableString)
            and isinstance(tag.previous_element, NavigableString))

for tag in soup.find_all(surrounded_by_strings):
    print tag.name
# p
# a
# a
# a
# p
```

---

find_all()

few examples

```
soup.find_all("title")
# [<title>The Dormouse's story</title>]

soup.find_all("p", "title")
# [<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>]

soup.find_all("a")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]

soup.find_all(id="link2")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>]

import re
soup.find(string=re.compile("sisters"))
# u'Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were\n'
```

the name argument

```
soup.find_all("title")
# [<title>The Dormouse's story</title>]
```

the keyword arguments

```
soup.find_all(id='link2')
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>]

soup.find_all(href=re.compile("elsie"))
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>]

soup.find_all(id=True)
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]
```

but you can’t use some keyword

```
data_soup = BeautifulSoup('<div data-foo="value">foo!</div>')
data_soup.find_all(data-foo="value")
# SyntaxError: keyword can't be an expression

# Instead you should use the following

data_soup.find_all(attrs={"data-foo": "value"})
# [<div data-foo="value">foo!</div>]

name_soup = BeautifulSoup('<input name="email"/>')
name_soup.find_all(name="email")
# []
name_soup.find_all(attrs={"name": "email"})
# [<input name="email"/>]
```

Searching by CSS class

```
soup.find_all("a", class_="sister")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]
```

```
soup.find_all(class_=re.compile("itl"))
# [<p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>]

def has_six_characters(css_class):
    return css_class is not None and len(css_class) == 6

soup.find_all(class_=has_six_characters)
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]
```

If an element has two class, you can match using only one class

```
css_soup = BeautifulSoup('<p class="body strikeout"></p>')
css_soup.find_all("p", class_="strikeout")
# [<p class="body strikeout"></p>]

css_soup.find_all("p", class_="body")
# [<p class="body strikeout"></p>]
```

search for exact string value:

```
css_soup.find_all("p", class_="body strikeout")
# [<p class="body strikeout"></p>]
```

if needs to match two or more classes, use css selector

```
css_soup.select("p.strikeout.body")
# [<p class="body strikeout"></p>]
```

String argument—textContent?

```
soup.find_all(string="Elsie")
# [u'Elsie']soup.find_all(string=["Tillie", "Elsie", "Lacie"])
# [u'Elsie', u'Lacie', u'Tillie']soup.find_all(string=re.compile("Dormouse"))
[u"The Dormouse's story", u"The Dormouse's story"]

def is_the_only_string_within_a_tag(s):
"""Return True if this string is the only child of its parent tag."""return (s == s.parent.string)

soup.find_all(string=is_the_only_string_within_a_tag)
# [u"The Dormouse's story", u"The Dormouse's story", u'Elsie', u'Lacie', u'Tillie', u'...']
```

limit, return only n results

```
soup.find_all("a", limit=2)
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>]
```

find_all vs recursive=False

```
soup.html.find_all("title")
# [<title>The Dormouse's story</title>]

soup.html.find_all("title", recursive=False)
# []

<html>
 <head>
  <title>
   The Dormouse's story
  </title>
 </head>
```

calling a tag is like calling find_all()

```
soup.find_all("a")
// is equivalent
soup("a")

soup.title.find_all(string=True)
// is equivalent
soup.title(string=True)
```

find_parents() and find_parent()

```
a_string = soup.find(string="Lacie")
a_string
# u'Lacie'

a_string.find_parents("a")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>]

a_string.find_parent("p")
# <p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; and their names were
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a> and
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>;
#  and they lived at the bottom of a well.</p>
```

```
a_string.find_parents("p", class="title")
# []
```

find_next_siblings() and find_next_sibling()

```
first_link = soup.a
first_link
# <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>

first_link.find_next_siblings("a")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>]

first_story_paragraph = soup.find("p", "story")
first_story_paragraph.find_next_sibling("p")
# <p class="story">...</p>
```

previous

```
last_link = soup.find("a", id="link3")
last_link
# <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/tillie" id="link3">Tillie</a>

last_link.find_previous_siblings("a")
# [<a class="sister" href="http://example.com/lacie" id="link2">Lacie</a>,
#  <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>]

first_story_paragraph = soup.find("p", "story")
first_story_paragraph.find_previous_sibling("p")
# <p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>
```

next

```
first_link = soup.a
first_link
# <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>

first_link.find_all_next(string=True)
# [u'Elsie', u',\n', u'Lacie', u' and\n', u'Tillie',
#  u';\nand they lived at the bottom of a well.', u'\n\n', u'...', u'\n']

first_link.find_next("p")
# <p class="story">...</p>
```

find_all_previous() and find_previous

```
first_link = soup.a
first_link
# <a class="sister" href="http://example.com/elsie" id="link1">Elsie</a>

first_link.find_all_previous("p")
# [<p class="story">Once upon a time there were three little sisters; ...</p>,
#  <p class="title"><b>The Dormouse's story</b></p>]

first_link.find_previous("title")
# <title>The Dormouse's story</title>
```