

# Boolean (True/False) Values

## Introduction: Booleans (True/False) Values

Python 2

[home \(../handouts.html\)](#)

Every object can be converted to boolean (True/False): an object is **True** if it is "non-zero".

```
counter = 5
if counter:                                # True
    print 'this int is not zero'
else:
    print 'this int is zero'

mystr = ''                                # empty string
if mystr:                                  # False
    print 'this string has characters'
else:
    print 'this string is empty'

var = ['a', 'b', 'c']
if var:                                    # True
    print 'this container has elements'
else:
    print 'this container is empty'
```

## Objectives for the Unit: Booleans

- Read any object in *boolean context* (i.e., with **if** or **while**) to see if it is empty

## Summary for Object: Boolean

A *boolean* object can be True or False. All objects can be converted to boolean, meaning that all objects can be seen as True or False in a

*boolean* context.

```
print type(True)           # <type 'bool'>
print type(False)          # <type 'bool'>
```

**bool()** converts objects to boolean.

```
print bool(['a', 'b', 'c']) # True
print bool([])              # False
```

## *if* and *while* induce the **bool()** conversion

So when we say **if var:** or **while var:**, we're testing if **bool(var) == True**, i.e., we're checking to see if the value is a **True** value

```
print bool(5)               # True
print bool(0)               # False
```

**if** and **while** induce the boolean conversion -- an object is evaluated in *boolean context*

```
mylist = [0, 0]

if mylist:                  # not empty, so True in boolean context
    print 'that list is not empty'

yourlist = [1, 2, 3]

while yourlist:             # True as long as yourlist has elements
    x = yourlist.pop()      # remove element from the end of yourlist
    print x
```

## Boolean quiz

Quiz yourself: look at the below examples and say whether the value will test as

**True** or **False** in a boolean expression. Beware of tricks!

Remember the rule: if it represents a 0 or empty value, it is False. Otherwise, it is **True**.

```
var    = 5
var2   = 0
var3   = -1
var4   = 0.000000000000000001
varx   = '0'
var5   = 'hello'
var6   = ""
var7   = '   '
var8   = [ ]
var9   = ['hello', 'world']
var10  = [0]
var11  = {0:0}
var12  = {}
```

==

<=H>Booleans: quiz answers

```
var    = 5                # bool(var):    True
var2   = 0                # bool(var2): False
var3   = -1              # bool(var3): True (not 0)
var4   = 0.000000000000000001 # bool(var4): True
varx   = '0'             # bool(varx): True (not empty string)
var5   = 'hello'         # bool(var5): True
var6   = ""              # bool(var6): False
var7   = '   '           # bool(var7): True (not empty)
var8   = [ ]             # bool(var8): False
var9   = ['hello', 'world'] # bool(var9): True
var10  = [0]             # bool(var10): True (has an element)
var11  = {0:0}           # bool(var11): True (has a pair)
var12  = {}              # bool(var12): False
```

**any()** **all()** and **in**

**any()** with a sequence checks to see if any elements are True; **all()** asks whether they are all True; **in** can be used to see if a value exists in a sequence.

**any()**: are any of these True?

```
mylist = [0, 0, 5, 0]

if any(mylist):
    print 'at least one item is True'
```

**all()**: are all of these True?

```
mylist = [5, 5, 'hello', 5.0]

if all(mylist):
    print 'all items are True'
```

**in with a list**: is this value anywhere within this list?

```
mylist = ['highest', 'lowest']

user_choice = 'lowest'

if user_choice not in mylist:
    print 'please enter "highest" or "lowest"'
```