You may have noticed that some code we've written looks very similar to code we wrote before. When you write larger programs you often need to do the same thing twice, in different parts of your program. Sometimes this is exactly the same, sometimes there are some variations.

You could just cut and paste the code, but that is risky.

Say you write some perfect code and made three more copies to use in different parts of the program. Then you realise that it wasn't quite perfect after all and made a small fix. You even remembered that you copied the code. It was a bit tedious, but you made sure to fix it twice more. You run your program and it seems fine. You send the new version of the code to everyone and relax. Problem solved.

Only it wasn't. Between the first version and the three copies there were four copies of this code in total. You only fixed it three times. You soon get some calls, asking you to fix the problem.

In programming, we sometimes say 'DRY' - Don't Repeat Yourself.

You have already used some of Python's built in functions, such as len and input. In this chapter you will learn how to write your own functions.

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