

file I/O

File manipulation in Python is included under the I/O (input/output) functions. We'll start by exploring the functions used to open, read, and close files:

`open(file, mode)`: opens a file, and returns a file type object on which methods can be applied

`read(bytes)`: Returns a specified number of bytes from the file. By default (no argument), it will return the entire file (equivalent to typing `-1`).

`readline(bytes)`: returns a line of the file, limited by the number indicated in the size parameter (in bytes).

`readlines(bytes)`: returns a list containing where each item is one of the lines of the file. If the size exceeds the bytes parameter, no additional lines will be returned.

`close()`: closes the file, so that it cannot be read or written after closing. It is good practice to use this method if you no longer need to take action on a file.

In general, one byte equals one character.