Python Modules

What is a Module?

Consider a module to be the same as a code library.

A file containing a set of functions you want to include in your application.

Create a Module

To create a module just save the code you want in a file with the file extension .py:

Example

Save this code in a file named mymodule.py

```
def greeting(name):
  print("Hello, " + name)
```

Use a Module

Now we can use the module we just created, by using the import statement:

Example

Import the module named mymodule, and call the greeting function:

```
import mymodule

mymodule.greeting("Jonathan")
```

Note: When using a function from a module, use the syntax: *module_name.function_name*.

Variables in Module

The module can contain functions, as already described, but also variables of all types (arrays, dictionaries, objects etc):

Example

Save this code in the file mymodule.py

```
person1 = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 36,
```

```
  "country": "Norway"
}
```

Example

Import the module named mymodule, and access the person1 dictionary:

```
import mymodule

a = mymodule.person1["age"]
print(a)
```

Naming a Module

You can name the module file whatever you like, but it must have the file extension .py

Re-naming a Module

You can create an alias when you import a module, by using the as keyword:

Example

Create an alias for mymodule called mx:

```
import mymodule as mx

a = mx.person1["age"]
print(a)
```

Built-in Modules

There are several built-in modules in Python, which you can import whenever you like.

Example

Import and use the platform module:

```
import platform

x = platform.system()
print(x)
```

Using the dir() Function

There is a built-in function to list all the function names (or variable names) in a module. The dir() function:

Example

List all the defined names belonging to the platform module:

```
import platform

x = dir(platform)
print(x)
```

Note: The dir() function can be used on *all* modules, also the ones you create yourself.

Import From Module

You can choose to import only parts from a module, by using the from keyword.

Example

The module named mymodule has one function and one dictionary:

```
def greeting(name):
  print("Hello, " + name)

person1 = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 36,
  "country": "Norway"
}
```

Example

Import only the person1 dictionary from the module:

```
from mymodule import person1

print (person1["age"])
```

Note: When importing using the from keyword, do not use the module name when referring to elements in the module.
Example: person1["age"], **not** mymodule.person1["age"]

Python Datetime

Python Dates

A date in Python is not a data type of its own, but we can import a module named datetime to work with dates as date objects.

Example

Import the datetime module and display the current date:

```
import datetime

x = datetime.datetime.now()
print(x)
```

Python Math

Python has a set of built-in math functions, including an extensive math module, that allows you to perform mathematical tasks on numbers.

Built-in Math Functions

The min() and max() functions can be used to find the lowest or highest value in an iterable:

Example

```
x = min(5, 10, 25)
y = max(5, 10, 25)

print(x)
print(y)
```

The abs() function returns the absolute (positive) value of the specified number:

Example

```
x = abs(-7.25)

print(x)
```

The pow(*x*, *y*) function returns the value of x to the power of y (x^y).

Example

Return the value of 4 to the power of 3 (same as 4 * 4 * 4):

```
x = pow(4, 3)

print(x)
```

The Math Module

Python has also a built-in module called math, which extends the list of mathematical functions.

To use it, you must import the math module:

```
import math
```

When you have imported the math module, you can start using methods and constants of the module.

The math.sqrt() method for example, returns the square root of a number:

Example

```
import math

x = math.sqrt(64)

print(x)
```

The math.ceil() method rounds a number upwards to its nearest integer, and the math.floor() method rounds a number downwards to its nearest integer, and returns the result:

Example

```
import math

x = math.ceil(1.4)
y = math.floor(1.4)

print(x) # returns 2
print(y) # returns 1
```

The math.pi constant, returns the value of PI (3.14...):

Example

```
import math

x = math.pi

print(x)
```

Python JSON

JSON is a syntax for storing and exchanging data.

JSON is text, written with JavaScript object notation.

JSON in Python

Python has a built-in package called json, which can be used to work with JSON data.

Example

Import the json module:

```
import json
```

Parse JSON - Convert from JSON to Python

If you have a JSON string, you can parse it by using the json.loads() method.

The result will be a Python dictionary.

Example

Convert from JSON to Python:

```
import json

# some JSON:
x =  '{ "name":"John", "age":30, "city":"New York"}'

# parse x:
y = json.loads(x)
```

```
# the result is a Python dictionary:
print(y["age"])
```

Convert from Python to JSON

If you have a Python object, you can convert it into a JSON string by using the json.dumps() method.

Example

Convert from Python to JSON:

```
import json

# a Python object (dict):
x = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 30,
  "city": "New York"
}

# convert into JSON:
y = json.dumps(x)

# the result is a JSON string:
print(y)
```


You can convert Python objects of the following types, into JSON strings:

- dict
- list
- tuple
- string
- int
- float

- True
- False
- None

Example

Convert Python objects into JSON strings, and print the values:

```
import json

print(json.dumps({"name": "John", "age": 30}))
print(json.dumps(["apple", "bananas"]))
print(json.dumps(("apple", "bananas")))
print(json.dumps("hello"))
print(json.dumps(42))
print(json.dumps(31.76))
print(json.dumps(True))
print(json.dumps(False))
print(json.dumps(None))
```

When you convert from Python to JSON, Python objects are converted into the JSON (JavaScript) equivalent:

Python	**JSON**
dict	Object
list	Array
tuple	Array
str	String
int	Number
float	Number
True	true

False	false
None	null

Example

Convert a Python object containing all the legal data types:

```
import json

x = {
  "name": "John",
  "age": 30,
  "married": True,
  "divorced": False,
  "children": ("Ann","Billy"),
  "pets": None,
  "cars": [
    {"model": "BMW 230", "mpg": 27.5},
    {"model": "Ford Edge", "mpg": 24.1}
  ]
}

print(json.dumps(x))
```

Format the Result

The example above prints a JSON string, but it is not very easy to read, with no indentations and line breaks.

The json.dumps() method has parameters to make it easier to read the result:

Example

Use the indent parameter to define the numbers of indents:

```
json.dumps(x, indent=4)
```

You can also define the separators, default value is (", ", ": "), which means using a comma and a space to separate each object, and a colon and a space to separate keys from values:

Example

Use the separators parameter to change the default separator:

```
json.dumps(x, indent=4, separators=(". ", " = "))
```

Order the Result

The json.dumps() method has parameters to order the keys in the result:

Example

Use the sort_keys parameter to specify if the result should be sorted or not:

```
json.dumps(x, indent=4, sort_keys=True)
```