

# TIP102 | Intermediate Technical Interview Prep

Intermediate Technical Interview Prep Summer 2025 (@ Section 1b | Tuesdays and Thursdays 3PM - 5PM PDT)  
Personal Member ID#: 126663

## Session 1: Strings & Arrays

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### Session Overview

Students will be introduced to the foundational concepts of strings and arrays in Python, which are essential for solving common coding problems. They will also learn about the UPI method, a structured approach to planning and solving technical interview questions. The lesson will cover basic operations like accessing, iterating over, and modifying lists, as well as performing advanced string manipulation.

You can find all resources from today including session slide decks, session recordings, and more on the resources tab

### Part 1 : Instructor Led Session

We'll spend the first portion of the synchronous class time in large groups, where the instructor will lead class instruction for 30-45 minutes.

### Part 2: Breakout Session

In breakout sessions, we will explore and collaboratively solve problem sets in small groups. Here, the **collaboration, conversation, and approach** are just as important as “solving the problem” - please engage warmly, clearly, and plentifully in the process!

In breakout rooms you will:

- Screen-share the problem/s, and verbally review them together
- Screen-share an interactive coding environment, and talk through the steps of a solution approach
  - ProTip: - An Integrated Development Environment (IDE) is a fancy name for a tool you could use for shared writing of code - like Replit.com, Collabed.it, CodePen.io, or other - your staff team will specify which tool to use for this class!
- Screen-share an implementation of your proposed solution
- Independently follow-along, or create an implementation, in your own IDE.

Your program leader/s will indicate which code sharing tool/s to use as a group, and will help break down or provide specific scaffolding with the main concepts above.

## ► Note on Expectations

## Problem Solving Approach

To build a long-term organized approach to problem solving, we'll start with three main steps. We'll refer to them as **UPI: Understand, Plan, and Implement**.

We'll apply these three steps to most of the problems we'll see in the first half of the course.

We will learn to:

- **Understand** the problem,
- **Plan** a solution step-by-step, and
- **Implement** the solution

### ▼ Comment on UPI

While **each problem may call for slightly different approaches to these three steps**, the basics of the steps won't change, and it's important to engage them each time. We've built out some starting points to use in our breakout sessions, below!

Please read the following carefully (take 10 minutes as a team, if you like) and follow these basic steps, as a group, through each of the problems in your problem set.

**Fun Fact:** We sometimes call the main beats of problem solving, or the tasks that teams are being asked to take, our "DoNow's". If you hear a staff member using this phrase, (e.g., "Ok great! Your team is struggling with the Understand step – what might be a DoNow?") you now know what they might mean!

### ▼ UPI Example

Step	What is it?	Try It!
1. Understand	Here we strive to <b>Understand</b> what the interviewer is asking for. It's common to restate the problem aloud, ask questions, and consider related test cases.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nominate one person to share their screen so everyone is on the same page, and bring up the problem at hand. (NOTE: Please trade-off and change who is screen sharing, roughly each problem)</li> <li>• Have one person read the problem aloud.</li> <li>• Have a different person restate the problem in their own words.</li> <li>• Have members of the group ask 2-3 questions about the problem, perhaps about the example usage, or expected output</li> <li>• Example: "Will the list always contain only numbers?"</li> </ul>
2. Plan	Then we <b>Plan</b> a solution, starting with appropriate visualizations and pseudocode.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restate - have one person share the general idea about what the function is trying to accomplish.</li> <li>• Next, break down the problem into subproblems as a group. Each member should participate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If you don't know where to start, try to describe how you would solve the problem <i>without a computer</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• As a group, translate each subproblem into pseudocode. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ How do I do what I described in English in Python?</li> <li>◦ Then, do I need to change my approach to any steps to make it work in code?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3. Implement	Now we <b>Implement</b> our solution, by translating our <b>Plan</b> into Python.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Translate the pseudocode into Python—this is a stage at which you can consider working individually.</li> </ul>

## Breakout Problems Session 1

### ▼ Standard Problem Set Version 1

#### Problem 1: Hundred Acre Wood

Write a function `welcome()` that prints the string `"Welcome to The Hundred Acre Wood!"`.

```
def welcome():
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
welcome()
```

Example Output:

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Python Functions

In Python, functions are defined using the `def` keyword.

A function is a block of organized, reusable code that is used to perform a single, related action. In Python we write simple functions using the following syntax:

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Function that prints Hello world!  
def function_example():  
    print("Hello world!")
```

Functions can be called by writing the function name followed by parentheses.

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Calling a function  
function_example() # Prints 'Hello world!'
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Python Strings

Python strings can be created by enclosing text with either double quotes `""` or single quotes `' '`.

Example Usage:

```
# String with double quotes  
"This is a string!"  
  
# String with single quotes  
'This is also a string!'
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: `print()` function

To complete this problem, you will need to know how to use the `print()` function. If you're new to Python or need a refresher, a detailed review of the `print()` function and other common built-in functions can be found in the Unit 1 Cheatsheet!

## Problem 2: Greeting

Write a function `greeting()` that accepts a single parameter, a string `name`, and prints the string "Welcome to The Hundred Acre Wood <name>! My name is Christopher Robin."

```
def greeting(name):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
greetings("Michael")  
greetings("Winnie the Pooh")
```

Example Output:

```
Welcome to The Hundred Acre Wood Michael! My name is Christopher Robin.  
Welcome to The Hundred Acre Wood Winnie the Pooh! My name is Christopher Robin.
```

### ▼ Hint: Variables

In Python, variables do not need to be declared using a key word. We simply create variables by giving them a name and assigning a value to it.

Variable names use snake case and should have underscores between words.

Example Usage:

```
# Example 1: Integer variable  
var1 = 10  
  
# Example 2: String Variable  
var2 = "Codepath"  
  
# Example 3: Boolean Variable  
my_boolean = True  
  
print(var1) # Prints 10  
print(var2) # Prints 'Codepath'  
print(my_boolean) # Prints True
```

Python variables are dynamically typed, meaning that we do not need to specify the type of a variable when declaring it. We can also update variables to hold data of a different type

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Changing x from an int to a string
x = 10
print(x) # Prints 10

x = "Hello"
print(x) # Prints 'Hello'
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Parameters

We can add **parameters** to our function by placing them inside the parentheses of the function header separated by commas.

Similarly, when we call the function we can pass arguments for each parameter to our function by placing them in parentheses separated by commas.

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Function with 2 parameters
def function_w_parameters(parameter1, parameter2):
    print("Parameter 1: ", parameter1)
    print("Parameter 2: ", parameter2)

function_w_parameters("Interview", "Prep")
# Output:
# Parameter 1: Interview
# Parameter 2: Prep
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Formatted Strings

Formatted strings or **f-strings** allow us to insert variable expressions into Python strings.

To create an f-string, we simply put f in front of the quotation marks, and add curly brackets around any variables we add to the string.

Example Usage:

```
# Example 1: Adding a variable to a string
name = "Michael"
print(f>Welcome to Codepath, {name}!") # Prints 'Welcome to CodePath, Michael!'

# Example 2: Adding an expression to a string
a = 3
b = 5
print(f>The sum of {a} and {b} is {a + b}") # Prints 'The sum of 3 and 5 is 8'
```

## Problem 3: Catchphrase

Write a function `print_catchphrase()` that accepts a string `character` as a parameter and prints the catchphrase of the given character as outlined in the table below.

Character	Catchphrase
"Pooh"	"Oh bother!"
"Tigger"	"TTFN: Ta-ta for now!"
"Eeyore"	"Thanks for noticing me."
"Christopher Robin"	"Silly old bear."

If the given `character` does not match one of the characters included above, print

"Sorry! I don't know <character>'s catchphrase!"

```
def print_catchphrase(character):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
character = "Pooh"  
print_catchphrase(character)  
  
character = "Piglet"  
print_catchphrase(character)
```

### Example Output:

```
"Oh bother!"  
"Sorry! I don't know Piglet's catchphrase!"
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Conditionals

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem requires you to know how to use `if`, `else`, and `elif` statements, also called conditional expressions, to control the flow of your program.

If you're unfamiliar with the syntax for conditional expressions in Python, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you! You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please provide a brief explanation of how to use `if`, `else`, and `elif` statements in Python, along with a simple code example."

## Problem 4: Return Item

Implement a function `get_item()` that accepts a 0-indexed list `items` and a non-negative integer `x` and **returns** the element at index `x` in `items`. If `x` is not a valid index of `items`, return `None`.

```
def get_item(items, x):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
items = ["piglet", "pooh", "roo", "rabbit"]  
x = 2  
get_item(items, x)  
  
items = ["piglet", "pooh", "roo", "rabbit"]  
x = 5  
get_item(items, x)
```

### Example Output:

```
"roo"  
None
```

#### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: List indexing

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem requires you to know how to access values by indexing and/or slicing a list. If you're unfamiliar with Python list indexing and slicing, ask a generative AI tool to show you an example!

#### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: To Print or to Return?

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To print or to return? That is the question.



This problem requires you to know the difference between printing (`print()` in Python) and returning a value inside of a function. If you're unfamiliar with the differences, you can ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to explain it to you.

## Problem 5: Total Honey

Winnie the Pooh wants to know how much honey he has. Write a function `sum_honey()` that accepts a list of integers `hunny_jars` and returns the sum of all elements in the list. Do not use the built-in function `sum()`.

```
def sum_honey(hunny_jars):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
hunny_jars = [2, 3, 4, 5]  
sum_honey(hunny_jars)  
  
hunny_jars = []  
sum_honey(hunny_jars)
```

### Example Output:

```
14  
0
```

#### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: For Loops

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To solve this problem, you will need to know how to write a for loop in Python. A for loop is used to iterate over a sequence (like a list, tuple, or string) or other iterable objects.

If you need a refresher on for loop syntax, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you a working example!

#### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Accumulator Variable

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To solve this problem, you will likely make use of an accumulator variable. This is an algorithmic technique you'll use over and over in different technical interviewing problems.

If you're unfamiliar with what an accumulator variable is, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to explain it to you. You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

*"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please briefly explain the concept of an accumulator variable in programming. How is it typically used in algorithms, and can you provide an example of how it might be applied in a python coding problem?"*

## Problem 6: Double Trouble

Help Winnie the Pooh double his honey! Write a function `doubled()` that accepts a list of integers `hunny_jars` as a parameter and multiplies each element in the list by two. Return the doubled list.

```
def doubled(hunny_jars):  
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
hunny_jars = [1, 2, 3]  
doubled(hunny_jars)
```

Example Output:

```
[2, 4, 6]
```

## Problem 7: Poohsticks

Winnie the Pooh and his friends are playing a game called Poohsticks where they drop sticks in a stream and race them. They time how long it takes each player's stick to float under Poohsticks Bridge to score each round.

Write a function `count_less_than()` to help Pooh and his friends determine how many players should move on to the next round of Poohsticks. `count_less_than()` should accept a list of integers `race_times` and an integer `threshold` and return the number of race times less than `threshold`.

```
def count_less_than(race_times, threshold):  
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
race_times = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
threshold = 4
count_less_than(race_times, threshold)

race_times = []
threshold = 4
count_less_than(race_times, threshold)
```

Example Output:

```
3
0
```

## Problem 8: Pooh's To Do's

Write a function `print_todo_list()` that accepts a list of strings named `tasks`. The function should then number and print each task on a new line using the format:

Pooh's To Dos:

1. Task 1

2. Task 2

...

```
def print_todo_list(task):
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
task = ["Count all the bees in the hive", "Chase all the clouds from the sky", "Think", "Sto
print_todo_list(task)
```

```
task = []
print_todo_list(task)
```

Example Output:

Pooh's To Dos:

1. Count all the bees in the hive
2. Chase all the clouds from the sky
3. Think
4. Stoutness Exercises

Pooh's To Dos:

▼ ✨ AI Hint: `range()`

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This question requires you to use the built-in function `range()`. To help, we've included a review of this function Unit 1 Cheatsheet

If you'd still like to see more examples or ask follow-up questions, try using an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot. You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

*"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please provide 2-3 examples of how the `range()` function is used in Python, and explain how each one works."*

## Problem 9: Pairs

Rabbit is very particular about his belongings and wants to own an even number of each thing he owns. Write a function `can_pair()` that accepts a list of integers `item_quantities`. Return `True` if each number in `item_quantities` is even. Return `False` otherwise.

```
def can_pair(item_quantities):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
item_quantities = [2, 4, 6, 8]  
can_pair(item_quantities)  
  
item_quantities = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
can_pair(item_quantities)  
  
item_quantities = []  
can_pair(item_quantities)
```

### Example Output:

```
True  
False  
True
```

## ▼ 💡 Remainders with Modulus Division

This problem requires you to know how to find the remainder of a division operation. We can do this with something called modulus division. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this in Python, checkout the Unit 1 cheatsheet or do your own research.

## Problem 10: Split Haycorns

Piglet's has collected a big pile of his favorite food, haycorns, and wants to split them evenly amongst his friends. Write a function `split_haycorns()` to help Piglet determine the number of ways he can split his haycorns into even groups. `split_haycorns()` accepts a positive integer `quantity` as a parameter and returns a list of all divisors of `quantity`.

```
def split_haycorns(quantity):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
quantity = 6  
split_haycorns(quantity)  
  
quantity = 1  
split_haycorns(quantity)
```

### Example Output:

```
[1, 2, 3, 6]  
[1]
```

## Problem 11: T-I-Double Guh-ER

Signs in the Hundred Acre Wood have been losing letters as Tigger bounces around stealing any letters he needs to spell out his name. Write a function `tiggerfy()` that accepts a string `s`, and returns a new string with the letters `t`, `i`, `g`, `e`, and `r` removed from it.

```
def tiggerfy(s):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
s = "suspicious"  
tiggerfy(s)  
  
s = "Trigger"  
tiggerfy(s)  
  
s = "Hunny"  
tiggerfy(s)
```

### Example Output:

```
"suspcous"  
""  
"Hunny"
```

## ▼ 💡 Hint: String Methods

When working with strings, it's very common to need to process the string to convert all characters to upper or lower case, remove punctuation, handle whitespace, etc. Luckily, Python has several built-in string methods for common string operations. Practice your research skills by looking up common string methods to find one that will help you implement this function, or check out the Unit 1 cheatsheet for the most essential ones.

## Problem 12: Thistle Hunt

Pooh, Piglet, and Roo are looking for thistles to gift their friend Eeyore. Write a function `locate_thistles()` that takes in a list of strings `items` and returns a list of the indices of any elements with value `"thistle"`. The indices in the resulting list should be ordered from least to greatest.

```
def locate_thistles(items):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
items = ["thistle", "stick", "carrot", "thistle", "eeyore's tail"]  
locate_thistles(items)  
  
items = ["book", "bouncy ball", "leaf", "red balloon"]  
locate_thistles(items)
```

### Example Output:

```
[0, 3]  
[]
```

Close Section

## ▼ Standard Problem Set Version 2

## Problem 1: Batman

Write a function `batman()` that prints the string `"I am vengeance. I am the night. I am Batman!"`.

```
def batman():  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
batman()
```

Example Output:

```
I am vengeance. I am the night. I am Batman!
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Python Functions

In Python, functions are defined using the `def` keyword.

A function is a block of organized, reusable code that is used to perform a single, related action. In Python we write simple functions using the following syntax:

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Function that prints Hello world!  
def function_example():  
    print("Hello world!")
```

Functions can be called by writing the function name followed by parentheses.

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Calling a function  
function_example() # Prints 'Hello world!'
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: Python Strings

Python strings can be created by enclosing text with either double quotes `""` or single quotes `' '`.

Example Usage:

```
# String with double quotes  
"This is a string!"  
  
# String with single quotes  
'This is also a string!'
```

▼ 💡 **Hint:** `print()` function

To complete this problem, you will need to know how to use the `print()` function. If you're new to Python or need a refresher, a detailed review of the `print()` function and other common built-in functions can be found in the Unit 1 Cheatsheet!

## Problem 2: Mad Libs

Write a function `madlib()` that accepts one parameter, a string `verb`. The function should print the sentence: `"I have one power. I never <verb>. - Batman"`.

```
def madlib(verb):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
verb = "give up"  
madlib(verb)  
  
verb = "nap"  
madlib(verb)
```

### Example Output:

```
"I have one power. I never give up. - Batman"  
"I have one power. I never nap. - Batman"
```

▼ 💡 **Hint: Variables**

In Python, variables do not need to be declared using a key word. We simply create variables by giving them a name and assigning a value to it.

Variable names use snake case and should have underscores between words.

Example Usage:



```
# Example 1: Integer variable
var1 = 10

# Example 2: String Variable
var2 = "Codepath"

# Example 3: Boolean Variable
my_boolean = True

print(var1) # Prints 10
print(var2) # Prints 'Codepath'
print(my_boolean) # Prints True
```

Python variables are dynamically typed, meaning that we do not need to specify the type of a variable when declaring it. We can also update variables to hold data of a different type

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Changing x from an int to a string
x = 10
print(x) # Prints 10

x = "Hello"
print(x) # Prints 'Hello'
```

## ▼ 💡 Hint: Parameters

We can add **parameters** to our function by placing them inside the parentheses of the function header separated by commas.

Similarly, when we call the function we can pass arguments for each parameter to our function by placing them in parentheses separated by commas.

Example Usage:

```
# Example: Function with 2 parameters
def function_w_parameters(parameter1, parameter2):
    print("Parameter 1: ", parameter1)
    print("Parameter 2: ", parameter2)

function_w_parameters("Interview", "Prep")
# Output:
# Parameter 1: Interview
# Parameter 2: Prep
```

## ▼ 💡 Hint: Formatted Strings

Formatted strings or **f-strings** allow us to insert variable expressions into Python strings.

To create an f-string, we simply put `f` in front of the quotation marks, and add curly brackets around any variables we add to the string.

Example Usage:

```
# Example 1: Adding a variable to a string
name = "Michael"
print(f>Welcome to Codepath, {name}!") # Prints 'Welcome to CodePath, Michael!'

# Example 2: Adding an expression to a string
a = 3
b = 5
print(f>The sum of {a} and {b} is {a + b}") # Prints 'The sum of 3 and 5 is 8'
```

## Problem 3: Trilogy

Write a function `trilogy()` that accepts an integer `year` and prints the title of the Batman trilogy movie released that year as outlined below.

Year	Movie Title
2005	"Batman Begins"
2008	"The Dark Knight"
2012	"The Dark Knight Rises"

If the given `year` does not match one of the years in the table above, print

```
"Christopher Nolan did not release a Batman movie in <year>."
```

```
def trilogy(year):
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
year = 2008
trilogy(year)

year = 1998
trilogy(year)
```

Example Output:

```
"The Dark Knight"  
"Christopher Nolan did not release a Batman movie in 1998."
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Conditionals

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem requires you to know how to use `if`, `else`, and `elif` statements, also called conditional expressions, to control the flow of your program.

If you're unfamiliar with the syntax for conditional expressions in Python, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you! You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

*"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please provide a brief explanation of how to use `if`, `else`, and `elif` statements in Python, along with a simple code example."*

## Problem 4: Last

Implement a function `get_last()` that accepts a list of items `items` and **returns** the last item in the list. If the list is empty, return `None`.

```
def get_last(items):  
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
items = ["spider man", "batman", "superman", "iron man", "wonder woman", "black adam"]  
get_last(items)  
  
items = []  
get_last(items)
```

Example Output:

```
"black adam"  
None
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: List indexing

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem requires you to know how to access values by indexing and/or slicing a list. If you're unfamiliar with Python list indexing and slicing, ask a generative AI tool to show you an example!

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: To Print or to Return?

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To print or to return? That is the question.

This problem requires you to know the difference between printing ( `print()` in Python) and returning a value inside of a function. If you're unfamiliar with the differences, you can ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to explain it to you.

## Problem 5: Concatenate

Write a function `concatenate()` that takes in a list of strings `words` and returns a string `concatenated` that concatenates all elements in `words`.

```
def concatenate(words):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
words = ["vengeance", "darkness", "batman"]  
concatenate(words)  
  
words = []  
concatenate(words)
```

### Example Output:

```
"vengeancedarknessbatman"  
"""
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: For Loops

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To solve this problem, you will need to know how to write a for loop in Python. A for loop is used to iterate over a sequence (like a list, tuple, or string) or other iterable objects.

If you need a refresher on for loop syntax, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you a working example!

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Accumulator Variable

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

To solve this problem, you will likely make use of an accumulator variable. This is an algorithmic technique you'll use over and over in different technical interviewing problems.

If you're unfamiliar with what an accumulator variable is, try asking an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to explain it to you. You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

*"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please briefly explain the concept of an accumulator variable in programming. How is it typically used in algorithms, and can you provide an example of how it might be applied in a python coding problem?"*

## Problem 6: Squared

Write a function `squared()` that accepts a list of integers `numbers` as a parameter and squares each item in the list. Return the squared list.

```
def squared(numbers):  
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
numbers = [1, 2, 3]  
squared(numbers)
```

Example Output:

```
[1, 4, 9]
```

## Problem 7: NaNaNa Batman!

Write a function `nanana_batman()` that accepts an integer `x` and prints the string `"nanana batman!"` where `"na"` is repeated `x` times. Do not use the `*` operator.

```
def nanana_batman(x):  
    pass
```

## Example Usage

```
x = 6
nanana_batman(x)

x = 0
nanana_batman(x)
```

## Example Output:

```
"nananananana batman!"
"batman!"
```

▼ ✨ **AI Hint:** `range()`

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This question requires you to use the built-in function `range()`. To help, we've included a review of this function [Unit 1 Cheatsheet](#)

If you'd still like to see more examples or ask follow-up questions, try using an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot. You can use the following prompt as a starting point:

*"You're an expert computer science tutor. Please provide 2-3 examples of how the `range()` function is used in Python, and explain how each one works."*

## Problem 8: Find the Villain

Write a function `find_villain()` that accepts a list `crowd` and a value `villain` as parameters and returns a list of all indices where the `villain` is found hiding in the `crowd`.

```
def find_villain(crowd, villain):
    pass
```

## Example Usage

```
crowd = ['Batman', 'The Joker', 'Alfred Pennyworth', 'Robin', 'The Joker', 'Catwoman', 'The Joker']
villain = 'The Joker'
find_villain(crowd, villain)
```

## Example Output:

```
[1, 4, 6]
```

## Problem 9: Odd

Write a function `get_odds()` that takes in a list of integers `nums` and returns a new list containing all the odd numbers in `nums`.

```
def get_odds(nums):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
nums = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
get_odds(nums)  
  
nums = [2, 4, 6, 8]  
get_odds(nums)
```

### Example Output:

```
[1, 3]  
[]
```

### ▼ 💡 Remainders with Modulus Division

This problem requires you to know how to find the remainder of a division operation. We can do this with something called modulus division. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this in Python, checkout the Unit 1 cheatsheet or do your own research.

## Problem 10: Up and Down

Write a function `up_and_down()` that accepts a list of integers `lst` as a parameter. The function should return the number of odd numbers minus the number of even numbers in the list.

```
def up_and_down(lst):  
    pass
```

### Example Usage

```
lst = [1, 2, 3]  
up_and_down(lst)  
  
lst = [1, 3, 5]  
up_and_down(lst)  
  
lst = [2, 4, 10, 2]  
up_and_down(lst)
```

Example Output:

```
1
3
-4
```

## Problem 11: Running Sum

Write a function `running_sum()` that accepts a list of integers `superhero_stats` representing the number of crimes Batman has stopped each month in Gotham City. The function should modify the list to return the running sum such that

`superhero_stats[i] = sum(superhero_stats[0]...superhero_stats[i])`. You must modify the list in place; you may not create any new lists as part of your solution.

```
def running_sum(superhero_stats):
    pass
```

Example Usage

```
superhero_stats = [1, 2, 3, 4]
running_sum(superhero_stats)

superhero_stats = [1, 1, 1, 1, 1]
running_sum(superhero_stats)

superhero_stats = [3, 1, 2, 10, 1]
running_sum(superhero_stats)
```

Example Output:

```
[1, 3, 6, 10]
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
[3, 4, 6, 16, 17]
```

## Problem 12: Shuffle

Write a function `shuffle()` that accepts a list `cards` of `2n` elements in the form `[x1,x2,...,xn,y1,y2,...,yn]`. Return the list in the form `[x1,y1,x2,y2,...,xn,yn]`.

```
def shuffle(cards):
    pass
```

Example Usage



```
cards = ['Joker', 'Queen', 2, 3, 'Ace', 7]
shuffle(cards)

cards = [9, 2, 3, 'Joker', 'Joker', 3, 2, 9]
shuffle(cards)

cards = [10, 10, 2, 2]
shuffle(cards)
```

Example Output:

```
['Joker', 3, 'Queen', 'Ace', 2, 7]
[9, 'Joker', 2, 3, 3, 2, 'Joker', 9]
[10, 2, 10, 2]
```

Close Section

## ▼ Advanced Problem Set Version 1

### Problem 1: Hunny Hunt

Write a function `linear_search()` to help Winnie the Pooh locate his lost items. The function accepts a list `items` and a `target` value as parameters. The function should return the first index of `target` in `items`, and `-1` if `target` is not in the `lst`. Do not use any built-in functions.

```
def linear_search(lst, target):
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
items = ['haycorn', 'haycorn', 'haycorn', 'hunny', 'haycorn']
target = 'hunny'
linear_search(items, target)

items = ['bed', 'blue jacket', 'red shirt', 'hunny']
target = 'red balloon'
linear_search(items, target)
```

Example Output:

```
3
-1
```

▼ 💡 Hint: Python Basics

If you are unfamiliar with Python, you may need to do some research into basic Python syntax before attempting this problem. As part of the advanced problem set, we expect you to be able to leverage your research skills to learn new skills and syntax just as a professional developer would! Use your peers, a search engine, or generative AI tools to research Python syntax for functions, for loops, and anything else you need to implement this function. The Python Syntax section in the Cheatsheet tab of this unit also includes a primer on basic Python syntax.

## Problem 2: Bouncy, Flouncy, Trouncy, Pouncy

Tigger has developed a new programming language Tiger with only **four** operations and **one** variable `tigger`.

- `bouncy` and `flouncy` both **increment** the value of the variable `tigger` by `1`.
- `trouncy` and `pouncy` both **decrement** the value of the variable `tigger` by `1`.

Initially, the value of `tigger` is `1` because he's the only tigger around! Given a list of strings `operations` containing a list of operations, return the **final** value of `tigger` after performing all the operations.

```
def final_value_after_operations(operations):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
operations = ["trouncy", "flouncy", "flouncy"]  
final_value_after_operations(operations)  
  
operations = ["bouncy", "bouncy", "flouncy"]  
final_value_after_operations(operations)
```

Example Output:

```
2  
4
```

## Problem 3: T-I-Double Guh-Er II

T-I-Double Guh-Er: That spells Tigger! Write a function `tiggerfy()` that accepts a string `word` and returns a new string that removes any substrings `t`, `i`, `gg`, and `er` from `word`. The function should be case insensitive.

```
def tiggerfy(word):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
word = "Trigger"  
tiggerfy(word)  
  
word = "eggplant"  
tiggerfy(word)  
  
word = "Choir"  
tiggerfy(word)
```

Example Output:

```
"r"  
"eplan"  
"Chor"
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: String Methods

When working with strings, it's very common to need to process the string to convert all characters to upper or lower case, remove punctuation, handle whitespace, etc. Luckily, Python has several built-in string methods for common string operations. Practice your research skills by looking up common string methods to find one that will help you implement this function, or check out the Unit 1 cheatsheet for the most essential ones.

## Problem 4: Non-decreasing Array

Given an array `nums` with `n` integers, write a function `non_decreasing()` that checks if `nums` could become non-decreasing by modifying **at most one element**.

We define an array is non-decreasing if `nums[i] <= nums[i + 1]` holds for every `i` (**0-based**) such that `(0 <= i <= n - 2)`.

```
def non_decreasing(nums):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
nums = [4, 2, 3]  
non_decreasing(nums)  
  
nums = [4, 2, 1]  
non_decreasing(nums)
```

Example Output:

```
True
False
```

## Problem 5: Missing Clues

Christopher Robin set up a scavenger hunt for Pooh, but it's a blustery day and several hidden clues have blown away. Write a function `find_missing_clues()` to help Christopher Robin figure out which clues he needs to remake. The function accepts two integers `lower` and `upper` and a unique integer array `clues`. All elements in `clues` are within the inclusive range `[lower, upper]`.

A clue `x` is considered missing if `x` is in the range `[lower, upper]` and `x` is not in `clues`.

Return the shortest sorted list of ranges that exactly covers all the missing numbers. That is, no element of `clues` is included in any of the ranges, and each missing number is covered by one of the ranges.

```
def find_missing_clues(clues, lower, upper):
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
clues = [0, 1, 3, 50, 75]
lower = 0
upper = 99
find_missing_clues(clues, lower, upper)

clues = [-1]
lower = -1
upper = -1
find_missing_clues(clues, lower, upper)
```

Example Output:

```
[[2, 2], [4, 49], [51, 74], [76, 99]]
[]
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Nested Lists

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem may benefit from an understanding of nested data, particularly nested lists. For a refresher, check out the Advanced section of the Unit 1 Cheatsheet.

Want to dive deeper? Ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you examples of how to work with nested lists in Python.

## ▼ 💡 Hint: String Methods

When working with strings, it's very common to need to process the string to convert all characters to upper or lower case, remove punctuation, handle whitespace, etc. Luckily, Python has several built-in string methods for common string operations. Practice your research skills by looking up common string methods to find one that will help you implement this function, or check out the Unit 1 cheatsheet for the most essential ones.

## Problem 6: Vegetable Harvest

Rabbit is collecting carrots from his garden to make a feast for Pooh and friends. Write a function `harvest()` that accepts a 2D `n x m` matrix `vegetable_patch` and returns the number of carrots that are ready to harvest in the vegetable patch. A carrot is ready to harvest if `vegetable_patch[i][j]` has value `'c'`.

Assume `n = len(vegetable_patch)` and `m = len(vegetable_patch[0])`. `0 <= i < n` and `0 <= j < m`.

```
def harvest(vegetable_patch):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
vegetable_patch = [  
    ['x', 'c', 'x'],  
    ['x', 'x', 'x'],  
    ['x', 'c', 'c'],  
    ['c', 'c', 'c']  
]  
harvest(vegetable_patch)
```

Example Output:

```
6
```

## ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Nested Loops

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem may benefit from an understanding of nested loops. For a refresher, check out the Advanced section of the Unit 1 Cheatsheet.

Want to dive deeper? Ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you examples of how to work with nested loops in Python.

## Problem 7: Eeyore's House

Eeyore has collected two piles of sticks to rebuild his house and needs to choose pairs of sticks whose lengths are the right proportion. Write a function `good_pairs()` that accepts two integer arrays `pile1` and `pile2` where each integer represents the length of a stick. The function also accepts a positive integer `k`. The function should return the number of **good** pairs.

A pair `(i, j)` is called **good** if `pile1[i]` is divisible by `pile2[j] * k`. Assume `0 <= i <= len(pile1) - 1` and `0 <= j <= len(pile2) - 1`.

```
def good_pairs(pile1, pile2, k):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
pile1 = [1, 3, 4]  
pile2 = [1, 3, 4]  
k = 1  
good_pairs(pile1, pile2, k)  
  
pile1 = [1, 2, 4, 12]  
pile2 = [2, 4]  
k = 3  
good_pairs(pile1, pile2, k)
```

Example Output:

```
5  
2
```

### ▼ 💡 Remainders with Modulus Division

This problem requires you to know how to find the remainder of a division operation. We can do this with something called modulus division. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this in Python, checkout the Unit 1 cheatsheet or do your own research.

## Problem 8: Local Maximums

Write a function `local_maximums()` that accepts an `n x n` integer matrix `grid` and returns an integer matrix `local_maxes` of size `(n - 2) x (n - 2)` such that:

- `local_maxes[i][j]` is equal to the largest value of the `3 x 3` matrix in `grid` centered around row `i + 1` and column `j + 1`.

In other words, we want to find the largest value in every contiguous `3 x 3` matrix in `grid`.

```
def local_maximums(grid):  
    pass
```

9	9	8	1
5	6	2	6
8	2	6	4
6	2	2	2

9	9
8	6

Example Usage:

```
grid = [  
    [9, 9, 8, 1],  
    [5, 6, 2, 6],  
    [8, 2, 6, 4],  
    [6, 2, 2, 2]  
]  
local_maximums(grid)  
  
grid = [  
    [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
    [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
    [1, 1, 2, 1, 1],  
    [1, 1, 1, 1, 1],  
    [1, 1, 1, 1, 1]  
]  
local_maximums(grid)
```

Example Output:

```
[[9, 9], [8, 6]]  
[[2, 2, 2], [2, 2, 2], [2, 2, 2]]
```

[Close Section](#)

## ▼ Advanced Problem Set Version 2

### Problem 1: Words Containing Character

Write a function `words_with_char()` that accepts a list of strings `words` and a character `x`. Return a list of indices representing the words that contain the character `x`. The returned list may be in any order.

```
def words_with_char(words, x):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
words = ["batman", "superman"]  
x = "a"  
words_with_char(words, x)  
  
words = ["black panther", "hulk", "black widow", "thor"]  
x = "a"  
words_with_char(words, x)  
  
words = ["star-lord", "gamora", "groot", "rocket"]  
x = "z"  
words_with_char(words, x)
```

Example Output:

```
[0, 1]  
[0, 2]  
[]
```

#### ▼ 💡 Hint: Python Basics

If you are unfamiliar with Python, you may need to do some research into basic Python syntax before attempting this problem. As part of the advanced problem set, we expect you to be able to leverage your research skills to learn new skills and syntax just as a professional developer would! Use your peers, a search engine, or generative AI tools to research Python syntax for functions, for loops, and anything else you need to implement this function. The Python Syntax section in the Cheatsheet tab of this unit also includes a primer on basic Python syntax.



## Problem 2: HulkSmash

Write a function `hulk_smash()` that accepts an integer `n` and returns a 1-indexed string array `answer` where:

- `answer[i] == "HulkSmash"` if `i` is divisible by `3` and `5`.
- `answer[i] == "Hulk"` if `i` is divisible by `3`.
- `answer[i] == "Smash"` if `i` is divisible by `5`.
- `answer[i] == i` (as a string) if none of the above conditions are true.

```
def hulk_smash(n):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
n = 3  
hulk_smash(n)  
  
n = 5  
hulk_smash(n)  
  
n = 15  
hulk_smash(n)
```

Example Output:

```
["1", "2", "Hulk"]  
["1", "2", "Hulk", "4", "Smash"]  
["1", "2", "Hulk", "4", "Smash", "Hulk", "7", "8", "Hulk", "Smash", "11", "Hulk", "13", "14"]
```

## Problem 3: Encode

The Riddler is planning to leave a coded message to lead Batman into a trap. Write a function `shuffle()` that takes in a string, the Riddler's `message`, and encodes it using an integer array `indices`. The message will be shuffled such that the character at the `i`th position in `message` moves to index `indices[i]` in the shuffled string. You may assume `len(message)` is equal to the `len(indices)`.

```
def shuffle(message, indices):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
message = "evil"
indices = [3, 1, 2, 0]
shuffle(message, indices)

message = "findme"
indices = [0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
shuffle(message, indices)
```

Example Output:

```
"lvie"
"findme"
```

### ▼ 💡 Hint: String Methods

When working with strings, it's very common to need to process the string to convert all characters to upper or lower case, remove punctuation, handle whitespace, etc. Luckily, Python has several built-in string methods for common string operations. Practice your research skills by looking up common string methods to find one that will help you implement this function, or check out the Unit 1 cheatsheet for the most essential ones.

## Problem 4: Good Samaritan

Superman is doing yet another good deed, using his power of flight to distribute meals for the Metropolis Food Bank. He wants to distribute meals in the least number of trips possible.

Metropolis Food Bank currently stores meals in `n` packs where the `i`th pack contains `meals[i]` meals. There are also `m` empty boxes which can contain up to `capacity[i]` meals.

Given an array `meals` of length `n` and `capacity` of size `m`, write a function `minimum_boxes()` that returns the **minimum** number of boxes needed to redistribute the `n` packs of meals into boxes.

Note that meals from the same pack can be distributed into different boxes.

```
def minimum_boxes(meals, capacity):
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
meals = [1, 3, 2]
capacity = [4, 3, 1, 5, 2]
minimum_boxes(meals, capacity)

meals = [5, 5, 5]
capacity = [2, 4, 2, 7]
minimum_boxes(meals, capacity)
```

Example Output:

```
2
4
```

▼ 💡 **Hint: Sorting Lists**

This problem may benefit from knowing how to sort a list. Python provides a couple options for sorting lists and other iterables, including `sort()` and `sorted()`. Use your independent research skills or the unit cheatsheet to research how these functions work!

## Problem 5: Heist

The legendary outlaw Robin Hood is looking for the target of his next heist. Write a function `wealthiest_customer()` that accepts an `m x n` 2D integer matrix `accounts` where `accounts[i][j]` is the amount of money the `i`th customer has in the `j`th bank. Return a list `[i, w]` where `i` is the 0-based index of the wealthiest customer and `w` is the total wealth of the wealthiest customer.

If multiple customers have the highest wealth, return the index of any customer.

A customer's wealth is the amount of money they have in all their bank accounts. The richest customer is the customer that has the maximum wealth.

```
def wealthiest_customer(accounts):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
accounts = [
    [1, 2, 3],
    [3, 2, 1]
]
wealthiest_customer(accounts)

accounts = [
    [1, 5],
    [7, 3],
    [3, 5]
]
wealthiest_customer(accounts)

accounts = [
    [2, 8, 7],
    [7, 1, 3],
    [1, 9, 5]
]
wealthiest_customer(accounts)
```

Example Output:

```
[0, 6]
[1, 10]
[0, 17]
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Nested Lists

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem may benefit from an understanding of nested data, particularly nested lists. For a refresher, check out the Advanced section of the Unit 1 Cheatsheet.

Want to dive deeper? Ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you examples of how to work with nested lists in Python.

## Problem 6: Smaller Than

Write a function `smaller_than_current` that accepts a list of integers `nums` and, for each element in the list `nums[i]`, determines the number of other elements in the array that are smaller than it.

More formally, for each `nums[i]` count the number of valid `j`'s such that `j != i` and `nums[j] < nums[i]`.

Return the answer as a list.

```
def smaller_than_current(nums):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
nums = [8, 1, 2, 2, 3]  
smaller_than_current(nums)  
  
nums = [6, 5, 4, 8]  
smaller_than_current(nums)  
  
nums = [7, 7, 7, 7]  
smaller_than_current(nums)
```

Example Output:

```
[4, 0, 1, 1, 3]  
[2, 1, 0, 3]  
[0, 0, 0, 0]
```

### ▼ ✨ AI Hint: Nested Loops

*Key Skill: Use AI to explain code concepts*

This problem may benefit from an understanding of nested loops. For a refresher, check out the Advanced section of the Unit 1 Cheatsheet.

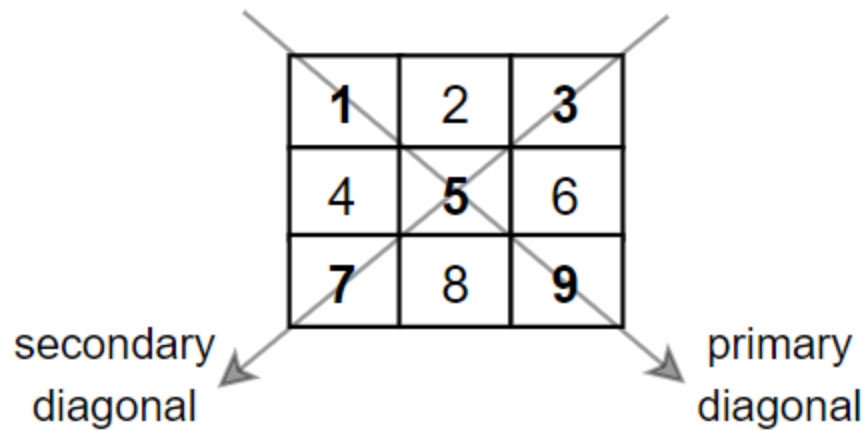
Want to dive deeper? Ask an AI tool like ChatGPT or GitHub Copilot to show you examples of how to work with nested loops in Python.

## Problem 7: Diagonal

Write a function `diagonal_sum()` that accepts a 2D `n x n` matrix `grid` and returns the sum of the matrix diagonals. Only include the sum of all the elements on the primary diagonal and all the elements in the secondary diagonal that are not part of the primary diagonal.

The primary diagonal is all cells in the matrix along a line drawn from the top-left cell in the matrix to the bottom-right cell. The secondary diagonal is all cells in the matrix along a line drawn from the top-right cell in the matrix to the bottom-left cell.

```
def diagonal_sum(grid):  
    pass
```



### Example Usage

```

grid = [
    [1, 2, 3],
    [4, 5, 6],
    [7, 8, 9]
]
diagonal_sum(grid)

grid = [
    [1, 1, 1, 1],
    [1, 1, 1, 1],
    [1, 1, 1, 1],
    [1, 1, 1, 1]
]
diagonal_sum(grid)

grid = [
    [5]
]
diagonal_sum(grid)

```

### Example Output:

```

25
8
5

```

## Problem 8: Defuse the Bomb

Batman has a bomb to defuse, and his time is running out! His butler, Alfred, is on the phone providing him with a circular array `code` of length `n` and key `k`.

To decrypt the code, Batman must replace every number. All the numbers are replaced simultaneously.

- If `k > 0`, replace the `i`th number with the sum of the next `k` numbers.
- If `k < 0`, replace the `i`th number with the sum of the previous `k` numbers.

- If `k == 0`, replace the `i`th number with 0.

As `code` is circular, the next element of `code[n-1]` is `code[0]`, and the previous element of `code[0]` is `code[n-1]`.

Given the circular array `code` and an integer key `k`, write a function `decrypt()` that returns the decrypted code to defuse the bomb!

```
def defuse(code, k):  
    pass
```

Example Usage:

```
code = [5, 7, 1, 4]  
k = 3  
defuse(code, k)  
  
code = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
k = 0  
defuse(code, k)  
  
code = [2, 4, 9, 3]  
k = -2  
defuse(code, k)
```

Example Output:

```
[12, 10, 16, 13]  
[0, 0, 0, 0]  
[12, 5, 6, 13]
```

### ▼ 💡 Remainders with Modulus Division

This problem requires you to know how to find the remainder of a division operation. We can do this with something called modulus division. If you are unfamiliar with how to do this in Python, checkout the Unit 1 cheatsheet or do your own research.

Close Section