

Stack Overflow is a community of 4.7 million programmers, just like you, helping each other.

Join them; it only takes a minute:

[Sign up](#)

Join the Stack Overflow community to:



Ask programming questions



Answer and help your peers



Get recognized for your expertise

## FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory



I am trying to open a CSV file but for some reason python cannot locate it.

Here is my code (it's just a simple code but I cannot solve the problem):

```
import csv

with open('address.csv','r') as f:
    reader = csv.reader(f)
    for row in reader:
        print row
```

python file find

edited Mar 9 '14 at 13:28



embert

2,799 ● 2 ● 14 ● 43

asked Mar 9 '14 at 13:25



user3266816

16 ● 1 ● 1 ● 2

2 Is `address.csv` in the same folder as your python (.py) code? You are using a relative path. If it's not you need to provide a full path like `C:\folder\folder\address.csv` – [CoryKramer](#) Mar 9 '14 at 13:29

if you could post the exact error, it would be easy to answer. – [ThePredator](#) Mar 9 '14 at 13:33

1 @Cyber The file is not relative to the dir containing the source code. It is relative to the working directory. By coincidence those directories may be the same, but it's important to be precise. – [David Heffeman](#) Mar 9 '14 at 13:35

### 3 Answers

You are using a relative path, which means that the program looks for the file in the working directory. The error is telling you that there is no file of that name in the working directory.

Try using the exact, or absolute, path.

edited Jun 17 '15 at 17:10



tylerswright

16 ● 9

answered Mar 9 '14 at 13:34



David Heffeman

406k ● 25 ● 546 ● 891



Did you find this question interesting? Try our newsletter

Sign up for our newsletter and get our top new questions delivered to your inbox ([see an example](#)).

Use the exact path.

```
import csv

with open('C:\path\address.csv','r') as f:
    reader = csv.reader(f)
    for row in reader:
        print row
```

answered Mar 9 '14 at 13:43



Dinesh

311 ● 1 ● 11

Are you saying that absolute paths should always be used and relative paths should not be used? – [David Heffeman](#) Mar 9 '14 at 13:57

NO. I am saying it is better to use absolute path. If the script and the input file both are in same directory then relative should work. – [Dinesh](#) Mar 10 '14 at 12:44

It is not better if you want the path to be relative. What's more, it is relative to the **working directory** and the script directory. – [David Heffeman](#) Mar 10 '14 at 12:50

When you open a file with the name `address.csv` , you are telling the `open()` function that your file is in the current working directory. This is called a relative path.

To give you an idea of what that means, add this to your code:

```
import os

cwd = os.getcwd() # Get the current working directory (cwd)
files = os.listdir(cwd) # Get all the files in that directory
print("Files in '%s': %s" % (cwd, files))
```

That will print the current working directory along with all the files in it.

Another way to tell the `open()` function where your file is located is by using an absolute path, e.g.:

```
f = open("/Users/foo/address.csv")
```

[edited Mar 9 '14 at 14:20](#)

[answered Mar 9 '14 at 13:43](#)



[tsroten](#)

721 ● 3 ● 14