*args and **kwargs in Python

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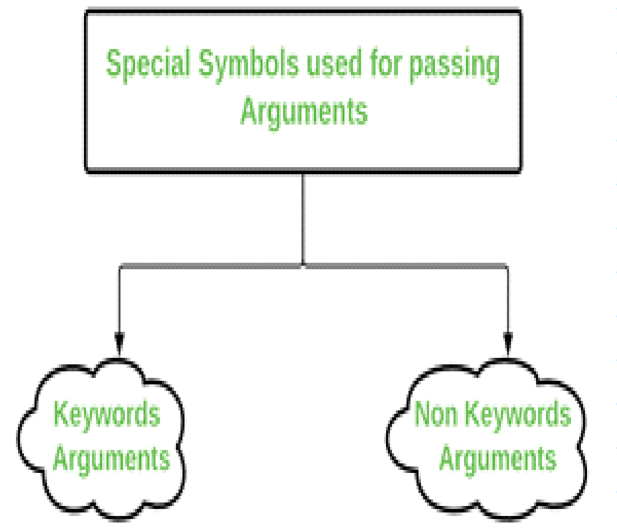
In Python, we can pass a variable number of arguments to a function using special symbols. There are two special symbols:



Special Symbols Used for passing arguments:-

1.)*args (Non-Keyword Arguments)
2.)kwargs (Keyword Arguments**)

ADVERTISING

*"We use *args and **kwargs as an argument when we have no doubt about the number of arguments we should pass in a function."*

1.) *args

The special syntax **args* in function definitions in python is used to pass a variable number of arguments to a function. It is used to pass a non-key worded, variable-length argument list.

- The syntax is to use the symbol * to take in a variable number of arguments; by convention, it is often used with the word args.
- What **args* allows you to do is take in more arguments than the number of formal arguments that you previously defined. With **args*, any number of extra arguments can be tacked on to your current formal parameters (including zero extra arguments).
- For example : we want to make a multiply function that takes any number of arguments and able to multiply them all together. It can be done using *args.
- Using the *, the variable that we associate with the * becomes an iterable meaning you can do things like iterate over it, run some higher-order functions such as map and filter, etc.

python3

```
# Python program to illustrate
# *args for variable number of arguments
def myFun(*argv):
    for arg in argv:
        print (arg)

myFun('Hello', 'Welcome', 'to', 'GeeksforGeeks')
```

Output:

```
Hello
Welcome
to
GeeksforGeeks
```

Python3

```
# Python program to illustrate
# *args with first extra argument
def myFun(arg1, *argv):
    print ("First argument :", arg1)
    for arg in argv:
        print("Next argument through *argv :", arg)

myFun('Hello', 'Welcome', 'to', 'GeeksforGeeks')
```

Output:

```
First argument : Hello
Next argument through *argv : Welcome
Next argument through *argv : to
Next argument through *argv : GeeksforGeeks
```

2.)**kwargs

The special syntax ***kwargs* in function definitions in python is used to pass a keyworded, variable-length argument list. We use the name *kwargs* with the double star. The reason is because the double star allows us to pass through keyword arguments (and any number of them).

- A keyword argument is where you provide a name to the variable as you pass it into the function.
- One can think of the *kwargs* as being a dictionary that maps each keyword to the value that we pass alongside it. That is why when we iterate over the *kwargs* there doesn't seem to be any order in which they were printed out.

Example for usage of **kwargs:

python

```
# Python program to illustrate
# *kargs for variable number of keyword arguments

def myFun(**kwargs):
    for key, value in kwargs.items():
        print ("%s == %s" %(key, value))

# Driver code
myFun(first ='Geeks', mid ='for', last='Geeks')
```

Output:

```
last == Geeks
mid == for
first == Geeks
```

```
# Python program to illustrate  **kargs for
# variable number of keyword arguments with
# one extra argument.

def myFun(arg1, **kwargs):
    for key, value in kwargs.items():
        print ("%s == %s" %(key, value))

# Driver code
myFun("Hi", first ='Geeks', mid ='for', last='Geeks')
```

Output:

```
last == Geeks
mid == for
first == Geeks
```

Using *args and **kwargs to call a function

Example:

python3

```
def myFun(arg1, arg2, arg3):
    print("arg1:", arg1)
    print("arg2:", arg2)
    print("arg3:", arg3)

# Now we can use *args or **kwargs to
# pass arguments to this function :
args = ("Geeks", "for", "Geeks")
myFun(*args)

kwargs = {"arg1" : "Geeks", "arg2" : "for", "arg3" : "Geeks"}
myFun(**kwargs)
```

Output:

```
arg1: Geeks
```

```
arg2: for
arg3: Geeks
arg1: Geeks
arg2: for
arg3: Geeks
```

Using *args and **kwargs in same line to call a function

Example:

```
def myFun(*args,**kwargs):
    print("args: ", args)
    print("kwargs: ", kwargs)


# Now we can use both *args ,**kwargs to pass arguments to this function :
myFun('geeks','for','geeks',first="Geeks",mid="for",last="Geeks")
```

Output:

```
args: ('geeks', 'for', 'geeks')
k
```