

Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Reflection Questions :

- *Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?*
 - **A:** The data being stored persistently means that any information saved with the script isn't lost. If there were no file storage for the data, it would be lost when the program is exited or crashes. Also, sometimes things other than user-saved information can be stored, such as configurations and settings, allowing things to be manipulated without altering the source code.
- *In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?*
 - **A:** Pickles are essentially compacted byte streams of data written into a binary file. Pickling is the converting in and out of this data form for access by users and developers. This process is useful in scenarios where complex Python objects need to be converted into serialized format for easy storage and reconstruction.
- *In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?*
 - **A:** The `os` module can handle any inquiry, change, or confirmation of the current or intended directory to be worked in. `os.getcwd()` will command the current working directory, and `os.chdir(new_directory)` will command will change the current working directory.
- *Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?*
 - **A:** I would make use of try-except blocks. At minimum, the script will not immediately terminate, and the location of the error can be easily identified.

- *You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.*
- **A:** My learning is going more smoothly than previous modules, due to my being able to start from scratch with the knowledge I now have of CareerFoundry processes, as well as coding pitfalls and practices in overall. I'm proud of having effectively employed various methods that were not a specific aspect of the learning exercise. In my finding how to best do certain things, I have stumbled on bits of different things that can be done. In a few cases, it made my end goal easier, or seemingly the only way. I am happy I was able to work through these mysteries without causing new major problems that would make my submissions rejected. It is bittersweet to have each exercise start over from scratch (at least, so far). I like being less cautious in trying various code structures along the way, knowing that it won't be the beginning of a snowballing problem that subsequent exercises would reveal as problems with previously employed methods; yet, a part of me misses the big epic build-up of the layers each exercise provides, to build the greater product (app).