Python Summer Course

Course 1: Python Basics & Objects

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Introduction



My first code





What is programming?

"Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages."

Wikipedia





Why Learn with Python?

- Easy to read and write; its simple syntax is close to English
- Beginner-friendly: widely used in teaching and well-documented
- Versatile: used in data science, AI, web development, automation...
- Cross-platform: runs on Windows, macOS, and Linux
- Slower performance compared to compiled languages like C/C++
- Not ideal for mobile app development or real-time systems





Setting Up Python: How It Works

Python is an interpreted language:

- You write source code in .py files
- The Python interpreter reads and executes your code line by line

To run Python code, you need:

- The **Python interpreter**
- A code editor (e.g. VS Code, Thonny, Jupyter Notebook)





What do I use?







Installation Options

Option 1: Install Python Locally (e.g. Download from python.org)

Option 2: Use Environment management (e.g. Anaconda)

Option 3: Use Python in the Browser (e.g., Google Colab)





G Google Colab

- 1. Go to colab.research.google.com
- 2. You may have to login to your Google acount
- 3. Create a new Notebook
- 4. Start programming!





notebooks in 2 mins

- Write text (Markdown) => + Text
- Write code (Python) = > + Code
- Run cells





Python as a Calculator

You can just write operation directlx into the cells

```
Python Code ⊕ Start Over

1 3 + 1
```

Your turn: try it out using + - * / % ** //





print() and input() in Python

These are basic but powerful tools for **interacting with the user**.

```
print(): Display output
```

input(): Get user input

Used to **ask the user for information**. Always returns a **string**.





Example

```
1 user_name = input("What is your name? ")
2 print("Nice to meet you,", user_name)
```



If you need a number from input (), use int () or

```
float():
```

```
1 age = int(input("Enter your age: "))
2 print("In 5 years, you'll be", age + 5)
```





Variable

A variable is a name that stores a value in your program, like a labeled box that holds data.

It lets you remember values (like numbers, text, results of calculations)

You can use or change the value later

Python creates the variable when you assign it a value





Variable: example

```
→ Start Over
Python Code
                                                                              ▶ Run Code
 1  # Assign values to variables
   name = "Alice"
   age = 30
   height = 1.65
 5
   # Use variables in expressions
    print("Name:", name)
   print("Age in 5 years:", age + 5)
   print("Height in cm:", height * 100)
10
   # Change the values
12 | name = "Bob"
13 age = age - 5
14 print ("Name: ", name)
15 print ("Age: ", age)
```





Types

A type in Python defines what kind of data a value is, and what you can do with it.

```
▶ Run Code
 1 # Integer
   age = 25
   print("Age:", age, "->", type(age))
 4
   # Float
   height = 1.75
   print("Height:", height, "->", type(height))
 8
   # String
   name = "Alice"
   print("Name:", name, "->", type(name))
12
   # Boolean
14 is_student = True
15 print("Is student:", is_student, "->", type(is_student))
                                Python Basics & Objects
```





Everything is an Object in Python

Objects have data (attributes) and behaviors (methods)

You can call methods with dot syntax: object.method()

Even simple things like numbers and strings are full objects





Everything is an Object in Python

An object is an instanciation of a class (we will see what a class is later).

```
Python Code  ○ Start Over
                                                                             ▶ Run Code
   # String is an object with methods
   text = "hello"
   print(text.upper()) # 'HELLO'
   print(text.replace("l", "x")) # 'hexxo'
 5
   # Method (function) of an object is also an object!
    func = text.upper
   print(type(func))
    # Even types are objects
   print(type(42))
   print(type("hi"))
13
   print(type(int))
```





String Manipulation in Python

Strings are sequences of characters: you can access, combine, and transform them easily.





















Concatenation and repetition

```
      Python Code
      ➡ Start Over

      1
      "Py" + "thon"
      # 'Python'

      2
      "ha" * 3
      # 'hahaha'
```

Strings are **immutable**: you can't change them directly, but you can create new ones.





Boolean Conditions in Python

Boolean conditions are used to ask questions in your code: they return either True or False.

Common comparison operators:

- == → equal
- != → not equal
- <, >, <=, >= \rightarrow less/greater than (or equal)

```
→ Start Over
 Python Code
                                                                           ▶ Run Code
1 x = 10
2 print (x > 5) # True
3 print(x == 10) # True
4 print (x != 7) # True
```





Combine conditions using:

- and: both must be True
- or: at least one must be True
- not: negates the condition





The if Statement

The if statement allows your program to **make decisions** based on conditions.

- Runs code only when the condition is True
- Can include elif (else-if) and else branches
- Python uses indentation to define the blocks

```
1 if condition:
2  # do something
3 elif other_condition:
4  # do something else
5 else:
6  # fallback
```





The if Example





The for Loop

The for loop lets you **repeat a block of code** for each item in a sequence.

- Commonly used to loop over lists, strings, or ranges
- Automatically stops when the sequence ends

```
1 for item in sequence:
2  # do something with item
```





Example: Looping over a list

A list in Python is an ordered collection of items (like numbers, strings or any objects) that can be changed, added to, or removed; written with square brackets []. (see Course 2)





Example: Looping with range ()





Example: Looping with break and

continue





The while Loop

A while loop repeats a block of code **as long as a condition** is **True**.

- Good for loops where you don't know in advance how many times to repeat
- The condition is checked before each loop

```
1 while condition:
2  # code to repeat
3  # Can use continue and break
```





Example: Counting with while

```
Python Code Start Over

1    count = 1
2    3    while count <= 3:
        print("Count is:", count)
5        count += 1
6    7    v while True:
        count -= 1
9        if count < -3:
10        break
```





Your turn!

Write a Python program that:

- 1. Greets the user using their name (input () + print ())
- 2. Asks 3 multiple-choice questions (list of questions + list of answers)
- 3. Uses if statements to check answers (use object method to make it UPPER or lower case and then compare to the right answer)





- 4. Uses a for or while loop to ask questions one by one (and input () + print ())
- 5. Keeps track of the score using a variable and if-else statements to increment the score.
- 6. Prints the final score and a custom message





More references

Python course for data analysis

The Python tutorial





Solution

Enter code

Show Solution





