

## FILE 1: `python_lexer.py` — Lexical Analysis (Tokenization)

### What it does:

Breaks Python-like code into **tokens** (the smallest building blocks, like words in English).

Example:

`x = 5 + 2` → Tokens: NAME(x), ASSIGN(=), NUMBER(5), PLUS(+), NUMBER(2)

### Main parts:

Part	Explanation
<code>import ply.lex as lex</code>	Imports the PLY lexer tool.
<code>tokens = (...)</code>	Lists all token types (keywords, operators, etc.)
<code>reserved = {...}</code>	Maps Python keywords ( <code>def</code> , <code>class</code> , etc.) to token names.
<code>t_ASSIGN = r'='</code> etc.	Defines patterns for symbols like <code>=</code> , <code>+</code> , <code>==</code> , etc.
<code>t_STRING</code>	Regex for ' <code>string</code> ' or " <code>string</code> " literals.
<code>t_NUMBER</code>	Matches integers only (123), and converts text to <code>int</code> .
<code>t_NAME</code>	Matches variable names like <code>x</code> , <code>_value</code> . If it's a keyword, marks it accordingly.
<code>t_NEWLINE</code>	Tracks new lines and updates the line number.
<code>t_ignore = ' \t'</code>	Ignores spaces and tabs (so indentation isn't handled).
<code>t_error</code>	Called if an illegal character appears (prints message & skips it).
<code>lexer = lex.lex()</code>	Builds the lexer object.
<code>if __name__ == "__main__"</code>	Test code — tokenizes a short sample input.

### Key things to mention if asked:

- **Main job:** Split code into tokens.
  - **PLY** uses regex rules to match tokens.
  - **INDENT/DEDENT** tokens are *declared* but not implemented (so no real indentation handling yet).
  - **Limitations:** only integers, no floats, no triple-quoted strings, no comments.
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## FILE 2: `python_parser.py` — *Syntax Analysis (Parsing)*

### **What it does:**

Takes the **tokens from the lexer** and checks if they follow valid Python grammar rules.

Example:

It checks if something like

```
def add(a, b):  
    return a + b
```

follows the pattern `DEF NAME (parameters) : suite.`

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### **Main parts:**

Part	Explanation
<code>import ply.yacc as yacc</code>	Imports the PLY parser tool.
<code>from python_lexer import tokens, lexer</code>	Uses the lexer from the previous file.
<code>precedence</code>	Defines order for operators like <code>+, -, *, /</code> .
Grammar functions <code>p_*</code>	Define syntax rules. Example:

	p_func_decl : DEF NAME LPAREN parameters RPAREN COLON suite
p_statements	Allows multiple or single statements.
p_statement	Recognizes valid statements (assignment, class, func, return, pass).
p_lambda_expr	Recognizes <code>lambda</code> expressions.
p_list_comprehension	Recognizes <code>[x for x in ... if ...]</code> .
p_class_decl, p_func_decl	Recognize class and function declarations.
p_dict_method_call	Recognizes object method calls like <code>a.get(...)</code> .
p_suite	Simplified — only one statement after <code>:</code> . (No indentation logic.)
p_error(p)	Handles syntax errors and prints the line number.
validate_syntax(code)	Main function called by <code>validator.py</code> — returns "Valid Syntax" or "Syntax Error".

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### 💬 Key things to remember:

- **PLY yacc** uses grammar rules (`p_*` functions) to check valid syntax.
  - The parser **does not build a full AST**, just validates structure.
  - The grammar supports a **limited subset of Python**:
    - `def, class, lambda, list comprehension`, assignments, expressions.
  - **No indentation parsing**, so multi-line functions/classes only work superficially.
  - Returns "Valid Syntax" or "Syntax Error".
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### ⚠ Common questions & answers:

**Q:** What happens if you write invalid code?

**A:** `p_error()` catches it, prints the message, and sets `syntax_error_occurred = True`.

**Q:** Why add a newline at the end of the code in `validate_syntax`?

**A:** Some grammar rules expect a newline to mark the end of a statement, so it ensures the parser doesn't stop early.

**Q:** Why is indentation ignored?

**A:** Because lexer ignores spaces/tabs and INDENT/DEDENT rules are not implemented.

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## FILE 3: `validator.py` — *Test & Interactive Checker*



### What it does:

Uses the `validate_syntax()` function from `python_parser.py` to:

1. Test multiple code examples automatically.
  2. Let the user type code to check syntax interactively.
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### Main parts:

Part	Explanation
<code>from python_parser import validate_syntax</code>	Imports the syntax checker.
<code>test_cases = [...]</code>	Predefined valid/invalid code snippets to test.
<code>run_tests()</code>	Runs all test cases, prints pass/fail results.
<code>interactive_validation()</code>	Lets user type one line of code and tells if syntax is valid.
<code>if __name__ == "__main__":</code>	Runs tests first, then starts interactive mode.

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### Key points:

- The tests check **lambda**, **list comprehension**, **class**, **function**, and **dictionary method** syntax.
  - Example valid: `my_func = lambda a, b: a + b`
  - Example invalid: `lambda a, b a + b` (missing :)
  - Interactive mode warns: “*single line only*” because no proper indentation support for multi-line blocks.
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## HOW THE 3 FILES WORK TOGETHER

Step	File	Role
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1	<code>python_lexer.py</code>	Breaks input into tokens.
2	<code>python_parser.py</code>	Checks if token sequence follows correct syntax.
3	<code>validator.py</code>	Tests or interacts with user to validate code.

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## Common Teacher Questions + Answers

Question	Answer
<b>1. What is the purpose of the lexer?</b>	To convert source code into tokens using regex patterns.
<b>2. What does the parser do?</b>	Checks if tokens follow grammar rules (syntax validation).
<b>3. What tool is used here?</b>	<b>PLY (Python Lex-Yacc).</b>
<b>4. What happens on invalid syntax?</b>	The parser calls <code>p_error</code> , sets a flag, and <code>validate_syntax</code> returns "Syntax Error".

<b>5. What are tokens like <code>NAME</code>, <code>NUMBER</code>, <code>STRING</code>?</b>	Categories of words the lexer recognizes.
<b>6. Why declare <code>INDENT/DEDENT</code> tokens?</b>	To plan for indentation handling like Python — but not implemented yet.
<b>7. What's a lambda expression?</b>	A short anonymous function, e.g. <code>lambda x: x+1</code> .
<b>8. What's a list comprehension?</b>	A compact way to build lists, e.g. <code>[x for x in range(5)]</code> .
<b>9. What's the biggest limitation?</b>	No indentation (multi-line) or advanced syntax support (imports, booleans, etc.).
<b>10. What does <code>validate_syntax("code")</code> return?</b>	"Valid Syntax" or "Syntax Error".

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## Quick Revision Summary

python\_lexer.py → tokenizes the code  
 python\_parser.py → checks grammar validity  
 validator.py → runs tests & interactive checker

- Lexer uses regex to detect keywords, numbers, strings, etc.
- Parser defines grammar with functions `p_*`.
- Together, they can validate small Python-like code structures.
- Main missing feature: indentation handling (INDENT/DEDENT).