

# Lecture 2-1

## Basic Data Types and Variables

Week 2 Monday

Miles Chen, PhD

Adapted from *Think Python* by Allen B. Downey and *A Whirlwind Tour of Python* by Jake VanderPlas

# Values and Types

There are different types of data in **base Python**. Other important data types also exist, but only after loading libraries like NumPy and Pandas. We will first begin with those in base.

The most commonly used ones will be:

- `str` - strings: for text data
- `int` - integers
- `float` - floats for numbers with decimal values
- `bool` - boolean: True or False
- `NoneType` - The reserved name and value `None` is used to indicate Null values

Python has important data structures that we will cover later, including:

- sequences: `list` `tuple` and `range`
- mappings: `dict`
- sets: `set`
- binary: `bytes`

```
In [1]: type("2")
```

```
Out[1]: str
```

```
In [1]: type("2")
```

```
Out[1]: str
```

```
In [2]: type(2)
```

```
Out[2]: int
```

```
In [1]: type("2")
```

```
Out[1]: str
```

```
In [2]: type(2)
```

```
Out[2]: int
```

```
In [3]: type(2.0)
```

```
Out[3]: float
```

```
In [1]: type("2")
```

```
Out[1]: str
```

```
In [2]: type(2)
```

```
Out[2]: int
```

```
In [3]: type(2.0)
```

```
Out[3]: float
```

```
In [4]: type(True)
```

```
Out[4]: bool
```

```
In [1]: type("2")
```

```
Out[1]: str
```

```
In [2]: type(2)
```

```
Out[2]: int
```

```
In [3]: type(2.0)
```

```
Out[3]: float
```

```
In [4]: type(True)
```

```
Out[4]: bool
```

```
In [5]: type(None)
```

```
Out[5]: NoneType
```

# Math operations in Python

Base Python has only a few math operations

- `x + y` sum of x and y.
- `x * y` multiplication of x and y.
- `x - y` difference of x and y.
- `x / y` division of x by y.
- `x // y` integer floor division of x by y.
- `x % y` integer remainder of `x//y`
- `x ** y` x to the power of y
- `abs(x)` absolute value of x



Adding integers together results in an integer

Adding integers together results in an integer

In [6]:

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'int'>  
<class 'int'>
```

Adding integers together results in an integer

In [6]:

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'int'>  
<class 'int'>
```

In [7]:

```
z = x + y  
type(z)
```

Out[7]: int

Adding integers together results in an integer

In [6]:

```
x = 10  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'int'>  
<class 'int'>
```

In [7]:

```
z = x + y  
type(z)
```

Out[7]: int

In [8]:

```
z
```

Out[8]: 15

Multiplying integers together results in an integer.

Multiplying integers together results in an integer.

In [9]:

```
x = 10  
y = 5
```

Multiplying integers together results in an integer.

```
In [9]: x = 10  
        y = 5
```

```
In [10]: z = x * y  
         type(z)
```

```
Out[10]: int
```

Multiplying integers together results in an integer.

```
In [9]: x = 10  
        y = 5
```

```
In [10]: z = x * y  
         type(z)
```

```
Out[10]: int
```

```
In [11]: z
```

```
Out[11]: 50
```



Division always results in float

Division always results in float

In [12]:

```
x = 10  
y = 5
```

Division always results in float

```
In [12]: x = 10  
         y = 5
```

```
In [13]: z = x / y  
         type(z)
```

```
Out[13]: float
```

Floats are always displayed with a decimal point even if it is a whole number.

Division always results in float

```
In [12]: x = 10  
         y = 5
```

```
In [13]: z = x / y  
         type(z)
```

```
Out[13]: float
```

Floats are always displayed with a decimal point even if it is a whole number.

```
In [14]: z
```

```
Out[14]: 2.0
```

The sum or product of integer with a float results in float

The sum or product of integer with a float results in float

In [15]:

```
x = 10.0  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'float'>  
<class 'int'>
```

The sum or product of integer with a float results in float

In [15]:

```
x = 10.0  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'float'>  
<class 'int'>
```

In [16]:

```
x + y
```

Out[16]: 15.0

The sum or product of integer with a float results in float

In [15]:

```
x = 10.0  
y = 5  
print(type(x))  
print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'float'>  
<class 'int'>
```

In [16]:

```
x + y
```

Out[16]: 15.0

In [17]:

```
x * y
```

Out[17]: 50.0



# Floating Point Type

A floating point number uses 64 bits to represent decimal values. It can represent many values but only a finite number of distinct values.

A floating point number is capable of approximately 16 places of precision.

It has a maximum value of `1.7976931348623157e+308` which is `sys.float_info.max` (a little less than  $2^{1024}$ )

# Floating Point Type

A floating point number uses 64 bits to represent decimal values. It can represent many values but only a finite number of distinct values.

A floating point number is capable of approximately 16 places of precision.

It has a maximum value of `1.7976931348623157e+308` which is `sys.float_info.max` (a little less than  $2^{1024}$ )

```
In [18]: 2.0 ** 1023
```

```
Out[18]: 8.98846567431158e+307
```

# Floating Point Type

A floating point number uses 64 bits to represent decimal values. It can represent many values but only a finite number of distinct values.

A floating point number is capable of approximately 16 places of precision.

It has a maximum value of `1.7976931348623157e+308` which is `sys.float_info.max` (a little less than  $2^{1024}$ )

```
In [18]: 2.0 ** 1023
```

```
Out[18]: 8.98846567431158e+307
```

```
In [19]: 2.0 ** 1023 + 2.0 ** 1022 + 2.0 ** 1021
```

```
Out[19]: 1.5729814930045264e+308
```

# Floating Point Type

A floating point number uses 64 bits to represent decimal values. It can represent many values but only a finite number of distinct values.

A floating point number is capable of approximately 16 places of precision.

It has a maximum value of `1.7976931348623157e+308` which is `sys.float_info.max` (a little less than  $2^{1024}$ )

```
In [18]: 2.0 ** 1023
```

```
Out[18]: 8.98846567431158e+307
```

```
In [19]: 2.0 ** 1023 + 2.0 ** 1022 + 2.0 ** 1021
```

```
Out[19]: 1.5729814930045264e+308
```

```
In [20]: 2.0 ** 1024 # this is too big to be represented with 64 bits in double floating point
```

```
-----  
OverflowError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-20-2363cf52228b> in <module>  
----> 1 2.0 ** 1024 # this is too big to be represented with 64 bits in double fl  
oating point  
  
OverflowError: (34, 'Result too large')
```

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

In [21]:

```
a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

In [21]:

```
a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

In [22]:

```
b = (1/10 + 2/10)
```

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

```
In [21]: a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

```
In [22]: b = (1/10 + 2/10)
```

```
In [23]: a == b # with real numbers, we expect these to be equal
```

```
Out[23]: False
```



Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

```
In [21]: a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

```
In [22]: b = (1/10 + 2/10)
```

```
In [23]: a == b # with real numbers, we expect these to be equal
```

```
Out[23]: False
```

```
In [24]: print("%0.20f" % a) # format to print 20 places after decimal
```

```
0.29999999999999998890
```

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

```
In [21]: a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

```
In [22]: b = (1/10 + 2/10)
```

```
In [23]: a == b # with real numbers, we expect these to be equal
```

```
Out[23]: False
```

```
In [24]: print("%0.20f" % a) # format to print 20 places after decimal
```

```
0.29999999999999998890
```

```
In [25]: print("%0.20f" % b)
```

```
0.30000000000000000441
```

To check if two numbers are approximately equal, you can use `isclose()` in the `math` library.

Side effect: Floating point numbers do not work the same way real numbers do.

```
In [21]: a = (1 + 2) / 10
```

```
In [22]: b = (1/10 + 2/10)
```

```
In [23]: a == b # with real numbers, we expect these to be equal
```

```
Out[23]: False
```

```
In [24]: print("%0.20f" % a) # format to print 20 places after decimal
```

```
0.29999999999999998890
```

```
In [25]: print("%0.20f" % b)
```

```
0.30000000000000000441
```

To check if two numbers are approximately equal, you can use `isclose()` in the `math` library.

```
In [26]: import math
          math.isclose(a, b)
```

```
Out[26]: True
```

# Integer type

Integers in Python use variable amounts of memory and can show very large numbers with great precision.

# Integer type

Integers in Python use variable amounts of memory and can show very large numbers with great precision.

```
In [27]: 2 ** 1023
```

```
Out[27]: 898846567431157953864652595394512366808988489471153286367150405788663379027504815  
663542386612037680105600569399356966788293948844072083112464237153197370621888839  
467124327426381511098006230470597265414760425028844190753411712314407369565552704  
13618581675255342293149119973622969239858152417678164812112068608
```

# Integer type

Integers in Python use variable amounts of memory and can show very large numbers with great precision.

In [27]: `2 ** 1023`

Out[27]: 898846567431157953864652595394512366808988489471153286367150405788663379027504815  
663542386612037680105600569399356966788293948844072083112464237153197370621888839  
467124327426381511098006230470597265414760425028844190753411712314407369565552704  
13618581675255342293149119973622969239858152417678164812112068608

In [28]: `2 ** 1024`

Out[28]: 179769313486231590772930519078902473361797697894230657273430081157732675805500963  
132708477322407536021120113879871393357658789768814416622492847430639474124377767  
893424865485276302219601246094119453082952085005768838150682342462881473913110540  
827237163350510684586298239947245938479716304835356329624224137216

# Integer type

Integers in Python use variable amounts of memory and can show very large numbers with great precision.

In [27]: `2 ** 1023`

Out[27]: 898846567431157953864652595394512366808988489471153286367150405788663379027504815  
663542386612037680105600569399356966788293948844072083112464237153197370621888839  
467124327426381511098006230470597265414760425028844190753411712314407369565552704  
13618581675255342293149119973622969239858152417678164812112068608

In [28]: `2 ** 1024`

Out[28]: 179769313486231590772930519078902473361797697894230657273430081157732675805500963  
132708477322407536021120113879871393357658789768814416622492847430639474124377767  
893424865485276302219601246094119453082952085005768838150682342462881473913110540  
827237163350510684586298239947245938479716304835356329624224137216

In [29]: `2 ** 1025`

Out[29]: 359538626972463181545861038157804946723595395788461314546860162315465351611001926  
265416954644815072042240227759742786715317579537628833244985694861278948248755535  
786849730970552604439202492188238906165904170011537676301364684925762947826221081  
654474326701021369172596479894491876959432609670712659248448274432

# Exponentiation



## Exponentiation

In [30]: `9 ** 2` # power operator. Can result in float or int depending on input.

Out[30]: 81

## Exponentiation

```
In [30]: 9 ** 2 # power operator. Can result in float or int depending on input.
```

```
Out[30]: 81
```

There is no square root function in base Python

# Exponentiation

```
In [30]: 9 ** 2 # power operator. Can result in float or int depending on input.
```

```
Out[30]: 81
```

There is no square root function in base Python

```
In [31]: sqrt(9)
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-31-840f67a85afc> in <module>  
----> 1 sqrt(9)  
  
NameError: name 'sqrt' is not defined
```

# Exponentiation

```
In [30]: 9 ** 2 # power operator. Can result in float or int depending on input.
```

Out[30]: 81

There is no square root function in base Python

```
In [31]: sqrt(9)
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-31-840f67a85afc> in <module>  
----> 1 sqrt(9)  
  
NameError: name 'sqrt' is not defined
```

```
In [32]: 9 ** 0.5 # could work as an alternative to sqrt function.
```

Out[32]: 3.0

Mathematical constants and many math functions are not defined in base Python. To gain access to common mathematical constants and functions, you must load the `math` library.

Mathematical constants and many math functions are not defined in base Python. To gain access to common mathematical constants and functions, you must load the `math` library.

In [33]:

```
pi
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-33-f84ab820532c> in <module>  
----> 1 pi  
  
NameError: name 'pi' is not defined
```

Mathematical constants and many math functions are not defined in base Python. To gain access to common mathematical constants and functions, you must load the `math` library.

In [33]:

```
pi
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-33-f84ab820532c> in <module>  
----> 1 pi  
  
NameError: name 'pi' is not defined
```

In [34]:

```
exp(2)
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-34-840a487878a2> in <module>  
----> 1 exp(2)  
  
NameError: name 'exp' is not defined
```

Mathematical constants and many math functions are not defined in base Python. To gain access to common mathematical constants and functions, you must load the `math` library.

In [33]:

```
pi
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-33-f84ab820532c> in <module>  
----> 1 pi  
  
NameError: name 'pi' is not defined
```

In [34]:

```
exp(2)
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-34-840a487878a2> in <module>  
----> 1 exp(2)  
  
NameError: name 'exp' is not defined
```

In [35]:

```
sin(0)
```

```
-----  
NameError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-35-afbcc558f753> in <module>  
----> 1 sin(0)  
  
NameError: name 'sin' is not defined
```



## the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

## the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

In [36]: `import math`

# the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

```
In [36]: import math
```

```
In [37]: math.sqrt(9)
```

```
Out[37]: 3.0
```

# the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

```
In [36]: import math
```

```
In [37]: math.sqrt(9)
```

```
Out[37]: 3.0
```

```
In [38]: math.pi
```

```
Out[38]: 3.141592653589793
```

# the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

```
In [36]: import math
```

```
In [37]: math.sqrt(9)
```

```
Out[37]: 3.0
```

```
In [38]: math.pi
```

```
Out[38]: 3.141592653589793
```

```
In [39]: math.exp(2)
```

```
Out[39]: 7.38905609893065
```

# the `math` module

to do math, you must import the `math` module. The `numpy` module will also have a lot of math operations

```
In [36]: import math
```

```
In [37]: math.sqrt(9)
```

```
Out[37]: 3.0
```

```
In [38]: math.pi
```

```
Out[38]: 3.141592653589793
```

```
In [39]: math.exp(2)
```

```
Out[39]: 7.38905609893065
```

```
In [40]: math.sin(math.pi / 2) # the math.sin function uses radians
```

```
Out[40]: 1.0
```

# Boolean Type

Booleans are used to express True or False

```
In [41]: type(True)
```

```
Out[41]: bool
```

# Boolean Type

Booleans are used to express True or False

```
In [41]: type(True)
```

```
Out[41]: bool
```

```
In [42]: type("True")
```

```
Out[42]: str
```

There is only one accepted spelling of `True` and `False`. All other spellings will not be the same as the boolean value.



# Boolean Type

Booleans are used to express True or False

```
In [41]: type(True)
```

```
Out[41]: bool
```

```
In [42]: type("True")
```

```
Out[42]: str
```

There is only one accepted spelling of `True` and `False`. All other spellings will not be the same as the boolean value.

```
In [43]: type(TRUE) # TRUE or T or t or true
```

**NameError**

Traceback (most recent call last)

<ipython-input-43-bba5a99ac7f8> in <module>

----> 1 type(TRUE) # TRUE or T or t or true

**NameError**: name 'TRUE' is not defined

# String Type

Strings in Python are created with single or double quotes

# String Type

Strings in Python are created with single or double quotes

```
In [44]: message1 = "Hello! How are you?"  
         message2 = 'fine'
```

A few string functions. We'll cover strings more thoroughly in a later lecture

# String Type

Strings in Python are created with single or double quotes

```
In [44]: message1 = "Hello! How are you?"  
         message2 = 'fine'
```

A few string functions. We'll cover strings more thoroughly in a later lecture

```
In [45]: len(message1) # number of characters
```

```
Out[45]: 19
```

# String Type

Strings in Python are created with single or double quotes

```
In [44]: message1 = "Hello! How are you?"  
         message2 = 'fine'
```

A few string functions. We'll cover strings more thoroughly in a later lecture

```
In [45]: len(message1) # number of characters
```

```
Out[45]: 19
```

```
In [46]: 4 * message2 # "multiplication" with strings
```

```
Out[46]: 'finefinefinefine'
```

# Variables and Assignment

An assignment statement assigns a value to a variable name. It is done with a single equal sign. `=`

The name **must** be on the left-hand side of the equal sign.

The value being assigned must be on the right-hand side of the equal sign.

When an assignment operation takes place, Python will not output anything to the screen.

# Variables and Assignment

An assignment statement assigns a value to a variable name. It is done with a single equal sign. `=`

The name **must** be on the left-hand side of the equal sign.

The value being assigned must be on the right-hand side of the equal sign.

When an assignment operation takes place, Python will not output anything to the screen.

In [47]:

```
n = 5
```

# Variables and Assignment

An assignment statement assigns a value to a variable name. It is done with a single equal sign. `=`

The name **must** be on the left-hand side of the equal sign.

The value being assigned must be on the right-hand side of the equal sign.

When an assignment operation takes place, Python will not output anything to the screen.

In [47]:

```
n = 5
```

In [48]:

```
print(n)
```

5



# Python Variables are Pointers

Contrast Python to other languages like C or Java. In those languages, when you define a variable, you define a container or 'bucket' that stores a certain kind of data.

```
// C code  
int x = 4;
```

The above line defines a 'bucket' in memory intended for integers called `x` and we are placing the value 4 in it.

In Python, when we write

In [49]:

```
x = 4
```

We are defining a *pointer* called `x` that points to a bucket that contains the value 4. With Python, there is no need to "declare" variables.

In Python, we are allowed to have the variable point to a new object of a completely different type. Python is *dynamically-typed*.

We can do the following with no problems:

In [50]:

```
x = 1          # x points to an integer  
x = "hello"    # x points to a string  
x = [1, 2, 3]  # x points to a list
```

# Variable Names

You can choose almost anything to be a variable name.

A few rules:

- names can have letters, numbers, and underscore characters `_`
- must not start with a number
- no symbols other than underscore
- no spaces
- cannot be a Python keyword

# Python Keywords

False	await	else	import	pass
None	break	except	in	raise
True	class	finally	is	return
and	continue	for	lambda	try
as	def	from	nonlocal	while
assert	del	global	not	with
async	elif	if	or	yield

# The Art of Naming Variables

As you program, do your best to think of good variable names. This is surprisingly hard to do.

The goal is being able to read your program and understand what the variable is without having to go back to the assignment statement to remember.

Some principles (taken from: <https://geo-python.github.io/site/notebooks/L1/gcp-1-variable-naming.html>)

- Be clear and concise.
- Be written in English.
- Not contain special characters. It is possible to use lämpötila as a variable name, but it is better to stick to ASCII (US keyboard) characters.

Examples of variable names that are not good

## Examples of variable names that are not good

```
In [51]: s = "101533"
```

## Examples of variable names that are not good

```
In [51]: s = "101533"
```

```
In [52]: sid = "101533"
```

## Examples of variable names that are not good

```
In [51]: s = "101533"
```

```
In [52]: sid = "101533"
```

The above names have the problem that we have no idea what they represent.



## Examples of variable names that are not good

```
In [51]: s = "101533"
```

```
In [52]: sid = "101533"
```

The above names have the problem that we have no idea what they represent.

```
In [53]: finnishmeteorologicalinstituteobservationstationidentificationnumber = "101533"
```

## Examples of variable names that are not good

```
In [51]: s = "101533"
```

```
In [52]: sid = "101533"
```

The above names have the problem that we have no idea what they represent.

```
In [53]: finnishmeteorologicalinstituteobservationstationidentificationnumber = "101533"
```

This has the problem that it is too long and difficult to read

# Examples of variable names that are better

Naming conventions:

- `snake_case` or `pothole_case` uses underscores between words
- `lowerCamelCase` or `UpperCamelCase` uses capital letters to signify new words.  
lower camel case starts with a lowercase letter, and upper camel case starts with an upper case letter

# Examples of variable names that are better

Naming conventions:

- `snake_case` or `pothole_case` uses underscores between words
- `lowerCamelCase` or `UpperCamelCase` uses capital letters to signify new words.  
lower camel case starts with a lowercase letter, and upper camel case starts with an upper case letter

In [54]: `fmi_station_id = "101533"`

# Examples of variable names that are better

Naming conventions:

- `snake_case` or `pothole_case` uses underscores between words
- `lowerCamelCase` or `UpperCamelCase` uses capital letters to signify new words.  
lower camel case starts with a lowercase letter, and upper camel case starts with an upper case letter

```
In [54]: fmi_station_id = "101533"
```

```
In [55]: fmiStationID = "101533"
```

## Other Naming considerations:

Taken from: <https://hackernoon.com/the-art-of-naming-variables-52f44de00aad>

- It is helpful if the name of a list or array is **plural**.
- If the variable contains string values including `Names` as part of the variable name can be helpful.

## Other Naming considerations:

Taken from: <https://hackernoon.com/the-art-of-naming-variables-52f44de00aad>

- It is helpful if the name of a list or array is **plural**.
- If the variable contains string values including `Names` as part of the variable name can be helpful.

In [56]:

```
# not great  
fruit = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```

## Other Naming considerations:

Taken from: <https://hackernoon.com/the-art-of-naming-variables-52f44de00aad>

- It is helpful if the name of a list or array is **plural**.
- If the variable contains string values including `Names` as part of the variable name can be helpful.

```
In [56]: # not great  
fruit = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```

```
In [57]: # good  
fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```



## Other Naming considerations:

Taken from: <https://hackernoon.com/the-art-of-naming-variables-52f44de00aad>

- It is helpful if the name of a list or array is **plural**.
- If the variable contains string values including `Names` as part of the variable name can be helpful.

In [56]:

```
# not great  
fruit = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```

In [57]:

```
# good  
fruits = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```

In [58]:

```
# even better as Names implies the usage of strings  
fruitNames = ['apple', 'banana', 'orange']
```

## Boolean values

Variables containing boolean values are best when they are in the form of a question that can be answered with a yes or no.

# Boolean values

Variables containing boolean values are best when they are in the form of a question that can be answered with a yes or no.

In [59]:

```
# not great  
selected = True  
write = True  
fruit = True
```

# Boolean values

Variables containing boolean values are best when they are in the form of a question that can be answered with a yes or no.

In [59]:

```
# not great  
selected = True  
write = True  
fruit = True
```

In [60]:

```
# good  
isSelected = True  
canWrite = True  
hasFruit = True
```

## Numeric values

If it makes sense, adding a describing word to the numeric variable can be useful

# Numeric values

If it makes sense, adding a describing word to the numeric variable can be useful

```
In [61]: # not great  
rows = 3
```

# Numeric values

If it makes sense, adding a describing word to the numeric variable can be useful

```
In [61]: # not great  
rows = 3
```

```
In [62]: # better  
minRows = 1  
maxRows = 50  
totalRows = 3  
currentRow = 7
```

## Function Names

- functions that modify an object should be named with an **action verb**.
- functions that do not modify an object but return a modified version of the object should be named with a **passive form of a verb**.

For example, a function that will take a list, and modify it by sorting it should be called `sort()`

On the other hand, a function that takes the list, and does not modify the list itself, but simply shows a sorted version of the list can be called `sorted()`



# Learn Python by studying Python

The language Python uses many of these best practices for naming functions. You can learn by simply paying attention to how things are written in Python.

# Learn Python by studying Python

The language Python uses many of these best practices for naming functions. You can learn by simply paying attention to how things are written in Python.

In [63]:

```
carBrandNames = ['Ford', 'BMW', 'Volvo', 'Toyota']  
carBrandNames.sort() # sorts and modifies the list itself  
carBrandNames
```

Out[63]: ['BMW', 'Ford', 'Toyota', 'Volvo']

# Learn Python by studying Python

The language Python uses many of these best practices for naming functions. You can learn by simply paying attention to how things are written in Python.

```
In [63]: carBrandNames = ['Ford', 'BMW', 'Volvo', 'Toyota']  
         carBrandNames.sort() # sorts and modifies the list itself  
         carBrandNames
```

```
Out[63]: ['BMW', 'Ford', 'Toyota', 'Volvo']
```

```
In [64]: carBrandNames = ['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']  
         sorted(carBrandNames) # returns the sorted list, but does not modify the list
```

```
Out[64]: ['Audi', 'Chevrolet', 'Honda']
```

# Learn Python by studying Python

The language Python uses many of these best practices for naming functions. You can learn by simply paying attention to how things are written in Python.

```
In [63]: carBrandNames = ['Ford', 'BMW', 'Volvo', 'Toyota']  
carBrandNames.sort() # sorts and modifies the list itself  
carBrandNames
```

```
Out[63]: ['BMW', 'Ford', 'Toyota', 'Volvo']
```

```
In [64]: carBrandNames = ['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']  
sorted(carBrandNames) # returns the sorted list, but does not modify the list
```

```
Out[64]: ['Audi', 'Chevrolet', 'Honda']
```

```
In [65]: carBrandNames # we see the list is unmodified
```

```
Out[65]: ['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']
```

In [66]: `carBrandNames`

Out[66]: `['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']`

```
In [66]: carBrandNames
```

```
Out[66]: ['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']
```

```
In [67]: carBrandNames.sorted() # this attribute does not exist
```

```
-----  
AttributeError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-67-056fced67b59> in <module>  
----> 1 carBrandNames.sorted() # this attribute does not exist  
  
AttributeError: 'list' object has no attribute 'sorted'
```

```
In [66]: carBrandNames
```

```
Out[66]: ['Chevrolet', 'Audi', 'Honda']
```

```
In [67]: carBrandNames.sorted() # this attribute does not exist
```

```
-----  
AttributeError                                Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-67-056fcd67b59> in <module>  
----> 1 carBrandNames.sorted() # this attribute does not exist  
  
AttributeError: 'list' object has no attribute 'sorted'
```

```
In [68]: sort(carBrandNames) # this function does not exist
```

```
-----  
NameError                                    Traceback (most recent call last)  
<ipython-input-68-eea2fd9c8910> in <module>  
----> 1 sort(carBrandNames) # this function does not exist  
  
NameError: name 'sort' is not defined
```