

# Python object.\_\_repr\_\_(self) should be an expression?

[Alex McBride](#) 5,25632429

I was looking at the **builtin object methods** in the [Python documentation](#), and I was interested in the documentation for `object.__repr__(self)`. Here's what it says:

Called by the **repr()** built-in function and by **string conversions** 字符转换 (reverse quotes) to compute the “official” string representation of an object. If at all possible, this should look like a **valid Python expression** that could be used to **recreate an object with the same value** (given an appropriate environment). If this is not possible, a string of the form <...some useful description...> should be returned. The return value must be a **string object**. If a class defines **repr()** but not **str()**, then **repr()** is also used when an “informal” string representation of instances of that class is required.

This is typically used for debugging, so it is important that the representation is **information-rich and unambiguous** 信息丰富的和不含糊的

The most interesting part to me, was...

If at all possible, this should look like a valid Python expression that could be used to recreate an object with the same value

... but I'm not sure exactly what this means. It says it should *look* like an expression which can be used to recreate the object, but does that mean it should just be an example of the sort of expression you could use, or should it be an actual expression, that can be executed (eval etc..) to recreate the object? Or... should it be just a rehearsing of the actual expression which was used, for pure information purposes?

In general I'm a bit confused as to exactly what I should be putting here.

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