

## Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

### Learning Goals

- Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

### Reflection Questions

1. Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?

Data has to be stored locally if you're using Python otherwise, as soon as your shell is closed, data is lost. By keeping it stored locally, work can be continued and recalled as often as needed.

2. 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?

The pickling process allows the usage and storage of pickles –bytes stored as binary data. This allows large and complex information to be stored cleanly and securely while still being able to be read and accessed.

3. 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?

To learn your current directory, you would use an `os.getcwd()` function. In order to change your working directory, you'd use an `os.chdir()` function.

4. 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?

To avoid the entire script terminating, I would use try-except blocks to weed out the potentially problematic paths.

5. 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.

So far it's going well, I think. I'm finding Python fairly easy to use and it seems to be a bit easier for me to understand exactly how it's working. As with anything, I think repetition and really working with it all helps with the overall comprehension. I also have found, during my time with CareerFoundry, that the more roadblocks I hit and have to overcome, the more I end up understanding in the end. The bug-hunting with Python is pretty straightforward which is nice.