

Session- 4

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Agenda

- Iterative statements - Loops
- Break, Continue, Pass statements

Python Loops

Python has two primitive loop commands:

- `while` loops
- `for` loops

The while Loop

With the `while` loop we can execute a set of statements as long as a condition is true.

Example

Print i as long as i is less than 6:

```
i = 1
while i < 6:
    print(i)
    i += 1
```

Note: remember to increment i, or else the loop will continue forever.

The `while` loop requires relevant variables to be ready, in this example we need to define an indexing variable, `i`, which we set to 1.

The break Statement

With the `break` statement we can stop the loop even if the while condition is true:

Example

Exit the loop when i is 3:

```
i = 1
while i < 6:
    print(i)
    if i == 3:
        break
    i += 1
```

The continue Statement

With the `continue` statement we can stop the current iteration, and continue with the next:

Example

Continue to the next iteration if i is 3:

```
i = 0
```

```
while i < 6:  
    i += 1  
    if i == 3:  
        continue  
    print(i)
```

The else Statement

With the `else` statement we can run a block of code once when the condition no longer is true:

Example

Print a message once the condition is false:

```
i = 1  
while i < 6:  
    print(i)  
    i += 1  
else:  
    print("i is no longer less than 6")
```

Python For Loops

A `for` loop is used for iterating over a sequence (that is either a list, a tuple, a dictionary, a set, or a string).

This is less like the `for` keyword in other programming languages, and works more like an iterator method as found in other object-orientated programming languages.

With the `for` loop we can execute a set of statements, once for each item in a list, tuple, set etc.

Example

Print each fruit in a fruit list:

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
for x in fruits:  
    print(x)
```

The `for` loop does not require an indexing variable to set beforehand.

Looping Through a String

Even strings are iterable objects, they contain a sequence of characters:

Example

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

```
for x in "banana":  
    print(x)
```

The break Statement

With the `break` statement we can stop the loop before it has looped through all the items:

Example

Exit the loop when `x` is "banana":

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
  
for x in fruits:  
    print(x)  
    if x == "banana":  
        break
```

Exit the loop when `x` is "banana", but this time the break comes before the print:

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
  
for x in fruits:  
    if x == "banana":  
        break  
    print(x)
```

The continue Statement

With the `continue` statement we can stop the current iteration of the loop, and continue with the next:

Example

Do not print banana:

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
  
for x in fruits:  
    if x == "banana":  
        continue  
    print(x)
```

The range() Function

To loop through a set of code a specified number of times, we can use the `range()` function,

The `range()` function returns a sequence of numbers, starting from 0 by default, and increments by 1 (by default), and ends at a specified number.

Example

Using the `range()` function:

```
for x in range(6):  
    print(x)
```

Note that `range(6)` is not the values of 0 to 6, but the values 0 to 5.

The `range()` function defaults to 0 as a starting value, however it is possible to specify the starting value by adding a parameter: `range(2, 6)`, which means values from 2 to 6 (but not including 6):

Example

Using the start parameter:

```
for x in range(2, 6):  
    print(x)
```

The `range()` function defaults to increment the sequence by 1, however it is possible to specify the increment value by adding a third parameter: `range(2, 30, 3)`:

Example

Increment the sequence with 3 (default is 1):

```
for x in range(2, 30, 3):  
    print(x)
```

Else in For Loop

The `else` keyword in a `for` loop specifies a block of code to be executed when the loop is finished:

Example

Print all numbers from 0 to 5, and print a message when the loop has ended:

```
for x in range(6):  
    print(x)  
else:  
    print("Finally finished!")
```

Note: The `else` block will NOT be executed if the loop is stopped by a `break` statement.

Example

Break the loop when `x` is 3, and see what happens with the `else` block:

```
for x in range(6):  
    if x == 3: break  
    print(x)  
else:  
    print("Finally finished!")
```

Nested Loops

A nested loop is a loop inside a loop.

The "inner loop" will be executed one time for each iteration of the "outer loop":

Example

Print each adjective for every fruit:

```
adj = ["red", "big", "tasty"]  
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
```

```
for x in adj:  
    for y in fruits:  
        print(x, y)
```

The pass Statement

`for` loops cannot be empty, but if you for some reason have a `for` loop with no content, put in the `pass` statement to avoid getting an error.

Example

```
for x in [0, 1, 2]:  
    pass
```