Appendix C – Answers to the Practice Questions

Appendix C. Answers to the Practice Questions

This appendix contains the answers to the practice problems at the end of each chapter. I highly recommend that you take the time to work through these problems. Programming is more than memorizing syntax and a list of function names. As when learning a foreign language, the more practice you put into it, the more you will get out of it. There are many websites with practice programming problems as well. You can find a list of these at *http://nostarch.com/automatestuff/*.

Chapter 1

1. The operators are `+`, `-`, `*`, and `/`. The values are `'hello'`, `-88.8`, and `5`.
2. The string is `'spam'`; the variable is `spam`. Strings always start and end with quotes.
3. The three data types introduced in this chapter are integers, floating-point numbers, and strings.
4. An expression is a combination of values and operators. All expressions evaluate (that is, reduce) to a single value.
5. An expression evaluates to a single value. A statement does not.
6. The `bacon` variable is set to `20`. The `bacon + 1` expression does not reassign the value in `bacon` (that would need an assignment statement: `bacon = bacon + 1`).
7. Both expressions evaluate to the string `'spamspamspam'`.
8. Variable names cannot begin with a number.
9. The `int()`, `float()`, and `str()` functions will evaluate to the integer, floating-point number, and string versions of the value passed to them.
10. The expression causes an error because `99` is an integer, and only strings can be concatenated to other strings with the `+` operator. The correct way is `I have eaten ' + str(99) + ' burritos.'`.

CHAPTER 2

1. `True` and `False`, using capital *T* and *F*, with the rest of the word in lowercase
2. `and`, `or`, and `not`
3. `True and True` is `True`.

   `True and False` is `False`.

   `False and True` is `False`.

   `False and False` is `False`.

`True or True` is `True`.

`True or False` is `True`.

`False or True` is `True`.

`False or False` is `False`.

`not True` is `False`.

`not False` is `True`.

4. ```
   False
   False
   True
   False
   False
   True
   ```

5. `==`, `!=`, `<`, `>`, `<=`, and `>=`.

6. `==` is the equal to operator that compares two values and evaluates to a Boolean, while `=` is the assignment operator that stores a value in a variable.

7. A condition is an expression used in a flow control statement that evaluates to a Boolean value.

8. The three blocks are everything inside the `if` statement and the lines `print('bacon')` and `print('ham')`.

   ```
   print('eggs')
   if spam > 5:
       print('bacon')
   else:
       print('ham')
   print('spam')
   ```

9. The code:

   ```
   if spam == 1:
       print('Hello')
   ```
   ```

```
elif spam == 2:
    print('Howdy')
else:
    print('Greetings!')
```

10. Press CTRL-C to stop a program stuck in an infinite loop.

11. The `break` statement will move the execution outside and just after a loop. The `continue` statement will move the execution to the start of the loop.

12. They all do the same thing. The `range(10)` call ranges from `0` up to (but not including) `10`, `range(0, 10)` explicitly tells the loop to start at `0`, and `range(0, 10, 1)` explicitly tells the loop to increase the variable by `1` on each iteration.

13. The code:

    ```
    for i in range(1, 11):
        print(i)
    ```

    and:

    ```
    i = 1
    while i <= 10:
        print(i)
        i = i + 1
    ```

14. This function can be called with `spam.bacon()`.

Chapter 3

1. Functions reduce the need for duplicate code. This makes programs shorter, easier to read, and easier to update.

2. The code in a function executes when the function is called, not when the function is defined.

3. The `def` statement defines (that is, creates) a function.

4. A function consists of the `def` statement and the code in its `def` clause.

A function call is what moves the program execution into the function, and the function call evaluates to the function's return value.

5. There is one global scope, and a local scope is created whenever a function is called.
6. When a function returns, the local scope is destroyed, and all the variables in it are forgotten.
7. A return value is the value that a function call evaluates to. Like any value, a return value can be used as part of an expression.
8. If there is no return statement for a function, its return value is `None`.
9. A `global` statement will force a variable in a function to refer to the global variable.
10. The data type of `None` is `NoneType`.
11. That `import` statement imports a module named `areallyourpetsnamederic`. (This isn't a real Python module, by the way.)
12. This function can be called with `spam.bacon()`.
13. Place the line of code that might cause an error in a `try` clause.
14. The code that could potentially cause an error goes in the `try` clause.

    The code that executes if an error happens goes in the `except` clause.

Chapter 4

1. The empty list value, which is a list value that contains no items. This is similar to how `''` is the empty string value.
2. `spam[2] = 'hello'` (Notice that the third value in a list is at index `2` because the first index is `0`.)
3. `'d'` (Note that `'3' * 2` is the string `'33'`, which is passed to `int()` before being divided by `11`. This eventually evaluates to `3`. Expressions can be used wherever values are used.)

4. `'d'` (Negative indexes count from the end.)
5. `['a', 'b']`
6. `1`
7. `[3.14, 'cat', 11, 'cat', True, 99]`
8. `[3.14, 11, 'cat', True]`
9. The operator for list concatenation is `+`, while the operator for replication is `*`. (This is the same as for strings.)
10. While `append()` will add values only to the end of a list, `insert()` can add them anywhere in the list.
11. The `del` statement and the `remove()` list method are two ways to remove values from a list.
12. Both lists and strings can be passed to `len()`, have indexes and slices, be used in `for` loops, be concatenated or replicated, and be used with the `in` and `not in` operators.
13. Lists are mutable; they can have values added, removed, or changed. Tuples are immutable; they cannot be changed at all. Also, tuples are written using parentheses, `(` and `)`, while lists use the square brackets, `[` and `]`.
14. `(42,)` (The trailing comma is mandatory.)
15. The `tuple()` and `list()` functions, respectively
16. They contain references to list values.
17. The `copy.copy()` function will do a shallow copy of a list, while the `copy.deepcopy()` function will do a deep copy of a list. That is, only `copy.deepcopy()` will duplicate any lists inside the list.

Chapter 5

1. Two curly brackets: `{}`

2. `{'foo': 42}`
3. The items stored in a dictionary are unordered, while the items in a list are ordered.
4. You get a `KeyError` error.
5. There is no difference. The `in` operator checks whether a value exists as a key in the dictionary.
6. `'cat' in spam` checks whether there is a `'cat'` key in the dictionary, while `'cat' in spam.values()` checks whether there is a value `'cat'` for one of the keys in `spam`.
7. `spam.setdefault('color', 'black')`
8. `pprint.pprint()`

Chapter 6

1. Escape characters represent characters in string values that would otherwise be difficult or impossible to type into code.
2. `\n` is a newline; `\t` is a tab.
3. The `\\` escape character will represent a backslash character.
4. The single quote in `Howl's` is fine because you've used double quotes to mark the beginning and end of the string.
5. Multiline strings allow you to use newlines in strings without the `\n` escape character.
6. The expressions evaluate to the following:
    - `'e'`
    - `'Hello'`
    - `'Hello'`

    - `'lo world!`

7. The expressions evaluate to the following:
    - `'HELLO'`
    - `True`
    - `'hello'`
8. The expressions evaluate to the following:
    - `['Remember,', 'remember,', 'the', 'fifth', 'of', 'November.']`
    - `'There-can-be-only-one.'`
9. The `rjust()`, `ljust()`, and `center()` string methods, respectively
10. The `lstrip()` and `rstrip()` methods remove whitespace from the left and right ends of a string, respectively.

Chapter 7

1. The `re.compile()` function returns `Regex` objects.
2. Raw strings are used so that backslashes do not have to be escaped.
3. The `search()` method returns `Match` objects.
4. The `group()` method returns strings of the matched text.
5. Group `0` is the entire match, group `1` covers the first set of parentheses, and group `2` covers the second set of parentheses.
6. Periods and parentheses can be escaped with a backslash: `\.`, `\(`, and `\)`.
7. If the regex has no groups, a list of strings is returned. If the regex has groups, a list of tuples of strings is returned.
8. The `|` character signifies matching “either, or” between two groups.

9. The `?` character can either mean "match zero or one of the preceding group" or be used to signify nongreedy matching.
10. The `+` matches one or more. The `*` matches zero or more.
11. The `{3}` matches exactly three instances of the preceding group. The `{3,5}` matches between three and five instances.
12. The `\d`, `\w`, and `\s` shorthand character classes match a single digit, word, or space character, respectively.
13. The `\D`, `\W`, and `\S` shorthand character classes match a single character that is not a digit, word, or space character, respectively.
14. Passing `re.I` or `re.IGNORECASE` as the second argument to `re.compile()` will make the matching case insensitive.
15. The `.` character normally matches any character except the newline character. If `re.DOTALL` is passed as the second argument to `re.compile()`, then the dot will also match newline characters.
16. The `.*` performs a greedy match, and the `.*?` performs a nongreedy match.
17. Either `[0-9a-z]` or `[a-z0-9]`
18. `'X drummers, X pipers, five rings, X hens'`
19. The `re.VERBOSE` argument allows you to add whitespace and comments to the string passed to `re.compile()`.
20. `re.compile(r'^\d{1,3}(,\d{3})*$')` will create this regex, but other regex strings can produce a similar regular expression.
21. `re.compile(r'[A-Z][a-z]*\sNakamoto')`
22. `re.compile(r'(Alice|Bob|Carol)\s(eats|pets|throws)\s(apples|cats|baseballs)\.',`
`re.IGNORECASE)`

Chapter 8

1. Relative paths are relative to the current working directory.

2. Absolute paths start with the root folder, such as */* or *C:*.
3. The `os.getcwd()` function returns the current working directory. The `os.chdir()` function *changes* the current working directory.
4. The `.` folder is the current folder, and `..` is the parent folder.
5. *C:\bacon\eggs* is the dir name, while *spam.txt* is the base name.
6. The string `'r'` for read mode, `'w'` for write mode, and `'a'` for append mode
7. An existing file opened in write mode is erased and completely overwritten.
8. The `read()` method returns the file's entire contents as a single string value. The `readlines()` method returns a list of strings, where each string is a line from the file's contents.
9. A shelf value resembles a dictionary value; it has keys and values, along with `keys()` and `values()` methods that work similarly to the dictionary methods of the same names.

Chapter 9

1. The `shutil.copy()` function will copy a single file, while `shutil.copytree()` will copy an entire folder, along with all its contents.
2. The `shutil.move()` function is used for renaming files, as well as moving them.
3. The `send2trash` functions will move a file or folder to the recycle bin, while `shutil` functions will permanently delete files and folders.
4. The `zipfile.ZipFile()` function is equivalent to the `open()` function; the first argument is the filename, and the second argument is the mode to open the ZIP file in (read, write, or append).

Chapter 10

1. `assert spam >= 10, 'The spam variable is less than 10.'`

2. `assert eggs.lower() != bacon.lower(), 'The eggs and bacon variables are the same!'` or `assert eggs.upper() != bacon.upper(), 'The eggs and bacon variables are the same!'`

3. `assert False, 'This assertion always triggers.'`

4. To be able to call `logging.debug()`, you must have these two lines at the start of your program:

```
import logging
logging.basicConfig(level=logging.DEBUG, format=' %(asctime)s -
%(levelname)s -  %(message)s')
```

5. To be able to send logging messages to a file named *programLog.txt* with `logging.debug()`, you must have these two lines at the start of your program:

```
import logging
>>> logging.basicConfig(filename='programLog.txt', level=logging.DEBUG,
format=' %(asctime)s -  %(levelname)s -  %(message)s')
```

6. DEBUG, INFO, WARNING, ERROR, and CRITICAL

7. `logging.disable(logging.CRITICAL)`

8. You can disable logging messages without removing the logging function calls. You can selectively disable lower-level logging messages. You can create logging messages. Logging messages provides a timestamp.

9. The Step button will move the debugger into a function call. The Over button will quickly execute the function call without stepping into it. The Out button will quickly execute the rest of the code until it steps out of the function it currently is in.

10. After you click Go, the debugger will stop when it has reached the end of the program or a line with a breakpoint.

11. A breakpoint is a setting on a line of code that causes the debugger to pause when the program execution reaches the line.

12. To set a breakpoint in IDLE, right-click the line and select **Set Breakpoint** from the context menu.

Chapter 11

1. The `webbrowser` module has an `open()` method that will launch a web browser to a specific URL, and that's it. The `requests` module can download files and pages from the Web. The `BeautifulSoup` module parses HTML. Finally, the `selenium` module can launch and control a browser.

2. The `requests.get()` function returns a `Response` object, which has a `text` attribute that contains the downloaded content as a string.

3. The `raise_for_status()` method raises an exception if the download had problems and does nothing if the download succeeded.

4. The `status_code` attribute of the `Response` object contains the HTTP status code.

5. After opening the new file on your computer in `'wb'` "write binary" mode, use a `for` loop that iterates over the `Response` object's `iter_content()` method to write out chunks to the file. Here's an example:

```
saveFile = open('filename.html', 'wb')
for chunk in res.iter_content(100000):
    saveFile.write(chunk)
```

6. F12 brings up the developer tools in Chrome. Pressing CTRL-SHIFT-C (on Windows and Linux) or ⌘-OPTION-C (on OS X) brings up the developer tools in Firefox.

7. Right-click the element in the page, and select **Inspect Element** from the menu.

8. `'#main'`

9. `'.highlight'`

10. `'div div'`

11. `'button[value="favorite"]'`

12. `spam.getText()`

13. `linkElem.attrs`
14. The `selenium` module is imported with `from selenium import webdriver`.
15. The `find_element_*` methods return the first matching element as a `WebElement` object. The `find_elements_*` methods return a list of all matching elements as `WebElement` objects.
16. The `click()` and `send_keys()` methods simulate mouse clicks and keyboard keys, respectively.
17. Calling the `submit()` method on any element within a form submits the form.
18. The `forward()`, `back()`, and `refresh() WebDriver` object methods simulate these browser buttons.

CHAPTER 12

1. The `openpyxl.load_workbook()` function returns a `Workbook` object.
2. The `get_sheet_names()` method returns a `Worksheet` object.
3. Call `wb.get_sheet_by_name('Sheet1')`.
4. Call `wb.get_active_sheet()`.
5. `sheet['C5'].value` or `sheet.cell(row=5, column=3).value`
6. `sheet['C5'] = 'Hello'` or `sheet.cell(row=5, column=3).value = 'Hello'`
7. `cell.row` and `cell.column`
8. They return the highest column and row with values in the sheet, respectively, as integer values.
9. `openpyxl.cell.column_index_from_string('M')`
10. `openpyxl.cell.get_column_letter(14)`
11. `sheet['A1':'F1']`

12. `wb.save('example.xlsx')`

13. A formula is set the same way as any value. Set the cell's `value` attribute to a string of the formula text. Remember that formulas begin with the = sign.

14. `sheet.row_dimensions[5].height = 100`

15. `sheet.column_dimensions['C'].hidden = True`

16. OpenPyXL 2.0.5 does not load freeze panes, print titles, images, or charts.

17. Freeze panes are rows and columns that will always appear on the screen. They are useful for headers.

18. `openpyxl.charts.Reference()`, `openpyxl.charts.Series()`, `openpyxl.charts.BarChart()`, `chartObj.append(seriesObj)`, and `add_chart()`

Chapter 13

1. A `File` object returned from `open()`

2. Read-binary (`'rb'`) for `PdfFileReader()` and write-binary (`'wb'`) for `PdfFileWriter()`

3. Calling `getPage(4)` will return a `Page` object for About This Book, since page 0 is the first page.

4. The `numPages` variable stores an integer of the number of pages in the `PdfFileReader` object.

5. Call `decrypt('swordfish')`.

6. The `rotateClockwise()` and `rotateCounterClockwise()` methods. The degrees to rotate is passed as an integer argument.

7. `docx.Document('demo.docx')`

8. A document contains multiple paragraphs. A paragraph begins on a new line and contains multiple runs. Runs are contiguous groups of characters within a paragraph.

9. Use `doc.paragraphs`.
10. A `Run` object has these variables (*not* a Paragraph).
11. `True` always makes the `Run` object bolded and `False` makes it always not bolded, no matter what the style's bold setting is. `None` will make the `Run` object just use the style's bold setting.
12. Call the `docx.Document()` function.
13. `doc.add_paragraph('Hello there!')`
14. The integers `0`, `1`, `2`, `3`, and `4`

Chapter 14

1. In Excel, spreadsheets can have values of data types other than strings; cells can have different fonts, sizes, or color settings; cells can have varying widths and heights; adjacent cells can be merged; and you can embed images and charts.
2. You pass a `File` object, obtained from a call to `open()`.
3. `File` objects need to be opened in read-binary (`'rb'`) for `Reader` objects and write-binary (`'wb'`) for `Writer` objects.
4. The `writerow()` method
5. The `delimiter` argument changes the string used to separate cells in a row. The `lineterminator` argument changes the string used to separate rows.
6. `json.loads()`
7. `json.dumps()`

Chapter 15

1. A reference moment that many date and time programs use. The moment is January 1st, 1970, UTC.
2. `time.time()`

3. `time.sleep(5)`
4. It returns the closest integer to the argument passed. For example, `round(2.4)` returns `2`.
5. A `datetime` object represents a specific moment in time. A `timedelta` object represents a duration of time.
6. `threadObj = threading.Thread(target=spam)`
7. `threadObj.start()`
8. Make sure that code running in one thread does not read or write the same variables as code running in another thread.
9. `subprocess.Popen('c:\\Windows\\System32\\calc.exe')`

Chapter 16

1. SMTP and IMAP, respectively
2. `smtplib.SMTP()`, `smtpObj.ehlo()`, `smptObj.starttls()`, and `smtpObj.login()`
3. `imapclient.IMAPClient()` and `imapObj.login()`
4. A list of strings of IMAP keywords, such as `'BEFORE <date>'`, `'FROM <string>'`, or `'SEEN'`
5. Assign the variable `imaplib._MAXLINE` a large integer value, such as `10000000`.
6. The `pyzmail` module reads downloaded emails.
7. You will need the Twilio account SID number, the authentication token number, and your Twilio phone number.

Chapter 17

1. An RGBA value is a tuple of 4 integers, each ranging from 0 to 255. The four integers correspond to the amount of red, green, blue, and alpha (transparency) in the color.

2. A function call to `ImageColor.getcolor('CornflowerBlue', 'RGBA')` will return `(100, 149, 237, 255)`, the RGBA value for that color.

3. A box tuple is a tuple value of four integers: the left edge x-coordinate, the top edge y-coordinate, the width, and the height, respectively.

4. `Image.open('zophie.png')`

5. `imageObj.size` is a tuple of two integers, the width and the height.

6. `imageObj.crop((0, 50, 50, 50))`. Notice that you are passing a box tuple to `crop()`, not four separate integer arguments.

7. Call the `imageObj.save('new_filename.png')` method of the `Image` object.

8. The `ImageDraw` module contains code to draw on images.

9. `ImageDraw` objects have shape-drawing methods such as `point()`, `line()`, or `rectangle()`. They are returned by passing the `Image` object to the `ImageDraw.Draw()` function.

Chapter 18

1. Move the mouse to the top-left corner of the screen, that is, the (0, 0) coordinates.

2. `pyautogui.size()` returns a tuple with two integers for the width and height of the screen.

3. `pyautogui.position()` returns a tuple with two integers for the x- and y-coordinates of the mouse cursor.

4. The `moveTo()` function moves the mouse to absolute coordinates on the screen, while the `moveRel()` function moves the mouse relative to the mouse's current position.

5. `pyautogui.dragTo()` and `pyautogui.dragRel()`

6. `pyautogui.typewrite('Hello world!')`

7. Either pass a list of keyboard key strings to `pyautogui.typewrite()` (such as `'left'`) or pass a single keyboard key string to `pyautogui.press()`.

8. `pyautogui.screenshot('screenshot.png')`

9. `pyautogui.PAUSE = 2`