# 7 Uses of Underscore in Python

Must-know for Python programmers.

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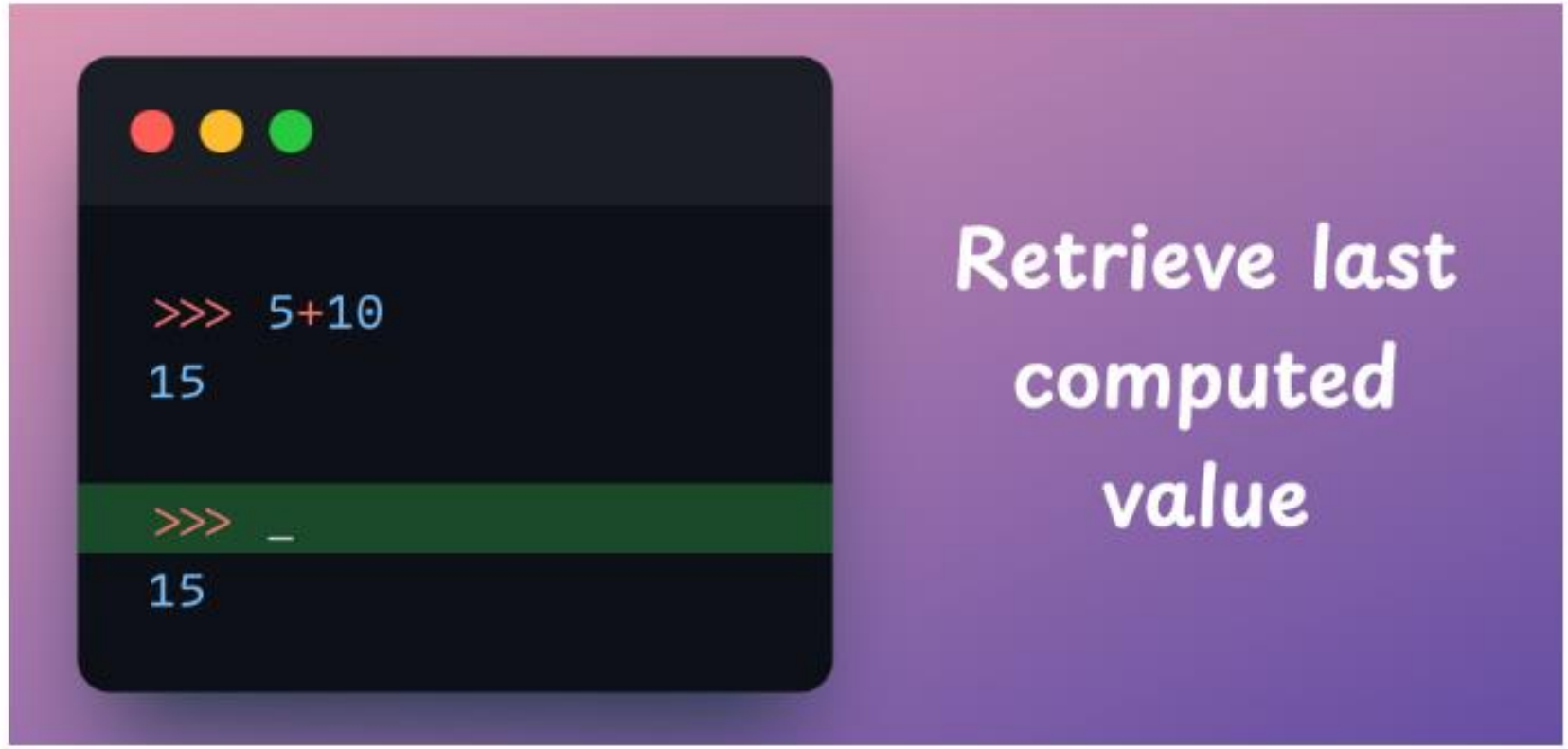
Underscore (_) has so many usages in Python.

Today, I want to walk you through 7 of them, which I find pretty useful from time to time.

Let’s begin!

## #1) Retrieve the last computed value

One of the most elegant utilities of underscore is to retrieve the last computed value, as demonstrated below:




This works both in a script (`.py`) and an interactive environment like Jupyter Notebook.

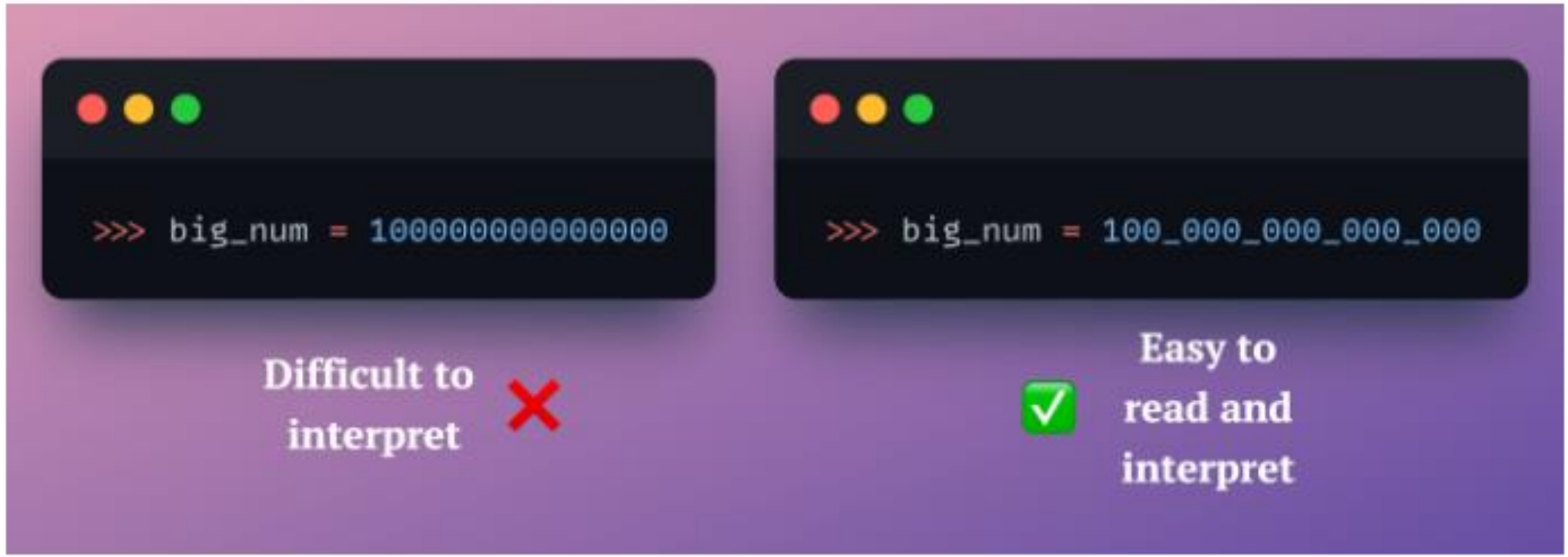
## #2) Placeholder for loop variable

Instead of explicitly declaring a loop variable, one can also run loops as follows:

## #3) Digit separator

When declaring large numbers, it can be difficult to interpret them.

Underscore simplifies this:

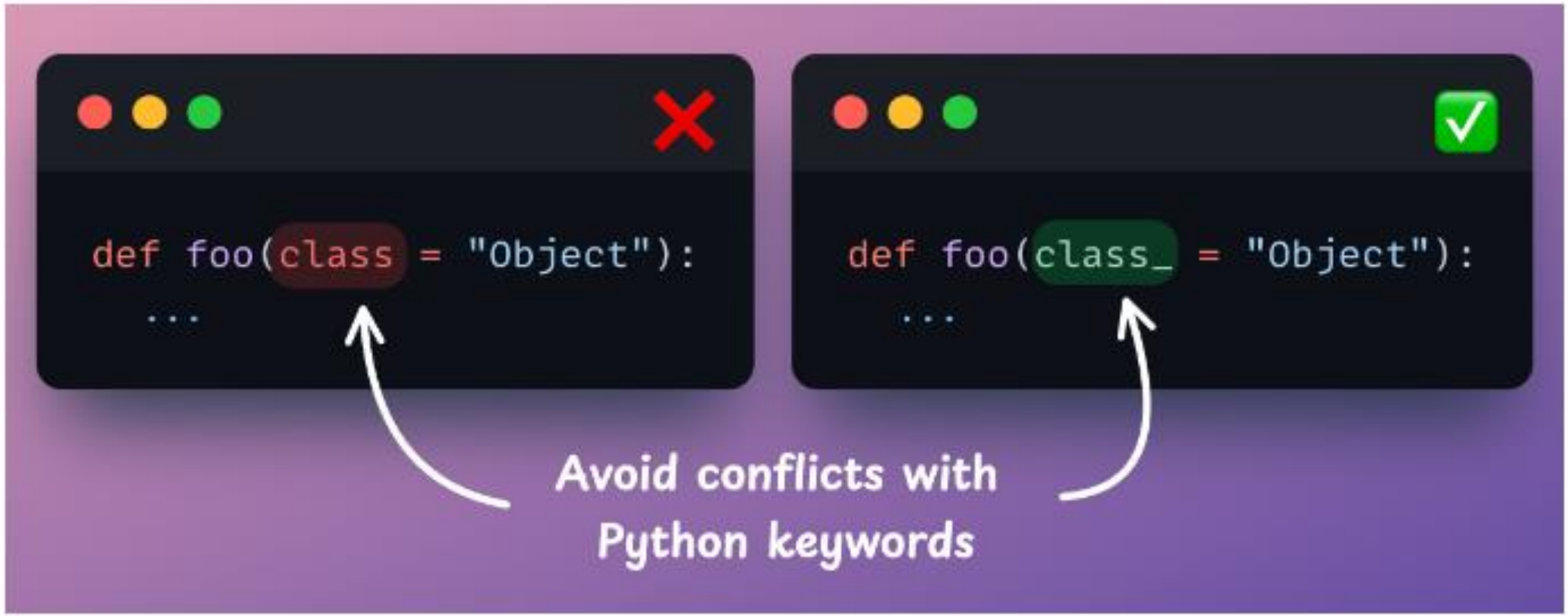


## #4-7) Declaring names

We can also use underscore while naming objects.

- A single leading underscore is used to declare variables for internal use. Thus, they cannot be imported during wild imports (`from file import *`)

- A single trailing underscore is used to avoid conflict with reserved keywords, as depicted below:



- Double leading underscores are used to invoke name mangling. This way, one can prevent direct access to private variables outside a class:


We covered this in detail in this issue: Python Does Not Fully Deliver OOP Encapsulation Functionalities.

- Finally, double leading and trailing underscores, as you may already know, are used to define magic methods: