

Notebook Tips! PLEASE READ

November 16, 2016

1 Help With The Notebook

To do the homework in the notebook, you need to know some things about how the cells execute and what they display.

```
In [1]: myvar = "hi"
```

I assigned the string “hi” to the variable called “myvar” above. I executed the cell, but nothing printed out. If you don’t use a print, or put the variable on a line alone, it won’t show you the value or return any information.

```
In [2]: myvar
```

```
Out[2]: 'hi'
```

Notice that showed me the value assigned, when I put it on a line alone. We said this is the Week1.pdf notes.

```
In [4]: if myvar == "goodbye":  
        print("bye!")
```

I just executed that cell above, but it printed nothing. That’s because the conditional did not return True and so nothing was printed.

If you want your users (and us, your professors) to see anything, you should use print statements.

```
In [5]: if myvar == "goodbye":  
        print("bye")  
        else:  
            print("no, it's hi")
```

```
no, it's hi
```

Now you see a result was returned.

The cells of the notebook can contain your programs. You can do lots of little lines, cell after cell, and show the results for each stage with print statements - like this:

```
In [6]: myvar = 30
```

```
In [8]: print(myvar * 4)
```

```
120
```

If you have multiple lines in a cell, you may not get to see the results of the previous lines that execute without a print statement. It's usually easier to break things into multiple cells. If you are careful with using print statements, it can still all be done in one cell.

```
prompt = "enter a string!" myval = input(prompt) print("you entered" + myval)
```

If you want to "redo" the cell with different input, you can just put your cursor in it and redo shift-enter. Or you can copy it and make a new cell with the same contents and run that!

```
In [11]: prompt = "enter a string!"  
        myval = input(prompt)  
        print("you entered " + myval)
```

```
enter a string!bye  
you entered bye
```

When you define a function in a cell, you won't see the results until you call it... even if it has print statements in it!

```
In [17]: def myfunc(string):  
        # I am defining a function that takes an input string and prints it.  
        print("your argument was " + string)
```

```
In [18]: myfunc("hi") # here I am calling it - (this is a comment!)
```

```
your argument was hi
```

Please use the discussion forums for questions first, so everyone can see the answers... Good luck!

```
In [ ]:
```