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Chapter 4 Reflection

Java interfaces ares used to specify methods that a class must implement. However, they do not actually implement these methods, they only contain method signatures. The main benefit of using interfaces is that it simulates multiple inheritance which classes in Java do not usually have. Also it essentially forms a contract that you have to follow when creating your class. Due to this if multiple developers are working on the same larger project and for instance they all want to access a database all of the database access classes will look similar because they are all following the same interface. They also promote readability.

However, while Python does also have interfaces they are not used for the same thing or nearly as often. The main reason for this is that Python fully supports multiple inheritance which is the key reason why one would usually use an interface in another language. One of the main reasons why one would use an interface in Python is for documentation purposes. If you write a framework that other people will be using they will need to know what methods are included in the framework and therefore the documentation that the Python interface supplies is rather useful. It helps for someone using your framework to be able to see the signatures of your methods to see what they can use and how.