**Naming Conventions**

In general, since ***local variables*** do not live long, they are often given simple names (like “a”, “b” or "n1"). ***Global variables*** are usually given full names (like “numberOfStudents” or “studentName”).

Note that variable names cannot include spaces or begin with numbers or punctuation:

Not gud nem

#isNotAGoodName

22alsoNotGood

To make variables more readable, there are a few ***conventions***:

Multi-word names follow a convention whimsically called “***hump notation***” or “***camel case***”; the first word is not capitalized, but each successive word has a capital first letter. Here are some examples:

thisIsAVariable = 44

numberOfPizzas = 7

playerAlive = True

Alternatively, the underscore can be used:

number\_of\_players

top\_score

Function names also follow these conventions.

thisIsAFunction()

or

some\_function()

A ***constant*** is a variable with a fixed value, if that makes any sense. If you create constants in your program, it is convention to name them using all caps, at the top of your code.

NUMBER\_OF\_CARDS = 52 # global constants

MAX\_PLAYERS = 10

Exercise

1. For each term, state if it is a variable, constant, or function AND state what data type.
2. x = 4
3. PI = 3.14
4. calc\_circumference(25)
5. print()
6. isAlpha()
7. isAlpha = True
8. LETTER\_A = “A”
9. range(4)
10. range = 4
11. phone = “233-2323”

(Answers on next page)

**Keywords*: local variable, global variable, hump notation (camel case), constant***

1. x = 4 integer variable
2. PI = 3.14 float constant
3. calc\_circumference(25) float function
4. print() void function
5. isAlpha() boolean function
6. isAlpha = True boolean variable
7. LETTER\_A = “A” string constant
8. range(4) integer function
9. range = 4 integer variable
10. phone v string variable