**Split**

Another useful function is the **split**() function. This function splits a sentence into a list of words:

s = "THIS is a sentence!"

print (s.split()) # split into separate words

Notice that split() returns a ***list***, not a string. The ***split***() function looks for spaces by default, but you could also get it to search for other characters such as a comma. Here’s how:

a = "milk, bread, juice, cereal"

items = a.split(',') # looks for comma to split into words

print (items)

This is most useful when reading in a text file with comma separated values.

You’ll need the text file “groceries2.txt” to run this one:

f = open("groceries2.txt", 'r') # open the file

a = f.readline() # read one line

f.close()

items = a.split(',') # split into words

print (items) # prints list

print (items[0]) # print the first item in list

print (items[1]) # print the second item in list

You’ll notice that the second item is recorded as ‘4.99\n’. This is because there is a newline character at the end of the line. To remove this, use the ***strip()*** function:

f = open("groceries2.txt", 'r')

a = f.readline()

f.close() # don’t forget to close the file!

a = a.strip() # take off the newline character at end

items = a.split(',') # looks for commas to split into words

print items

print items[0]

print items[1]

This program will read an entire text file and put each line into a list:

f = open("groceries2.txt", 'r')

a = f.read()

f.close()

mylist = a.***splitlines***() # put each line in a list

print mylist

The list can then be looked at one element at a time:

f = open("groceries2.txt", 'r')

a = f.read()

f.close()

mylist = a.splitlines() # put each line in a list

for i in range(len(mylist)):

print mylist[i] # print each element

Each element in the list can then be further split into item and price and so on.

You can remove a character using ***replace()***:

myString = "hello there!"

s= myString.replace('e', 'o')

print myString

print s

Notice that the replace function doesn’t affect the original string.

You can also remove a character by replacing with nothing:

myString = "hello there!"

s= myString.replace('e', '') # replace with empty string

print myString

print s

***parse, list, strip(), split(), splitlines() , find(), replace(), index***