Extending Functionality

You having a talking virtual assistant, but it does not do anything useful as of now. To extend Melissa's capabilities, you can add different modules to the software, keeping in mind the code skeleton that you are working with and maintaining a scalable code repository:

1. As Figure 3-3 shows, the first step to add a new feature is writing the code for the feature, storing it in a separate file, and naming the file after the feature: for example, `general_conversations.py`.
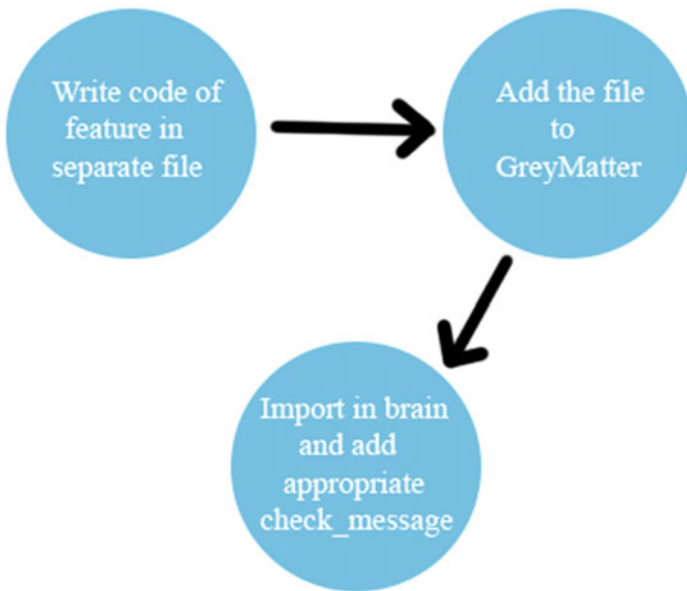

Figure 3-3. *Extending functionality*

2. Add the file to the `GreyMatter` package, from which it can be imported as a module to be used in `brain.py`.

3. Import the module in `brain.py`, and add appropriate checks for keywords related to your functionality with the help of the `check_message()` function. If `check_message()` returns `true`, execute the feature.

You follow the same methodology to add new features and functionality in future chapters. Let's look at an example of how you can follow this process to write a new basic feature for Melissa.