Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

- Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions

1. Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?

   File storage on your local is important because python deletes all the data once it is finished running a program and won't exist for later use.

2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the **pickle.dump()** method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

   Pickles are binary files that store more complex data structures, such as dictionaries. Because they are in binary, computers can read them but humans cannot without converting them back into text via pickle.load() function. You would use them when the data is in a more complex arrangement that isn't served well by a simple text file.

3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

   You would use os.getcwd() to find your current directory. If you wanted to change your directory you would use os.chdir().

4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

   I would use the **try-except-finally** block. This method allows you to figure out where your errors are occurring without the script crashing due to an error(s).

5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.