Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?

   An ORM converts database contents into objects and classes that can be directly interacted with. The benefit of using ORMs is that they make database conversions easier if you are moving from one DBMS to another because you no longer need to know the exact syntax of the SQL queries.

2. By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?

   I'm not sure. Still trying to get a handle on all this. In theory Python is easier than other languages, but I still have a hard time keeping track of everything. I feel like I can look at a lot of the code and know what it is doing, but trying to create it in relation to a problem set is still very challenging to me.

3. Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.

   Using Python I created a recipe app that allowed me to do the following tasks: create a recipe, search for a recipe by ingredient, edit a recipe, view all recipes and delete recipes. I used an SQL database to store all the relevant information (name, ingredients, cooking time, level of difficulty) that I was then subsequently able to retrieve to enact all the other functions on the app.

4. You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:
   a. What went well during this Achievement?
      Conceptually I think Python is an easier language to understand, but I still need a lot more practice before I feel comfortable really utilizing it professionally.
   b. What's something you're proud of?
      Those rare moments when I was able to figure something out on my own without help.
   c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?

Putting everything together for the final assignment. When I look at code from the lessons or another student I can usually understand what it is doing, but it is difficult for me to conceptualize the task assignments into workable code on my own,

d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
   Not yet. But I'm the kind of person who needs to drill things into my head before they stick.
e. What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?
   That real comprehension takes a long time with a lot of practice. I'm not going to be adept at this stuff after just a couple of months.