Lesson 7: Python Control Flow

7.1. Python Decision Making Statements

Python supports the usual logical conditions.

These conditions can be used in several ways, most commonly in "if statements" and loops.

7.1.1. If Statement

An "if statement" is written by using the if keyword.

Python relies on indentation (whitespace at the beginning of a line) to define scope in the code. Other programming languages often use curly-brackets for this purpose.

```
a = 33
b = 200
if b > a:
  print("b is greater than a")
```

In this example we use two variables, a and b, which are used as part of the if statement to test whether b is greater than a. As a is 33, and b is 200, we know that 200 is greater than 33, and so we print to screen that "b is greater than a".

7.1.2. Elif Statement

The elif keyword is pythons way of saying "if the previous conditions were not true, then try this condition".

```
a = 33
b = 33
if b > a:
  print("b is greater than a")
elif a == b:
  print("a and b are equal")
```

In this example a is equal to b, so the first condition is not true, but the elif condition is true, so we print to screen that "a and b are equal".

7.1.3. If..elif else Statement

The else keyword catches anything which isn't caught by the preceding conditions.

```
a = 200
b = 33
if b > a:
  print("b is greater than a")
elif a == b:
  print("a and b are equal")
else:
  print("a is greater than b")
```

In this example a is greater than b, so the first condition is not true, also the elif condition is not true, so we go to the else condition and print to screen that "a is greater than b".

7.2. Python Loops

7.2.1. For Loop

A for loop is used for iterating over a sequence (that is either a list, a tuple, a dictionary, a set, or a string).

This is less like the for keyword in other programming languages, and works more like an iterator method as found in other object-orientated programming languages.

With the for loop we can execute a set of statements, once for each item in a list, tuple, set etc.

Example

Print each fruit in a fruit list:

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
for x in fruits:
  print(x)
```

The for loop does not require an indexing variable to set beforehand.

Looping Through a String: Even strings are iterable objects, they contain a sequence of characters:

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

```
for x in "banana":
  print(x)
```

The break Statement: With the break statement we can stop the loop before it has looped through all the items:

Exit the loop when x is "banana":

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
for x in fruits:
  print(x)
  if x == "banana":
    break
```

The continue Statement: With the continue statement we can stop the current iteration of the loop, and continue with the next:

Do not print banana:

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
for x in fruits:
  if x == "banana":
    continue
  print(x)
```

The range() Function

To loop through a set of code a specified number of times, we can use the range() function,
The range() function returns a sequence of numbers, starting from 0 by default, and increments by 1 (by default), and ends at a specified number.

Using the range() function:

```
for x in range(6):
  print(x)
```

Note that range(6) is not the values of 0 to 6, but the values 0 to 5.

The range() function defaults to 0 as a starting value, however it is possible to specify the starting value by adding a parameter: range(2, 6), which means values from 2 to 6 (but not including 6):

Using the start parameter:

```
for x in range(2, 6):
  print(x)
```

The range() function defaults to increment the sequence by 1, however it is possible to specify the increment value by adding a third parameter: range(2, 30, **3**):

Increment the sequence with 3 (default is 1):

```
for x in range(2, 30, 3):
  print(x)
```

Else in For Loop

The else keyword in a for loop specifies a block of code to be executed when the loop is finished:

Print all numbers from 0 to 5, and print a message when the loop has ended:

```
for x in range(6):
  print(x)
else:
  print("Finally finished!")
```

Note: The else block will NOT be executed if the loop is stopped by a break statement.

Break the loop when x is 3, and see what happens with the else block:

```
for x in range(6):
  if x == 3: break
  print(x)
else:
  print("Finally finished!")
```

Nested Loops

A nested loop is a loop inside a loop.

The "inner loop" will be executed one time for each iteration of the "outer loop":

Example

Print each adjective for every fruit:

```
adj = ["red", "big", "tasty"]
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]
for x in adj:
  for y in fruits:
      print(x, y)
```

7.2.2. While Loop

With the while loop we can execute a set of statements as long as a condition is true.

Print i as long as i is less than 6:

```
i = 1
while i < 6:
  print(i)
  i += 1
```

Note: remember to increment i, or else the loop will continue forever.

The while loop requires relevant variables to be ready, in this example we need to define an indexing variable, i, which we set to 1.

The break Statement

With the break statement we can stop the loop even if the while condition is true:

Exit the loop when i is 3:

```
i = 1
while i < 6:
  print(i)
  if i == 3:
    break
  i += 1
```

The continue Statement

With the continue statement we can stop the current iteration, and continue with the next:

Continue to the next iteration if i is 3:

```
i = 0
while i < 6:
  i += 1
  if i == 3:
    continue
  print(i)
```

The else Statement

With the else statement we can run a block of code once when the condition no longer is true:
Print a message once the condition is false:

```
i = 1
while i < 6:
  print(i)
  i += 1
else:
  print("i is no longer less than 6")
```

Lesson 7: Review Questions

1. Write a Python program that displays the grade give total marks using below grading system

Marks	Grade
70 and Above	A
60-69	B
50-59	C
40-49	D
0-39	E

2. Write a program to display even numbers from 50 down to 10 using for loop.
3. Convert the program in 2 above to use while loop and skip numbers 42 and 40.