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? The data you entered would be destroyed.

2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the **pickle.dump()** method. What are pickles? Pickles convert complex data into a packaged stream of bytes, or "pickle", to be then written to a binary file. In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why? I would use pickles when I need to save information for later use. Just like the exercise, I was able to store my recipes and search them later. I would also use pickles when I might need to optimize performance of a program because I can store complex computation results and cache them for later use without having to run the computation again.

3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? os.getcwd() What if you wanted to change your current working directory? 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 a try-except block with a print statement to let the user know how they can enter the correct input.

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? It is going well. I am enjoying watching my progress. What's something you're proud of so far? I am proud of the scripts I was able to make in this exercise. I was able to get relatively far in the script before needing to search for help. Is there something you're struggling with? In general I just need to take my time with each exercise and re-read the exercise in order to understand why my code works. What do you need more practice with? There were a few lines of code I didn't understant why they belonged. Why would you add data = {"recipes_list": [], "all_ingredients": []} to the 2 excepts in the try block of recipe_input.py Why create those if they were already created? how does this serve a purpose? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.