A variable can have a short name (like x and y) or a more descriptive name (age, carname, total\_volume). Rules for Python variables:

* A variable name must start with a letter or the underscore character
* A variable name cannot start with a number
* A variable name can only contain alpha-numeric characters and underscores (A-z, 0-9, and \_ )
* Variable names are case-sensitive (age, Age and AGE are three different variables)
* A variable name cannot be any of the [Python keywords](https://www.w3schools.com/python/python_ref_keywords.asp).

### **Example**[**Get your own Python Server**](https://www.w3schools.com/spaces/)

Legal variable names:

myvar = "John"  
my\_var = "John"  
\_my\_var = "John"  
myVar = "John"  
MYVAR = "John"  
myvar2 = "John"

[Try it Yourself »](https://www.w3schools.com/python/trypython.asp?filename=demo_variable_names_legal)

### **Example**

Illegal variable names:

2myvar = "John"  
my-var = "John"  
my var = "John"