### Challis Regan

### 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?
   1. File storage is important for Python (and other programs) because it saves the data to be used later. The program needs the ability to read data *from* files, and write data *to* them, so the data is preserved even after the program or application is closed. If the local files are not stored, the data will be deleted.
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?
   1. Pickles are a packaged stream of bytes, that convert complex data, then write them into a binary file. Pickels are good for complex data structures, such as dictionaries because they help retain the structure of data better than regular text.
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?
   1. The command to get the current working directory is “os.getcwd()”. The command to change your directory is “os.chdir(‘<path to desired folder>’)”.
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?
   1. Try-except block, finally block, else block
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.
   1. Having trouble with time management