Programming assignment 1: Arrays and Recursion

In order to simulate the use of pure arrays in Python we will apply *strict limitations* to our use of the Python *list*. The following limitations apply to both the ***base implementation*** of ArrayList and ***sorting and searching***.

In short there are only two things we ***may do***:

- Initialize the *array* in this way:
  - **arr = [0] * size**
  - Where ***size*** can be any integer (also hard-coded, if needed; **arr = [0] * 16**)
  - The variable also *doesn't* have to be called ***size***
- Access the value at one specific location in the array:
  - arr[3] = 7
  - arr[index] = "some_string"
  - some_number = arr[i+1]
  - arr1[i] = arr2[j]
  - arr[i] = arr[i+1]
  - print(arr[index])
    - It is fine to send the value of an item into built-in functions
      - Just not the list itself

Many things are ***not allowed***:

- Calling a built-in function on the list class
  - lis.append("some_string")
  - lis.insert(i, 19)
- Sending the list directly into a built-in python function
  - len(lis)
  - print(lis)
  - str(lis)
- Using ranges or negative integers in the bracket operator
  - lis[1:]
  - lis[0:10]
  - lis[-1]
  - Lis[1:-1]
- Using operators directly on the list
  - lis3 = lis1 + lis2
  - lis += [3,4]
  - lis += "some_string"
  - lis *= 2
    - although this is good for a quick-fix ***resize*** implementation
    - it is not "legal" in a final implementation
  - lis2 = lis1 * 2
- Using the *join* functionality in any way
- Using the ***in*** keyword or any other keyword directly on the list
  - including ***for x in lis***

Base implementation (60%)
Make a class called ArrayList that encapsulates an array. Implement the following functions in that class (these will be tested with integers, strings and custom classes):

- **__str__(self)**
  - Returns a string with all items from the array
  - Have a comma and a space between them
    - but no brackets ([ ]) around them
- **prepend(self, value)**
  - Inserts an item into the list before the first item
- **insert(self, value, index)**
  - Inserts an item into the list at a specific location, ***not overwriting*** other items
  - *If the index is not within the current list,* ***raise IndexOutOfBounds()***
  - *It should be possible to add to the front and back of the list, and anywhere in between*
- **append(self, value)**
  - Adds an item to the list after the last item
- **set_at(self, value, index)**
  - Sets the value at a specific location to a specific value
    - Overwrites the current value there
    - *If the index is not within the current list,* ***raise IndexOutOfBounds()***
- **get_first(self)**
  - Returns the first value in the list
  - *If there are no items in the list,* ***raise Empty()***
- **get_at(self, index)**
  - Returns the value at a specific location in the list
  - *If the index is not within the current list,* ***raise IndexOutOfBounds()***
- **get_last(self)**
  - Returns the last value in the list
  - *If there are no items in the list,* ***raise Empty()***
- **resize(self)**
  - Re-allocates memory for a larger array and populates it with the original array's items
- **remove_at(self, index)**
  - Removes from the list an item at a specific location
  - *If the index is not within the current list,* ***raise IndexOutOfBounds()***
- **clear(self)**
  - Removes all items from the list

- Test these operations well. You can implement a random number insertion, which generates random numbers and then calls the functions several times.
  - Test ***edge cases*** specifically
    - Insert into an *empty* list, or outside possible indices
    - Insert at the very *end* (or *exactly one* too far)
    - Remove from *empty* list
    - Add in all possible ways to a list that is *exactly full* (*size == capacity*)
    - *Add, remove* and *clear* often and unpredictably.
- *Bonus **5%** on top of grade for solutions without any unnecessary repetition of code.*

Sublists and concatenation (20%)
Add the following functionality to your class (this will only be tested with integer values).

- **sublist(self, start, length)**
    - Returns a new ArrayList with values from self
        - First value at start
        - length is the number of values copied
    - If start and length would go outside current list, ***raise IndexOutOfBounds()***
- **concatenate(self, other)**
    - Returns a new ArrayList with values from self and other
        - All the values from self
        - Followed by all the values from other
- *Bonus **5%** on top of grade if both these operations are implemented recursively and without unnecessary copying of data*

In all of the implementations, students are free to add any helper functions, classes or instance variables or default variables that they deem helpful or necessary.

Recursion (20%)
This assignment is not directly related to the ArrayList assignment.
It should be implemented using recursive programming and restrictions on the use of lists do not apply.

less_than(a, b)

- Write the recursive operation ***less_than*** that takes two positive integers, a and b, and decides whether a is less than b or not without using the operators < or >. You can use +, - and ==.
    - e.g.
        - less_than(13, 4) == False
        - modulus(4, 13) == True

unique(lis1)

- Write the recursive operation ***unique*** that takes one list and returns another list, including all the values from ***lis1*** but each value only exactly once.
    - e.g.
        - unique([a,b,a,a,c,b]) = [a,b,c]