1. Bottles of Beer Song: Writing and testing functions

Few songs are as annoying as "100 Bottles of Beer on the Wall." Hopefully you've never had to ride for hours in a van with middle school boys who like to sing this. The author has. It's a fairly simple song that we can write an algorithm to generate. This gives us an opportunity to play with counting up and down, formatting strings, and—new to this exercise—writing functions and tests for those functions!



Our program will be called bottles.py and will take one option -n or --num which must be a *positive* int (default 10). The program should print all the verses from --num down to 1. There should be two newlines between each verse to visually separate them, but there must be only one newline after the last verse (for one bottle) which should print "No more bottles of beer on the wall" rather than "0 bottles":

```
$ ./bottles.py -n 3
3 bottles of beer on the wall,
3 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
2 bottles of beer on the wall!

2 bottles of beer on the wall,
2 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
1 bottle of beer on the wall!

1 bottle of beer on the wall,
1 bottle of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
No more bottles of beer on the wall!
```

In this exercise, you will:

- Learn how to produce a list of numbers decreasing in value.
- Write a function to create a verse of the song using a test to verify when the verse is correct.
- Explore how for loops can be written as list comprehensions which in turn can be written with the map() function.

1.1. Writing bottles.py

As always, the program should respond to -h or --help with a usage statement:

Start off by copying the template.py or using new.py to create your bottles.py program. Then modify the get_args() function until your usage matches the above. Since the -h and --help flags are automatically handled by argparse, you need define only the --num option with type=int and default=10.

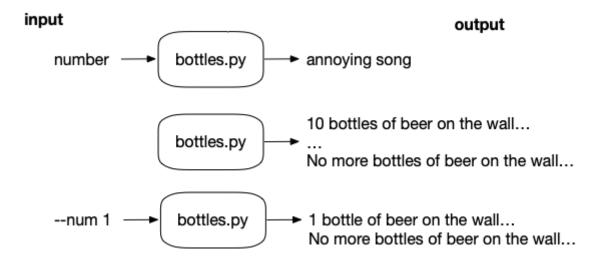
If the --num argument is not an int value, your program should print an error message and exit with an error value. This should happen automatically if you define your parameter to argparse properly:

```
$ ./bottles.py -n foo
usage: bottles.py [-h] [-n number]
bottles.py: error: argument -n/--num: invalid int value: 'foo'
$ ./bottles.py -n 2.4
usage: bottles.py [-h] [-n number]
bottles.py: error: argument -n/--num: invalid int value: '2.4'
```

It should do likewise when the --num is less than 1. To handle this, I suggest you manually check this and call parser.error() inside the get_args() functions as in previous exercises:

```
$ ./bottles.py -n 0
usage: bottles.py [-h] [-n number]
bottles.py: error: --num "0" must be greater than 0
```

Here is a string diagram of the inputs and outputs:



1.2. Counting down

The song starts at the given --num value like 10 and needs to count down to 9, 8, 7, and so forth. So how do we do that in Python? We've seen how to use range(start, stop) to get a list of integers that go *up* in value. If you give it just one number, it will be consider the stop and will assume 0 as the start. Because this is a lazy function, I must use the list() function in the REPL to force it to produce the numbers:

```
>>> list(range(5))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
```

Remember that the stop value is never included in the output, so the above stopped at 4 and not 5. If you give range() two numbers, they are considered to be start and stop:

```
>>> list(range(1, 5))
[1, 2, 3, 4]
```

To reverse this sequence, you might be tempted to swap the start and stop values. Unfortunately, if the start is greater than the stop, you get an empty list:

```
>>> list(range(5, 1))
[]
```

We saw in "Picnic" that we can use the reversed function to reverse a list. This is another lazy function, so, again, I use the list function to force the values in the REPL:

```
>>> list(reversed(range(1, 5)))
[4, 3, 2, 1]
```

The range() function can also take an optional third argument for a step value. For instance, you could use this to count by 5s:

```
>>> list(range(0, 50, 5))
[0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45]
```

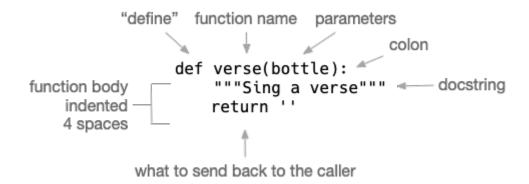


So another way to count down is to swap the start and stop and use -1 for the step:

```
>>> list(range(5, 0, -1))
[5, 4, 3, 2, 1]
```

1.3. Writing a function

Up to this point, I've suggested that all your code go into the main() function. This is the first exercise where I suggest you write a function. I would like you to consider how to write the code to sing one verse. The function could take the number of the verse and return the text for that verse.



You can start off with something like the diagram. The def keyword "defines" a function, and the name of the function follows. Function names should have only letters, numbers and the underscore and cannot start with a number. After the name comes parentheses that hold any parameters that the function accepts. Here our function should be called verse() and has the parameter bottle (or number or whatever you want to call it). After the parameters comes a colon to show the end of the def line. The function body comes next, with all lines being indented at least 4 spaces.

The "docstring" is a comment just after the function definition and will show up in the help for your function. If you enter this into the REPL:

```
>>> def verse(bottle):
... """Sing a verse"""
... return ''
...
>>> help(verse)
```

Then you will see:

```
Help on function verse in module __main__:

verse(bottle)
   Sing a verse
```

The return statement tells Python what to send back from the function. It's not very interesting because it will only ever send back the empty string right now:

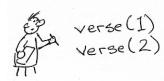
```
>>> verse(10)
```

1.4. Writing a test for verse()

In the spirit of *test-driven development*, let us write a test for verse() before we go any further. Here is a test you can use. Add this code into your bottles.py program just after your main() function:

```
1 def verse(bottle):
2
       """Sing a verse"""
3
4
       return ''
5
6
7 def test_verse():
       """Test verse"""
9
       one = verse(1)
10
       assert one == '\n'.join([
11
           '1 bottle of beer on the wall,', '1 bottle of beer,',
12
           'Take one down, pass it around,',
13
14
           'No more bottles of beer on the wall!'
15
       1)
16
17
       two = verse(2)
18
       assert two == '\n'.join([
19
           '2 bottles of beer on the wall,', '2 bottles of beer,',
           'Take one down, pass it around,', '1 bottle of beer on the wall!'
20
       1)
21
```

There are many, many ways you could write this program. I have in mind that my <code>verse()</code> function will produce a single verse of the song, returning a new <code>str</code> value which is the lines of the verse joined on newlines. You don't have to write it this way, but I would like you to consider what it means to write a function and a <code>unit test</code>. If you read about software testing, you'll find that there are different definitions of what a "unit" of code it. In this book, I consider a <code>function</code> to be a <code>unit</code>, and so my unit tests are tests of individual functions.



By the way, even though the song has potentially hundreds of verses, these two tests should cover everything you need to check. The first test shows that we are looking for "1 bottle" (singular) and not "1 bottles" (plural). We also check that the last line says "No more bottles" instead of "0 bottles." The test for "2 bottles of beer" is making sure that the numbers are "2 bottles" and then "1 bottle." Presumably if you've managed to pass those two tests, your program ought to be able to handle any value.

Here I've written test_verse() to test just the verse() function. The name of the function matters because I am using the pytest module to find all the functions in my code that start with test_ and run them. If your bottles.py program has the above functions for verse() and test_verse(), you can run pytest bottles.py. Try it, and you should see something like this:

```
$ pytest bottles.py
platform darwin -- Python 3.7.3, pytest-4.6.5, py-1.8.0, pluggy-0.12.0
rootdir: /Users/kyclark/work/manning/tiny_python_projects/bottles_of_beer
plugins: openfiles-0.3.2, arraydiff-0.3, doctestplus-0.3.0, remotedata-0.3.1, cov-
2.7.1
collected 1 item
bottles.py F
                                                          [100%]
_____ test_verse _____
   def test verse():
      """Test verse"""
      one = verse(1) ①
      assert one == '\n'.join([ 2
>
         '1 bottle of beer on the wall,', '1 bottle of beer,',
         'Take one down, pass it around,',
         'No more bottles of beer on the wall!'
      1)
F
      AssertionError: assert '' == '1 bottle of beer on the wal...ottles of beer on
the wall!' ③
Ε
       + 1 bottle of beer on the wall,
Ε
       + 1 bottle of beer,
Ε
       + Take one down, pass it around,
Ε
        + No more bottles of beer on the wall!
bottles.py:49: AssertionError
========== 1 failed in 0.10 seconds =========================
```

- ① Call the verse() function with the argument 1 to get the one verse of the song.
- ② The > at the beginning of this line indicates this is the source of the error. The test checks if the value of one is equal to an expected str value. Since it's not, this line throws an exception causing the assertion to fail.
- 3 The E lines show the difference between what was received and what was expected. The value of one is the empty string ('') which does not match the expected string "1 bottle of beer..." and so on.

To pass the first test, you could copy the code for the expected value of one directly from the test. Change your verse() function to be this:

And run your test again. Now the first test should pass and the second one should fail. I'll only show the relevant error lines:

```
______ test_verse ______
   def test_verse() -> None:
      """Test verse"""
      one = verse(1)
      assert one == '\n'.join([ ①
          '1 bottle of beer on the wall,', '1 bottle of beer,',
          'Take one down, pass it around,',
          'No more bottles of beer on the wall!'
      ])
      two = verse(2) ②
      assert two == '\n'.join([ 3
          '2 bottles of beer on the wall,', '2 bottles of beer,',
          'Take one down, pass it around,', '1 bottle of beer on the wall!'
      ])
      AssertionError: assert '1 bottle of ... on the wall!' == '2 bottles of ... on
the wall!' 4
        - 1 bottle of beer on the wall,
Ε
Ε
        ? ^
Ε
        + 2 bottles of beer on the wall,
Ε
        ? ^
Ε
        - 1 bottle of beer,
Ε
        ? ^
Ε
        + 2 bottles of beer,...
Ε
Ε
        ...Full output truncated (7 lines hidden), use '-vv' to show
```

- 1 This assertion passes this time.
- 2 Call the verse() with the value of 2.
- 3 Assert that two is equal to an expected string.
- 4 These E lines are showing you the problem. It got '1 bottle' but expected '2 bottles', etc.

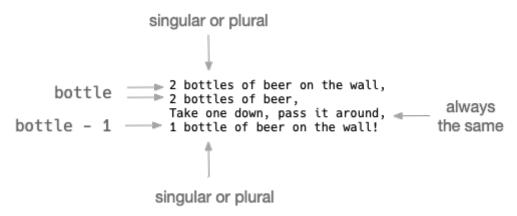


Figure 11. 1. Each verse has four lines where the first two and last are very similar. The third line is always the same. Find the parts that vary.

Go back and look at your <code>verse()</code> definition. Think about which parts need to change—the first, second, and fourth lines. The third line is always the same. You're given a value for <code>bottle</code> which needs to be used in the first two lines along with either "bottle" or "bottles," depending on the value of <code>bottle</code> (Hint: it's only singular for the value 1; otherwise, it's plural). The fourth line needs the value of <code>bottle</code> - 1 and, again, the proper singular or plural depending on that value. Can you figure how to write this?

Focus on passing those two tests before you move to the next stage of printing the whole song. That is, do not attempt anything until you see this:

1.5. Using the verse() function

At this point, you know:

- 1. That the --num value is a valid integer value greater than 0.
- 2. How to count from that --num value backwards down to 0.
- 3. That the verse() function will print any one verse properly.

Now you need to put them together. I suggest you start by using a for loop with the range() function to count down. Use each value from that to produce a verse(). There should be 2 newlines after every verse except for the last.

You will use the regular pytest -xv test.py (or make test) to test the program at this point. In the parlance of testing, the test.py is an *integration test* because it checks that the program *as a whole* is working. From this point on, we'll focus more on how to write *unit* tests to check individual functions as well as *integration* tests to ensure that all the functions work together.

Once you can pass the test suite using a for loop, try to rewrite it using either a list comprehension or a map(). I would suggest commenting out your working code by adding # to the beginnings of the lines and then try other ways to write the algorithm. Use the tests to verify that your code still passes. If is at all motivating, my solution is one line long. Can you write a single line of code that combines the range() and verse() functions to produce the expected output?

Hints:

- Define the --num argument as an int with a default value of 10.
- Use parser.error() to get argparse to print an error message for a negative --num value.
- Write the verse() function. Use the test_verse() function and pytest to make that work properly.
- Combine the verse() function with the range() to create all the verses.

Do try your best to write the program before reading the solution. Also feel free to solve the problem in a completely different way, even writing your own unit tests!

1.6. Solution

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python3
 2 """Bottles of beer song"""
 3
4 import argparse
 6
 7 # -----
 8 def get args():
       """Get command-line arguments"""
 9
10
       parser = argparse.ArgumentParser(
11
12
           description='Bottles of beer song',
13
           formatter_class=argparse.ArgumentDefaultsHelpFormatter)
14
15
       parser.add_argument('-n', 1)
16
                           '--num',
17
                          metavar='number',
18
                          type=int,
19
                          default=10,
                          help='How many bottles')
20
21
22
      args = parser.parse_args() ②
23
24
      if args.num < 1: ③
25
           parser.error(f'--num "{args.num}" must be greater than 0')
26
27
       return args
28
29
30 # -----
31 def main():
       """Make a jazz noise here"""
32
33
34
       args = get_args()
35
       print('\n\n'.join(map(verse, range(args.num, 0, -1)))) 4
36
37
38 # -----
39 def verse(bottle): 5
       """Sing a verse"""
40
41
42
      next_bottle = bottle - 1
                                                                6
      s1 = '' if bottle == 1 else 's'
                                                                7
43
44
      s2 = '' if next_bottle == 1 else 's'
      num_next = 'No more' if next_bottle == 0 else next_bottle (9)
45
46
       return '\n'.join([
                                                                10)
47
           f'{bottle} bottle{s1} of beer on the wall,',
           f'{bottle} bottle{s1} of beer,',
48
```

```
49
           f'Take one down, pass it around,',
50
           f'{num_next} bottle{s2} of beer on the wall!',
       1)
51
52
53
55 def test_verse(): 11
       """Test verse"""
56
57
58
       one = verse(1) ①
       assert one == '\n'.join([
59
           '1 bottle of beer on the wall,', '1 bottle of beer,',
60
           'Take one down, pass it around,',
61
           'No more bottles of beer on the wall!'
62
63
       1)
64
65
       two = verse(2) (3)
       assert two == '\n'.join([
66
           '2 bottles of beer on the wall,', '2 bottles of beer,',
67
           'Take one down, pass it around,', '1 bottle of beer on the wall!'
68
69
       1)
70
71
73 if __name__ == '__main__':
74
       main()
```

- 1 Define the --num argument as an int with a default value of 10.
- 2 Parse the command-line argument into the variable args.
- ③ If the args.num is less than 1, use parser.error() to display an error message and exit the program with an error value.
- 4 The map() function expects a function as the first argument and some *iterable* as the second argument. Here we will feed the descending numbers from the range() function to our verse() function. The result from map() is a new list of verses that can be joined on two newlines.
- 5 Define a function that can create a single verse().
- 6 Define a next bottle that is one less than the current bottle.
- ⑦ Define a s1 (the first "s") that is either the character 's' or the empty string, depending on the value of bottle.
- 8 Do the same for s2 (the second "s"), depending on the value of next_bottle.
- 9 Define a value for next_num depending on whether the next value is 0 or not.
- ① Create a return string by joining the four lines of text on the newline. Substitute in the variables to create the correct verse.
- ① Define a unit test called test_verse() for the verse() function. The prefix test_ means that the pytest module will find this function and execute it.
- 1. Test the last verse() with the value 1.

1.7. Discussion

1.7.1. Defining the arguments

There isn't anything new with the <code>get_args()</code> function in this program. By this point, you have had several opportunities to define an optional integer parameter with a default argument as well as using <code>parser.error()</code> to halt your program if the user provides a bad argument. By relying on <code>argparse</code> to handle so much busy work, you are saving yourself loads of time as well as ensuring that you have good data to work with.

1.7.2. Counting down

We know how to count down from the given --num, and we know we can use a for loop to iterate:

```
>>> for n in range(3, 0, -1):
... print(f'{n} bottles of beer')
...
3 bottles of beer
2 bottles of beer
1 bottles of beer
```

Instead of directly making up each verse in the for loop, I suggested in the introduction that you create a function called <code>verse()</code> to create any given verse and use that with the <code>range()</code> of numbers. Up to this point, we've been doing all our work right in the <code>main()</code> function. As you grow as a programmer, your programs will become longer, hundreds to even thousands of lines of code (LOC). Long programs and functions can get very difficult to test and maintain, so you should try to break ideas into small, functional units that you can understand and test. Ideally, functions should do <code>one</code> thing. If you understand and trust your smaller functions, then you know you can put them together to achieve larger tasks.

1.7.3. Test-Driven Development

I wanted you to add the test_verse() function to your program to use with pytest to create a working verse() function. This idea follows the principles of *Test-Driven Development* described in that book by Kent Beck (2002):

- 1. Add a new test for an unimplemented unit of functionality.
- 2. Run all previously written tests and see the newly added test fails.
- 3. Write code that implements the new functionality.
- 4. Run all tests and see them succeed.
- 5. Refactor (rewrite to improve readability or structure).
- 6. Start at the beginning (repeat).

For instance, assume we want a function that adds 1 to any given number We'll called it add1() and define the function body as pass to tell Python "nothing to see here":

```
1 def add1(n):
2 pass
```

Now write a test_add1() function where you pass some arguments to the function and use assert to verify that you get back the value that you expect.

```
1 def test_add1():
2    assert add1(0) = 1
3    assert add1(1) = 2
4    assert add1(-1) = 0
```

Run pytest (or whatever testing framework you like) and verify that the function *does not work* (of course it won't because it just executes pass). Then go fill in the function code that *does* work (return n + 1 instead of pass). Pass all manner of arguments you can imagine, including nothing, one thing, and many things. [1]

1.7.4. The verse() function

I provided you with a test_verse() function that shows you exactly what is expected for the arguments of 1 and 2. What I like about writing my tests first is that is gives me an opportunity to think about how I'd like to use the code, what I'd like to give as arguments, and what I expect to get back in return. For instance, what *should* the function add1() return if given:

- no arguments?
- more than one argument?
- the value None?
- anything other than a numeric type (int, float, or complex) like a str value or a dict?



You can write test to pass both good and bad values and decide how you want your code to behave under both favorable and adverse conditions.

Here's the verse() function I wrote which passes the test verse() function:

```
1 def verse(bottle):
       """Sing a verse"""
2
3
4
       next_bottle = bottle - 1
5
       s1 = '' if bottle == 1 else 's'
       s2 = '' if next bottle == 1 else 's'
7
       num_next = 'No more' if next_bottle == 0 else next_bottle
8
       return '\n'.join([
9
           f'{bottle} bottle{s1} of beer on the wall,',
           f'{bottle} bottle{s1} of beer,',
10
11
           f'Take one down, pass it around,',
12
           f'{num_next} bottle{s2} of beer on the wall!',
13
       ])
```

It's annotated above, but essentially I isolated all the parts of the return string that vary and created variables to substitute into those places. I need both the bottle and the next_bottle which I can then use to decide if there should be an "s" or not after the the "bottle" strings. I also need to figure out whether to print the next bottle as a number or the string "No more" when the next_bottle is 0. Choosing the values for s1, s2, and num_next all involve binary decisions meaning they are a choice between two values, so I find it best to use an if expression.

This function passes test_verse(), and so we can move on to using it to generate the song.

1.7.5. Iterating through the verses

I can use a for loop to count down and print each verse():

```
>>> for n in range(3, 0, -1):
...    print(verse(n))
...
3 bottles of beer on the wall,
3 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
2 bottles of beer on the wall!
2 bottles of beer on the wall,
2 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
1 bottle of beer on the wall!
1 bottle of beer on the wall,
1 bottle of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
No more bottles of beer on the wall!
```

That's *almost* correct. I want an two newlines in between all the verses. I could use the end option to print to use 2 newlines for all values greater than 1:

```
>>> for n in range(3, 0, -1):
...     print(verse(n), end='\n' * (2 if n > 1 else 1))
...
3 bottles of beer on the wall,
3 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
2 bottles of beer on the wall!

2 bottles of beer on the wall,
5 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
6 bottle of beer on the wall!

1 bottle of beer on the wall,
1 bottle of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
No more bottles of beer on the wall!
```

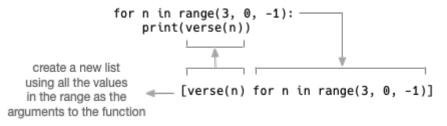


Figure 11. 2. A for loop compared to a list comprehension.

I know that I could also the str.join() method to put 2 newlines in between items in a list. My items are the verses, and I know I can turn a for loop into a list comprehension:

```
>>> verses = [verse(n) for n in range(3, 0, -1)]
>>> print('\n\n'.join(verses))
3 bottles of beer on the wall,
3 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
2 bottles of beer on the wall!

2 bottles of beer on the wall,
5 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
6 bottle of beer on the wall!

1 bottle of beer on the wall,
1 bottle of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
No more bottles of beer on the wall!
```

That is a fine solution; however, I would like you to start noticing a pattern we will see repeatedly. That is applying some function to every element of a sequence.

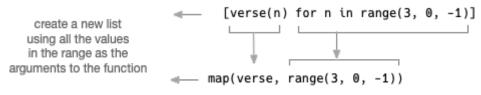


Figure 11. 3. A list comprehension can be replaced with map(). *They both return a new* list.

Here we have a descending range() of numbers, and we want to send each number through the verse() function to collect the results verses on the other end. It's like the paint booth idea in "Apples and Bananas" where the function "painted" the cars "blue" by adding the word "blue" to the front. When we want to apply a function to every element in a sequence, we might consider refactoring the code using map():

```
>>> verses = map(verse, range(3, 0, -1))
>>> print('\n\n'.join(verses))
3 bottles of beer on the wall,
3 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
2 bottles of beer on the wall!

2 bottles of beer on the wall,
5 bottles of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
6 bottle of beer on the wall!

1 bottle of beer on the wall,
1 bottle of beer,
Take one down, pass it around,
No more bottles of beer on the wall!
```

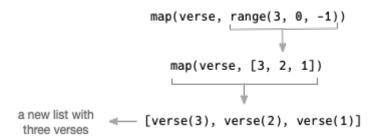


Figure 11. 4. The map() function will call the verse() function with each element produced by the range() function. It's functions all the way down.

Whenever I need to transform some sequence of items by some function, I like to start off by thinking about I'll handle just *one* of the items. I find it's much easier to write and test one function with one input rather than some possibly huge list of operations. List comprehensions are often considered more "Pythonic," but I tend to favor map() just because it's usually shorter code. If you search for "python list comprehension map," you'll find some people think list comprehensions are easier to read than map() but map() might possibly be somewhat faster. I wouldn't say either approach is better than the other, and so it really comes down to taste or perhaps a discussion with your teammates.

If you want to use <code>map()</code>, remember that it wants a *function* as the first argument and then a sequence of elements that will become arguments to the function. Our <code>verse()</code> function (which we've tested!) is the first argument, and the <code>range()</code> provides the <code>list</code>. The <code>map()</code> functions will make each element of the <code>range()</code> an argument to the <code>verse()</code> function and will return a new <code>list</code> with the results of all those function calls. Many are the <code>for</code> multi-line loops that can be better written as mapping a function over a list of arguments!

1.7.6. 1500 other solutions

There are literally hundreds of ways to solve this problem. The website http://www.99-bottles-of-beer.net/ claims to have 1500 variations in various languages. Compare your solution to others there. Trivial as the actual program may be, it has allowed us to explore some really interesting ideas in Python, testing, and algorithms!



1.8. Review

- Test-Driven Development (TDD) is central to developing dependable, reproducible code. Tests also give you the freedom to refactor (reorganize and improve for speed or clarity) your code knowing that you can always verify your new version still works the same. As you write your code, always write tests!
- The range() function will count backwards if the you swap start and stop and supply the optional third step value of -1.
- A for loop can often be replaced with a list comprehension or a map() for shorter, more concise code.

1.9. Going Further

- Replace the Arabic numbers (1, 2, 3) with text (one, two, three).
- Add a --step option (positive int, default 1) that allows the user to skip, like by 2s or 5s.
- Add a --reverse flag to reverse the order of the verses, counting up instead of down.

[1] A CS professor once told me in office hours to handle the cases of 0, 1, and n (infinity), and that has always stuck with me.