Built-in Functions

The Python interpreter has a number of functions and types built into it that are always available. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

		Built-in Functions		
abs()	delattr()	hash()	memoryview()	set()
all()	dict()	help()	min()	setattr()
any()	dir()	hex()	next()	slice()
ascii()	divmod()	id()	object()	sorted()
bin()	enumerate()	input()	oct()	staticmethod()
bool()	eval()	int()	open()	str()
breakpoint()	exec()	isinstance()	ord()	sum()
bytearray()	filter()	issubclass()	pow()	super()
bytes()	float()	iter()	print()	tuple()
callable()	format()	len()	property()	type()
chr()	frozenset()	list()	range()	vars()
classmethod()	getattr()	locals()	repr()	zip()
compile()	globals()	map()	reversed()	import()
complex()	hasattr()	max()	round()	

abs(x)

Return the absolute value of a number. The argument may be an integer or a floating point number. If the argument is a complex number, its magnitude is returned. If x defines $_abs_()$, abs(x) returns x. $_abs_()$.

all(iterable)

Return True if all elements of the iterable are true (or if the iterable is empty). Equivalent to:

```
def all(iterable):
    for element in iterable:
        if not element:
        return False
    return True
```

any(iterable)

Return True if any element of the *iterable* is true. If the iterable is empty, return False. Equivalent to:

```
def any(iterable):
    for element in iterable:
        if element:
            return True
    return False
```

ascii(object)

As repr(), return a string containing a printable representation of an object, but escape the non-ASCII characters in the string returned by repr() using $\xspace x$, $\xspace u$ or $\xspace U$ escapes. This generates a string similar to that returned by repr() in Python 2.

bin(x)

Convert an integer number to a binary string prefixed with "0b". The result is a valid Python expression. If x is not a Python int object, it has to define an __index__() method that returns an integer. Some examples:

```
>>> bin(3)
'0b11'
>>> bin(-10)
'-0b1010'
```

If prefix "0b" is desired or not, you can use either of the following ways.

```
>>> format(14, '#b'), format(14, 'b')
('0b1110', '1110')
>>> f'{14:#b}', f'{14:b}'
('0b1110', '1110')
```

See also format() for more information.

class bool([x])

Return a Boolean value, i.e. one of True or False. x is converted using the standard truth testing procedure. If x is false or omitted, this returns False; otherwise it returns True. The bool class is a subclass of int (see Numeric Types — int, float, complex). It cannot be subclassed further. Its only instances are False and True (see Boolean Values).

Changed in version 3.7: x is now a positional-only parameter.

breakpoint(*args, **kws)

This function drops you into the debugger at the call site. Specifically, it calls sys.breakpointhook(), passing args and kws straight through. By default, sys.breakpointhook() calls pdb.set_trace() expecting no arguments. In this case, it is purely a convenience function so you don't have to explicitly import pdb or type as much code to enter the debugger. However, sys.breakpointhook() can be set to some other

function and breakpoint() will automatically call that, allowing you to drop into the debugger of choice.

Raises an auditing event builtins.breakpoint with argument breakpointhook.

New in version 3.7.

class bytearray([source[, encoding[, errors]]])

Return a new array of bytes. The bytearray class is a mutable sequence of integers in the range $0 \le x \le 256$. It has most of the usual methods of mutable sequences, described in Mutable Sequence Types, as well as most methods that the bytes type has, see Bytes and Bytearray Operations.

The optional *source* parameter can be used to initialize the array in a few different ways:

- If it is a string, you must also give the encoding (and optionally, errors) parameters;
 bytearray() then converts the string to bytes using str.encode().
- If it is an integer, the array will have that size and will be initialized with null bytes.
- If it is an object conforming to the *buffer* interface, a read-only buffer of the object will be used to initialize the bytes array.
- If it is an *iterable*, it must be an iterable of integers in the range $0 \le x \le 256$, which are used as the initial contents of the array.

Without an argument, an array of size 0 is created.

See also Binary Sequence Types — bytes, bytearray, memoryview and Bytearray Objects.

class bytes([source[, encoding[, errors]]])

Return a new "bytes" object, which is an immutable sequence of integers in the range 0 <= x < 256. bytes is an immutable version of bytearray – it has the same non-mutating methods and the same indexing and slicing behavior.

Accordingly, constructor arguments are interpreted as for bytearray().

Bytes objects can also be created with literals, see String and Bytes literals.

See also Binary Sequence Types — bytes, bytearray, memoryview, Bytes Objects, and Bytes and Bytearray Operations.

callable(object)

Return True if the *object* argument appears callable, False if not. If this returns True, it is still possible that a call fails, but if it is False, calling *object* will never succeed. Note that classes are callable (calling a class returns a new instance); instances are callable if their class has a call () method.

New in version 3.2: This function was first removed in Python 3.0 and then brought back in Python 3.2.

chr(i)

Return the string representing a character whose Unicode code point is the integer *i*. For example, chr(97) returns the string 'a', while chr(8364) returns the string '€'. This is the inverse of ord().

The valid range for the argument is from 0 through 1,114,111 (0x10FFFF in base 16). ValueError will be raised if *i* is outside that range.

@classmethod

Transform a method into a class method.

A class method receives the class as implicit first argument, just like an instance method receives the instance. To declare a class method, use this idiom:

```
class C:
    @classmethod
    def f(cls, arg1, arg2, ...): ...
```

The @classmethod form is a function decorator – see Function definitions for details.

A class method can be called either on the class (such as C.f()) or on an instance (such as C().f()). The instance is ignored except for its class. If a class method is called for a derived class, the derived class object is passed as the implied first argument.

Class methods are different than C++ or Java static methods. If you want those, see staticmethod().

For more information on class methods, see The standard type hierarchy.

```
compile(source, filename, mode, flags=0, dont_inherit=False, optimize=-1)
```

Compile the *source* into a code or AST object. Code objects can be executed by exec() or eval(). *source* can either be a normal string, a byte string, or an AST object. Refer to the ast module documentation for information on how to work with AST objects.

The *filename* argument should give the file from which the code was read; pass some recognizable value if it wasn't read from a file ('<string>' is commonly used).

The *mode* argument specifies what kind of code must be compiled; it can be 'exec' if *source* consists of a sequence of statements, 'eval' if it consists of a single expression, or 'single' if it consists of a single interactive statement (in the latter case, expression statements that evaluate to something other than None will be printed).

The optional arguments *flags* and *dont_inherit* control which future statements affect the compilation of *source*. If neither is present (or both are zero) the code is compiled with those future statements that are in effect in the code that is calling <code>compile()</code>. If the *flags* argument is given and *dont_inherit* is not (or is zero) then the future statements specified by the *flags* argument are used in addition to those that would be used anyway. If *dont_inherit* is

a non-zero integer then the *flags* argument is it – the future statements in effect around the call to compile are ignored.

Future statements are specified by bits which can be bitwise ORed together to specify multiple statements. The bitfield required to specify a given feature can be found as the compiler_flag attribute on the _Feature instance in the __future__ module.

The optional argument *flags* also controls whether the compiled source is allowed to contain top-level await, async for and async with. When the bit ast.PyCF_ALLOW_TOP_LEVEL_AWAIT is set, the return code object has CO_COROUTINE set in co code, and can be interactively executed via await eval(code object).

The argument *optimize* specifies the optimization level of the compiler; the default value of -1 selects the optimization level of the interpreter as given by -0 options. Explicit levels are 0 (no optimization; __debug__ is true), 1 (asserts are removed, __debug__ is false) or 2 (docstrings are removed too).

This function raises SyntaxError if the compiled source is invalid, and ValueError if the source contains null bytes.

If you want to parse Python code into its AST representation, see ast.parse().

Raises an auditing event compile with arguments source and filename. This event may also be raised by implicit compilation.

Note: When compiling a string with multi-line code in 'single' or 'eval' mode, input must be terminated by at least one newline character. This is to facilitate detection of incomplete and complete statements in the code module.

Warning: It is possible to crash the Python interpreter with a sufficiently large/complex string when compiling to an AST object due to stack depth limitations in Python's AST compiler.

Changed in version 3.2: Allowed use of Windows and Mac newlines. Also input in 'exec' mode does not have to end in a newline anymore. Added the *optimize* parameter.

Changed in version 3.5: Previously, TypeError was raised when null bytes were encountered in source.

New in version 3.8: ast.PyCF_ALLOW_TOP_LEVEL_AWAIT can now be passed in flags to enable support for top-level await, async for, and async with.

class complex([real[, imag]])

Return a complex number with the value *real* + *imag**1j or convert a string or number to a complex number. If the first parameter is a string, it will be interpreted as a complex number and the function must be called without a second parameter. The second parameter can

never be a string. Each argument may be any numeric type (including complex). If *imag* is omitted, it defaults to zero and the constructor serves as a numeric conversion like int and float. If both arguments are omitted, returns 0j.

For a general Python object x, complex(x) delegates to x.__complex__(). If __complex__() is not defined then it falls back to __float__(). If __float__() is not defined then it falls back to __index__().

Note: When converting from a string, the string must not contain whitespace around the central + or - operator. For example, complex('1+2j') is fine, but complex('1 + 2j') raises ValueError.

The complex type is described in Numeric Types — int, float, complex.

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

Changed in version 3.8: Falls back to __index__() if __complex__() and __float__() are not defined.

delattr(object, name)

This is a relative of setattr(). The arguments are an object and a string. The string must be the name of one of the object's attributes. The function deletes the named attribute, provided the object allows it. For example, delattr(x, 'foobar') is equivalent to delattr(x, 'foobar') is equivalent to delattr(x, 'foobar').

```
class dict(**kwarg)
class dict(mapping, **kwarg)
class dict(iterable, **kwarg)
```

Create a new dictionary. The dict object is the dictionary class. See dict and Mapping Types — dict for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in list, set, and tuple classes, as well as the collections module.

dir([object])

Without arguments, return the list of names in the current local scope. With an argument, attempt to return a list of valid attributes for that object.

If the object has a method named __dir__(), this method will be called and must return the list of attributes. This allows objects that implement a custom __getattr__() or __getattribute__() function to customize the way dir() reports their attributes.

If the object does not provide __dir__(), the function tries its best to gather information from the object's __dict__ attribute, if defined, and from its type object. The resulting list is not necessarily complete, and may be inaccurate when the object has a custom __getattr__().

The default dir() mechanism behaves differently with different types of objects, as it attempts to produce the most relevant, rather than complete, information:

- If the object is a module object, the list contains the names of the module's attributes.
- If the object is a type or class object, the list contains the names of its attributes, and recursively of the attributes of its bases.
- Otherwise, the list contains the object's attributes' names, the names of its class's attributes, and recursively of the attributes of its class's base classes.

The resulting list is sorted alphabetically. For example:

```
>>> import struct
>>> dir() # show the names in the module namespace
['__builtins__', '__name__', 'struct']
>>> dir(struct) # show the names in the struct module
['Struct', '__all__', '__builtins__', '__cached__', '__doc__', '__file__',
    '__initializing__', '__loader__', '__name__', '__package__',
    '_clearcache', 'calcsize', 'error', 'pack', 'pack_into',
    'unpack', 'unpack_from']
>>> class Shape:
...     def __dir__(self):
...         return ['area', 'perimeter', 'location']
>>> s = Shape()
>>> dir(s)
['area', 'location', 'perimeter']
```

Note: Because dir() is supplied primarily as a convenience for use at an interactive prompt, it tries to supply an interesting set of names more than it tries to supply a rigorously or consistently defined set of names, and its detailed behavior may change across releases. For example, metaclass attributes are not in the result list when the argument is a class.

divmod(a, b)

Take two (non complex) numbers as arguments and return a pair of numbers consisting of their quotient and remainder when using integer division. With mixed operand types, the rules for binary arithmetic operators apply. For integers, the result is the same as (a // b, a % b). For floating point numbers the result is (q, a % b), where q is usually math.floor(a / b) but may be 1 less than that. In any case q * b + a % b is very close to a, if a % b is non-zero it has the same sign as b, and 0 <= abs(a % b) < abs(b).

enumerate(iterable, start=0)

Return an enumerate object. *iterable* must be a sequence, an iterator, or some other object which supports iteration. The __next__() method of the iterator returned by enumerate() returns a tuple containing a count (from *start* which defaults to 0) and the values obtained from iterating over *iterable*.

```
>>> seasons = ['Spring', 'Summer', 'Fall', 'Winter']
>>> list(enumerate(seasons))
[(0, 'Spring'), (1, 'Summer'), (2, 'Fall'), (3, 'Winter')]
>>> list(enumerate(seasons, start=1))
[(1, 'Spring'), (2, 'Summer'), (3, 'Fall'), (4, 'Winter')]
```

Equivalent to:

```
def enumerate(sequence, start=0):
    n = start
    for elem in sequence:
        yield n, elem
        n += 1
```

eval(expression[, globals[, locals]])

The arguments are a string and optional globals and locals. If provided, *globals* must be a dictionary. If provided, *locals* can be any mapping object.

The *expression* argument is parsed and evaluated as a Python expression (technically speaking, a condition list) using the *globals* and *locals* dictionaries as global and local namespace. If the *globals* dictionary is present and does not contain a value for the key __builtins__, a reference to the dictionary of the built-in module builtins is inserted under that key before *expression* is parsed. This means that *expression* normally has full access to the standard builtins module and restricted environments are propagated. If the *locals* dictionary is omitted it defaults to the *globals* dictionary. If both dictionaries are omitted, the expression is executed with the *globals* and *locals* in the environment where eval() is called. Note, *eval()* does not have access to the nested scopes (non-locals) in the enclosing environment.

The return value is the result of the evaluated expression. Syntax errors are reported as exceptions. Example:

```
>>> x = 1
>>> eval('x+1')
2
```

This function can also be used to execute arbitrary code objects (such as those created by compile()). In this case pass a code object instead of a string. If the code object has been compiled with 'exec' as the *mode* argument, eval()'s return value will be None.

Hints: dynamic execution of statements is supported by the exec() function. The globals() and locals() functions returns the current global and local dictionary, respectively, which may be useful to pass around for use by eval() or exec().

See ast.literal_eval() for a function that can safely evaluate strings with expressions containing only literals.

Raises an auditing event exec with the code object as the argument. Code compilation events may also be raised.

exec(object[, globals[, locals]])

This function supports dynamic execution of Python code. *object* must be either a string or a code object. If it is a string, the string is parsed as a suite of Python statements which is then executed (unless a syntax error occurs). [1] If it is a code object, it is simply executed. In all cases, the code that's executed is expected to be valid as file input (see the section "File input" in the Reference Manual). Be aware that the return and yield statements may not be used outside of function definitions even within the context of code passed to the exec() function. The return value is None.

In all cases, if the optional parts are omitted, the code is executed in the current scope. If only *globals* is provided, it must be a dictionary (and not a subclass of dictionary), which will be used for both the global and the local variables. If *globals* and *locals* are given, they are used for the global and local variables, respectively. If provided, *locals* can be any mapping object. Remember that at module level, globals and locals are the same dictionary. If exec gets two separate objects as *globals* and *locals*, the code will be executed as if it were embedded in a class definition.

If the *globals* dictionary does not contain a value for the key __builtins__, a reference to the dictionary of the built-in module builtins is inserted under that key. That way you can control what builtins are available to the executed code by inserting your own __builtins__ dictionary into *globals* before passing it to exec().

Raises an auditing event exec with the code object as the argument. Code compilation events may also be raised.

Note: The built-in functions <code>globals()</code> and <code>locals()</code> return the current global and local dictionary, respectively, which may be useful to pass around for use as the second and third argument to <code>exec()</code>.

Note: The default *locals* act as described for function <code>locals()</code> below: modifications to the default *locals* dictionary should not be attempted. Pass an explicit *locals* dictionary if you need to see effects of the code on *locals* after function <code>exec()</code> returns.

filter(function, iterable)

Construct an iterator from those elements of *iterable* for which *function* returns true. *iterable* may be either a sequence, a container which supports iteration, or an iterator. If *function* is None, the identity function is assumed, that is, all elements of *iterable* that are false are removed.

Note that filter(function, iterable) is equivalent to the generator expression (item for item in iterable if function(item)) if function is not None and (item for item in iterable if item) if function is None.

See itertools.filterfalse() for the complementary function that returns elements of *iterable* for which *function* returns false.

class float([x])

Return a floating point number constructed from a number or string *x*.

If the argument is a string, it should contain a decimal number, optionally preceded by a sign, and optionally embedded in whitespace. The optional sign may be '+' or '-'; a '+' sign has no effect on the value produced. The argument may also be a string representing a NaN (not-a-number), or a positive or negative infinity. More precisely, the input must conform to the following grammar after leading and trailing whitespace characters are removed:

Here floatnumber is the form of a Python floating-point literal, described in Floating point literals. Case is not significant, so, for example, "inf", "INFINITY" and "iNfINity" are all acceptable spellings for positive infinity.

Otherwise, if the argument is an integer or a floating point number, a floating point number with the same value (within Python's floating point precision) is returned. If the argument is outside the range of a Python float, an OverflowError will be raised.

For a general Python object x, float(x) delegates to x.__float__(). If __float__() is not defined then it falls back to __index__().

If no argument is given, 0.0 is returned.

Examples:

```
>>> float('+1.23')
1.23
>>> float(' -12345\n')
-12345.0
>>> float('1e-003')
0.001
>>> float('+1E6')
1000000.0
>>> float('-Infinity')
-inf
```

The float type is described in Numeric Types — int, float, complex.

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

Changed in version 3.7: x is now a positional-only parameter.

Changed in version 3.8: Falls back to __index__() if __float__() is not defined.

format(value[, format_spec])

Convert a *value* to a "formatted" representation, as controlled by *format_spec*. The interpretation of *format_spec* will depend on the type of the *value* argument, however there is a standard formatting syntax that is used by most built-in types: Format Specification Mini-Language.

The default *format_spec* is an empty string which usually gives the same effect as calling str(value).

A call to format(value, format_spec) is translated to type(value).__format__(value, format_spec) which bypasses the instance dictionary when searching for the value's __format__() method. A TypeError exception is raised if the method search reaches object and the format_spec is non-empty, or if either the format_spec or the return value are not strings.

Changed in version 3.4: object().__format__(format_spec) raises TypeError if format_spec is not an empty string.

class frozenset([iterable])

Return a new frozenset object, optionally with elements taken from *iterable*. frozenset is a built-in class. See frozenset and Set Types — set, frozenset for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in set, list, tuple, and dict classes, as well as the collections module.

getattr(object, name[, default])

Return the value of the named attribute of *object*. *name* must be a string. If the string is the name of one of the object's attributes, the result is the value of that attribute. For example, getattr(x, 'foobar') is equivalent to x.foobar. If the named attribute does not exist, *default* is returned if provided, otherwise AttributeError is raised.

globals()

Return a dictionary representing the current global symbol table. This is always the dictionary of the current module (inside a function or method, this is the module where it is defined, not the module from which it is called).

hasattr(object, name)

The arguments are an object and a string. The result is True if the string is the name of one of the object's attributes, False if not. (This is implemented by calling getattr(object, name) and seeing whether it raises an AttributeError or not.)

hash(object)

Return the hash value of the object (if it has one). Hash values are integers. They are used to quickly compare dictionary keys during a dictionary lookup. Numeric values that compare equal have the same hash value (even if they are of different types, as is the case for 1 and 1.0).

Note: For objects with custom <u>_hash__()</u> methods, note that <u>hash()</u> truncates the return value based on the bit width of the host machine. See <u>_hash__()</u> for details.

help([object])

Invoke the built-in help system. (This function is intended for interactive use.) If no argument is given, the interactive help system starts on the interpreter console. If the argument is a string, then the string is looked up as the name of a module, function, class, method, keyword, or documentation topic, and a help page is printed on the console. If the argument is any other kind of object, a help page on the object is generated.

Note that if a slash(/) appears in the parameter list of a function, when invoking help(), it means that the parameters prior to the slash are positional-only. For more info, see the FAQ entry on positional-only parameters.

This function is added to the built-in namespace by the site module.

Changed in version 3.4: Changes to pydoc and inspect mean that the reported signatures for callables are now more comprehensive and consistent.

hex(x)

Convert an integer number to a lowercase hexadecimal string prefixed with "0x". If x is not a Python int object, it has to define an __index__() method that returns an integer. Some examples:

```
>>> hex(255)
'0xff'
>>> hex(-42)
'-0x2a'
```

If you want to convert an integer number to an uppercase or lower hexadecimal string with prefix or not, you can use either of the following ways:

```
>>> '%#x' % 255, '%x' % 255, '%X' % 255
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
>>> format(255, '#x'), format(255, 'x'), format(255, 'X')
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
>>> f'{255:#x}', f'{255:x}', f'{255:X}'
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
```

See also format() for more information.

See also int() for converting a hexadecimal string to an integer using a base of 16.

Note: To obtain a hexadecimal string representation for a float, use the float.hex() method.

id(object)

Return the "identity" of an object. This is an integer which is guaranteed to be unique and constant for this object during its lifetime. Two objects with non-overlapping lifetimes may have the same id() value.

CPython implementation detail: This is the address of the object in memory.

input([prompt])

If the *prompt* argument is present, it is written to standard output without a trailing newline. The function then reads a line from input, converts it to a string (stripping a trailing newline), and returns that. When EOF is read, EOFError is raised. Example:

```
>>> s = input('--> ')
--> Monty Python's Flying Circus
>>> s
"Monty Python's Flying Circus"
```

If the readline module was loaded, then input() will use it to provide elaborate line editing and history features.

Raises an auditing event builtins.input with argument prompt before reading input

Raises an auditing event builtins.input/result with the result after successfully reading input.

```
class int([x])
class int(x, base=10)
```

Return an integer object constructed from a number or string x, or return 0 if no arguments are given. If x defines $__int__()$, int(x) returns $x.__int__()$. If x defines $__index__()$, it returns $x.__index__()$. For floating point numbers, this truncates towards zero.

If x is not a number or if base is given, then x must be a string, bytes, or bytearray instance representing an integer literal in radix base. Optionally, the literal can be preceded by + or - (with no space in between) and surrounded by whitespace. A base-n literal consists of the digits 0 to n-1, with a to z (or A to Z) having values 10 to 35. The default base is 10. The allowed values are 0 and 2–36. Base-2, -8, and -16 literals can be optionally prefixed with 0b/0B, 0o/00, or 0x/0X, as with integer literals in code. Base 0 means to interpret exactly as a code literal, so that the actual base is 2, 8, 10, or 16, and so that int('010', 0) is not legal, while int('010') is, as well as int('010', 8).

The integer type is described in Numeric Types — int, float, complex.

Changed in version 3.4: If base is not an instance of int and the base object has a base.__index__ method, that method is called to obtain an integer for the base. Previous versions used base.__int__ instead of base.__index__.

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

Changed in version 3.7: x is now a positional-only parameter.

Changed in version 3.8: Falls back to __index__() if __int__() is not defined.

isinstance(object, classinfo)

Return True if the *object* argument is an instance of the *classinfo* argument, or of a (direct, indirect or virtual) subclass thereof. If *object* is not an object of the given type, the function always returns False. If *classinfo* is a tuple of type objects (or recursively, other such tuples), return True if *object* is an instance of any of the types. If *classinfo* is not a type or tuple of types and such tuples, a TypeError exception is raised.

issubclass(class, classinfo)

Return True if *class* is a subclass (direct, indirect or virtual) of *classinfo*. A class is considered a subclass of itself. *classinfo* may be a tuple of class objects, in which case every entry in *classinfo* will be checked. In any other case, a TypeError exception is raised.

iter(object[, sentinel])

Return an iterator object. The first argument is interpreted very differently depending on the presence of the second argument. Without a second argument, *object* must be a collection object which supports the iteration protocol (the __iter__() method), or it must support the sequence protocol (the __getitem__() method with integer arguments starting at 0). If it does not support either of those protocols, TypeError is raised. If the second argument, sentinel, is given, then *object* must be a callable object. The iterator created in this case will call *object* with no arguments for each call to its __next__() method; if the value returned is equal to sentinel, StopIteration will be raised, otherwise the value will be returned.

See also Iterator Types.

One useful application of the second form of iter() is to build a block-reader. For example, reading fixed-width blocks from a binary database file until the end of file is reached:

```
from functools import partial
with open('mydata.db', 'rb') as f:
   for block in iter(partial(f.read, 64), b''):
        process_block(block)
```

len(s)

Return the length (the number of items) of an object. The argument may be a sequence (such as a string, bytes, tuple, list, or range) or a collection (such as a dictionary, set, or frozen set).

class list([iterable])

Rather than being a function, list is actually a mutable sequence type, as documented in Lists and Sequence Types — list, tuple, range.

locals()

Update and return a dictionary representing the current local symbol table. Free variables are returned by locals() when it is called in function blocks, but not in class blocks. Note that at the module level, locals() and globals() are the same dictionary.

Note: The contents of this dictionary should not be modified; changes may not affect the values of local and free variables used by the interpreter.

map(function, iterable, ...)

Return an iterator that applies *function* to every item of *iterable*, yielding the results. If additional *iterable* arguments are passed, *function* must take that many arguments and is applied to the items from all iterables in parallel. With multiple iterables, the iterator stops when the shortest iterable is exhausted. For cases where the function inputs are already arranged into argument tuples, see itertools.starmap().

```
max(iterable, *[, key, default])
max(arg1, arg2, *args[, key])
```

Return the largest item in an iterable or the largest of two or more arguments.

If one positional argument is provided, it should be an iterable. The largest item in the iterable is returned. If two or more positional arguments are provided, the largest of the positional arguments is returned.

There are two optional keyword-only arguments. The *key* argument specifies a one-argument ordering function like that used for <code>list.sort()</code>. The *default* argument specifies an object to return if the provided iterable is empty. If the iterable is empty and *default* is not provided, a <code>ValueError</code> is raised.

If multiple items are maximal, the function returns the first one encountered. This is consistent with other sort-stability preserving tools such as sorted(iterable, key=keyfunc, reverse=True)[0] and heapq.nlargest(1, iterable, key=keyfunc).

New in version 3.4: The default keyword-only argument.

Changed in version 3.8: The key can be None.

class memoryview(obj)

Return a "memory view" object created from the given argument. See Memory Views for more information.

```
min(iterable, *[, key, default])
```

min(arg1, arg2, *args[, key])

Return the smallest item in an iterable or the smallest of two or more arguments.

If one positional argument is provided, it should be an iterable. The smallest item in the iterable is returned. If two or more positional arguments are provided, the smallest of the positional arguments is returned.

There are two optional keyword-only arguments. The *key* argument specifies a one-argument ordering function like that used for <code>list.sort()</code>. The *default* argument specifies an object to return if the provided iterable is empty. If the iterable is empty and *default* is not provided, a <code>ValueError</code> is raised.

If multiple items are minimal, the function returns the first one encountered. This is consistent with other sort-stability preserving tools such as sorted(iterable, key=keyfunc)[0] and heapq.nsmallest(1, iterable, key=keyfunc).

New in version 3.4: The default keyword-only argument.

Changed in version 3.8: The key can be None.

next(iterator[, default])

Retrieve the next item from the *iterator* by calling its __next__() method. If *default* is given, it is returned if the iterator is exhausted, otherwise StopIteration is raised.

class object

Return a new featureless object. object is a base for all classes. It has the methods that are common to all instances of Python classes. This function does not accept any arguments.

```
Note: object does not have a __dict__, so you can't assign arbitrary attributes to an instance of the object class.
```

oct(x)

Convert an integer number to an octal string prefixed with "0o". The result is a valid Python expression. If x is not a Python int object, it has to define an __index__() method that returns an integer. For example:

```
>>> oct(8)
'0o10'
>>> oct(-56)
'-0o70'
```

If you want to convert an integer number to octal string either with prefix "0o" or not, you can use either of the following ways.

```
>>> '%#o' % 10, '%o' % 10 ('0012', '12')
```

```
>>> format(10, '#o'), format(10, 'o')
('0o12', '12')
>>> f'{10:#o}', f'{10:o}'
('0o12', '12')
```

See also format() for more information.

open(file, mode='r', buffering=-1, encoding=None, errors=None, newline=None, closefd=True, opener=None)

Open *file* and return a corresponding file object. If the file cannot be opened, an OSError is raised.

file is a path-like object giving the pathname (absolute or relative to the current working directory) of the file to be opened or an integer file descriptor of the file to be wrapped. (If a file descriptor is given, it is closed when the returned I/O object is closed, unless *closefd* is set to False.)

mode is an optional string that specifies the mode in which the file is opened. It defaults to 'r' which means open for reading in text mode. Other common values are 'w' for writing (truncating the file if it already exists), 'x' for exclusive creation and 'a' for appending (which on some Unix systems, means that all writes append to the end of the file regardless of the current seek position). In text mode, if encoding is not specified the encoding used is platform dependent: locale.getpreferredencoding(False) is called to get the current locale encoding. (For reading and writing raw bytes use binary mode and leave encoding unspecified.) The available modes are:

Character	Meaning
'r'	open for reading (default)
'W'	open for writing, truncating the file first
' X '	open for exclusive creation, failing if the file already exists
'a'	open for writing, appending to the end of the file if it exists
'b'	binary mode
't'	text mode (default)
'+'	open for updating (reading and writing)

The default mode is 'r' (open for reading text, synonym of 'rt'). Modes 'w+' and 'w+b' open and truncate the file. Modes 'r+' and 'r+b' open the file with no truncation.

As mentioned in the Overview, Python distinguishes between binary and text I/O. Files opened in binary mode (including 'b' in the *mode* argument) return contents as bytes objects without any decoding. In text mode (the default, or when 't' is included in the *mode* argument), the contents of the file are returned as str, the bytes having been first decoded using a platform-dependent encoding or using the specified *encoding* if given.

There is an additional mode character permitted, 'U', which no longer has any effect, and is considered deprecated. It previously enabled universal newlines in text mode, which became the default behaviour in Python 3.0. Refer to the documentation of the newline parameter for further details.

Note: Python doesn't depend on the underlying operating system's notion of text files; all the processing is done by Python itself, and is therefore platform-independent.

buffering is an optional integer used to set the buffering policy. Pass 0 to switch buffering off (only allowed in binary mode), 1 to select line buffering (only usable in text mode), and an integer > 1 to indicate the size in bytes of a fixed-size chunk buffer. When no buffering argument is given, the default buffering policy works as follows:

- Binary files are buffered in fixed-size chunks; the size of the buffer is chosen using a
 heuristic trying to determine the underlying device's "block size" and falling back on
 io.DEFAULT_BUFFER_SIZE. On many systems, the buffer will typically be 4096 or 8192
 bytes long.
- "Interactive" text files (files for which isatty() returns True) use line buffering. Other text files use the policy described above for binary files.

encoding is the name of the encoding used to decode or encode the file. This should only be used in text mode. The default encoding is platform dependent (whatever locale.getpreferredencoding() returns), but any text encoding supported by Python can be used. See the codecs module for the list of supported encodings.

errors is an optional string that specifies how encoding and decoding errors are to be handled—this cannot be used in binary mode. A variety of standard error handlers are available (listed under Error Handlers), though any error handling name that has been registered with codecs.register_error() is also valid. The standard names include:

- 'strict' to raise a ValueError exception if there is an encoding error. The default value of None has the same effect.
- 'ignore' ignores errors. Note that ignoring encoding errors can lead to data loss.
- 'replace' causes a replacement marker (such as '?') to be inserted where there is malformed data.
- 'surrogateescape' will represent any incorrect bytes as code points in the Unicode Private Use Area ranging from U+DC80 to U+DCFF. These private code points will then be turned back into the same bytes when the surrogateescape error handler is used when writing data. This is useful for processing files in an unknown encoding.
- 'xmlcharrefreplace' is only supported when writing to a file. Characters not supported by the encoding are replaced with the appropriate XML character reference &#nnn;.
- 'backslashreplace' replaces malformed data by Python's backslashed escape sequences.

 'namereplace' (also only supported when writing) replaces unsupported characters with \N{...} escape sequences.

newline controls how universal newlines mode works (it only applies to text mode). It can be None, '', '\n', '\r', and '\r\n'. It works as follows:

- When reading input from the stream, if *newline* is None, universal newlines mode is enabled. Lines in the input can end in '\n', '\r', or '\r\n', and these are translated into '\n' before being returned to the caller. If it is '', universal newlines mode is enabled, but line endings are returned to the caller untranslated. If it has any of the other legal values, input lines are only terminated by the given string, and the line ending is returned to the caller untranslated.
- When writing output to the stream, if *newline* is None, any '\n' characters written are translated to the system default line separator, os.linesep. If *newline* is '' or '\n', no translation takes place. If *newline* is any of the other legal values, any '\n' characters written are translated to the given string.

If *closefd* is False and a file descriptor rather than a filename was given, the underlying file descriptor will be kept open when the file is closed. If a filename is given *closefd* must be True (the default) otherwise an error will be raised.

A custom opener can be used by passing a callable as *opener*. The underlying file descriptor for the file object is then obtained by calling *opener* with (*file*, *flags*). *opener* must return an open file descriptor (passing os.open as *opener* results in functionality similar to passing None).

The newly created file is non-inheritable.

The following example uses the dir_fd parameter of the os.open() function to open a file relative to a given directory:

```
>>> import os
>>> dir_fd = os.open('somedir', os.0_RDONLY)
>>> def opener(path, flags):
...    return os.open(path, flags, dir_fd=dir_fd)
...
>>> with open('spamspam.txt', 'w', opener=opener) as f:
...    print('This will be written to somedir/spamspam.txt', file=f)
...
>>> os.close(dir_fd) # don't leak a file descriptor
```

The type of file object returned by the open() function depends on the mode. When open() is used to open a file in a text mode ('w', 'r', 'wt', 'rt', etc.), it returns a subclass of io.TextIOBase (specifically io.TextIOWrapper). When used to open a file in a binary mode with buffering, the returned class is a subclass of io.BufferedIOBase. The exact class varies: in read binary mode, it returns an io.BufferedReader; in write binary and append binary modes, it returns an io.BufferedWriter, and in read/write mode, it returns an

io.BufferedRandom. When buffering is disabled, the raw stream, a subclass of io.RawIOBase, io.FileIO, is returned.

See also the file handling modules, such as, fileinput, io (where open() is declared), os, os.path, tempfile, and shutil.

Raises an auditing event open with arguments file, mode, flags.

The mode and flags arguments may have been modified or inferred from the original call.

Changed in version 3.3:

- The opener parameter was added.
- The 'x' mode was added.
- IOError used to be raised, it is now an alias of OSError.
- FileExistsError is now raised if the file opened in exclusive creation mode ('x') already exists.

Changed in version 3.4:

The file is now non-inheritable.

Deprecated since version 3.4, will be removed in version 3.9: The 'U' mode.

Changed in version 3.5:

- If the system call is interrupted and the signal handler does not raise an
 exception, the function now retries the system call instead of raising an
 InterruptedError exception (see PEP 475 for the rationale).
- The 'namereplace' error handler was added.

Changed in version 3.6:

- Support added to accept objects implementing os.PathLike.
- On Windows, opening a console buffer may return a subclass of io.RawIOBase other than io.FileIO.

ord(c)

Given a string representing one Unicode character, return an integer representing the Unicode code point of that character. For example, ord('a') returns the integer 97 and ord('€') (Euro sign) returns 8364. This is the inverse of chr().

pow(base, exp[, mod])

Return *base* to the power *exp*; if *mod* is present, return *base* to the power *exp*, modulo *mod* (computed more efficiently than pow(base, exp) % mod). The two-argument form pow(base, exp) is equivalent to using the power operator: base**exp.

The arguments must have numeric types. With mixed operand types, the coercion rules for binary arithmetic operators apply. For int operands, the result has the same type as the operands (after coercion) unless the second argument is negative; in that case, all arguments are converted to float and a float result is delivered. For example, 10**2 returns 100, but 10**-2 returns 0.01.

For int operands base and exp, if mod is present, mod must also be of integer type and mod must be nonzero. If mod is present and exp is negative, base must be relatively prime to mod. In that case, pow(inv_base, -exp, mod) is returned, where inv_base is an inverse to base modulo mod.

Here's an example of computing an inverse for 38 modulo 97:

```
>>> pow(38, -1, mod=97)
23
>>> 23 * 38 % 97 == 1
True
```

Changed in version 3.8: For int operands, the three-argument form of pow now allows the second argument to be negative, permitting computation of modular inverses.

Changed in version 3.9: Allow keyword arguments. Formerly, only positional arguments were supported.

```
print(*objects, sep=' ', end='\n', file=sys.stdout, flush=False)
```

Print *objects* to the text stream *file*, separated by *sep* and followed by *end*. *sep*, *end*, *file* and *flush*, if present, must be given as keyword arguments.

All non-keyword arguments are converted to strings like str() does and written to the stream, separated by *sep* and followed by *end*. Both *sep* and *end* must be strings; they can also be None, which means to use the default values. If no *objects* are given, print() will just write *end*.

The file argument must be an object with a write(string) method; if it is not present or None, sys.stdout will be used. Since printed arguments are converted to text strings, print() cannot be used with binary mode file objects. For these, use file.write(...) instead.

Whether output is buffered is usually determined by *file*, but if the *flush* keyword argument is true, the stream is forcibly flushed.

Changed in version 3.3: Added the flush keyword argument.

```
class property(fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, doc=None)
Return a property attribute.
```

fget is a function for getting an attribute value. fset is a function for setting an attribute value. fdel is a function for deleting an attribute value. And doc creates a docstring for the attribute.

A typical use is to define a managed attribute x:

```
class C:
    def __init__(self):
        self._x = None

    def getx(self):
        return self._x

    def setx(self, value):
        self._x = value

    def delx(self):
        del self._x

x = property(getx, setx, delx, "I'm the 'x' property.")
```

If c is an instance of C, c.x will invoke the getter, c.x = value will invoke the setter and del c.x the deleter.

If given, *doc* will be the docstring of the property attribute. Otherwise, the property will copy *fget*'s docstring (if it exists). This makes it possible to create read-only properties easily using property() as a decorator:

```
class Parrot:
    def __init__(self):
        self._voltage = 100000

        @property
    def voltage(self):
        """Get the current voltage."""
        return self._voltage
```

The <code>@property</code> decorator turns the <code>voltage()</code> method into a "getter" for a read-only attribute with the same name, and it sets the docstring for <code>voltage</code> to "Get the current voltage."

A property object has getter, setter, and deleter methods usable as decorators that create a copy of the property with the corresponding accessor function set to the decorated function. This is best explained with an example:

```
class C:
    def __init__(self):
        self._x = None

    @property
    def x(self):
```

```
"""I'm the 'x' property."""
return self._x

@x.setter
def x(self, value):
    self._x = value

@x.deleter
def x(self):
    del self._x
```

This code is exactly equivalent to the first example. Be sure to give the additional functions the same name as the original property (x in this case.)

The returned property object also has the attributes fget, fset, and fdel corresponding to the constructor arguments.

Changed in version 3.5: The docstrings of property objects are now writeable.

```
class range(stop)
class range(start, stop[, step])
```

Rather than being a function, range is actually an immutable sequence type, as documented in Ranges and Sequence Types — list, tuple, range.

repr(object)

Return a string containing a printable representation of an object. For many types, this function makes an attempt to return a string that would yield an object with the same value when passed to eval(), otherwise the representation is a string enclosed in angle brackets that contains the name of the type of the object together with additional information often including the name and address of the object. A class can control what this function returns for its instances by defining a <u>repr</u>() method.

reversed(seq)

Return a reverse iterator. *seq* must be an object which has a __reversed__() method or supports the sequence protocol (the __len__() method and the __getitem__() method with integer arguments starting at 0).

round(number[, ndigits])

Return *number* rounded to *ndigits* precision after the decimal point. If *ndigits* is omitted or is None, it returns the nearest integer to its input.

For the built-in types supporting round(), values are rounded to the closest multiple of 10 to the power minus ndigits; if two multiples are equally close, rounding is done toward the even choice (so, for example, both round(0.5) and round(-0.5) are 0, and round(1.5) is 2). Any integer value is valid for ndigits (positive, zero, or negative). The return value is an integer if ndigits is omitted or None. Otherwise the return value has the same type as number.

For a general Python object number, round delegates to number. __round __.

Note: The behavior of round() for floats can be surprising: for example, round(2.675, 2) gives 2.67 instead of the expected 2.68. This is not a bug: it's a result of the fact that most decimal fractions can't be represented exactly as a float. See Floating Point Arithmetic: Issues and Limitations for more information.

class set([iterable])

Return a new set object, optionally with elements taken from *iterable*. set is a built-in class. See set and Set Types — set, frozenset for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in frozenset, list, tuple, and dict classes, as well as the collections module.

setattr(object, name, value)

This is the counterpart of getattr(). The arguments are an object, a string and an arbitrary value. The string may name an existing attribute or a new attribute. The function assigns the value to the attribute, provided the object allows it. For example, setattr(x, 'foobar', 123) is equivalent to x.foobar = 123.

class slice(stop) class slice(start, stop[, step])

Return a slice object representing the set of indices specified by range(start, stop, step). The *start* and *step* arguments default to None. Slice objects have read-only data attributes start, stop and step which merely return the argument values (or their default). They have no other explicit functionality; however they are used by Numerical Python and other third party extensions. Slice objects are also generated when extended indexing syntax is used. For example: a[start:stop:step] or a[start:stop, i]. See itertools.islice() for an alternate version that returns an iterator.

sorted(iterable, *, key=None, reverse=False)

Return a new sorted list from the items in *iterable*.

Has two optional arguments which must be specified as keyword arguments.

key specifies a function of one argument that is used to extract a comparison key from each element in *iterable* (for example, key=str.lower). The default value is None (compare the elements directly).

reverse is a boolean value. If set to True, then the list elements are sorted as if each comparison were reversed.

Use functions.cmp to key() to convert an old-style cmp function to a key function.

The built-in sorted() function is guaranteed to be stable. A sort is stable if it guarantees not to change the relative order of elements that compare equal — this is helpful for sorting in multiple passes (for example, sort by department, then by salary grade).

For sorting examples and a brief sorting tutorial, see Sorting HOW TO.

@staticmethod

Transform a method into a static method.

A static method does not receive an implicit first argument. To declare a static method, use this idiom:

```
class C:
    @staticmethod
    def f(arg1, arg2, ...): ...
```

The @staticmethod form is a function decorator – see Function definitions for details.

A static method can be called either on the class (such as C.f()) or on an instance (such as C().f()).

Static methods in Python are similar to those found in Java or C++. Also see classmethod() for a variant that is useful for creating alternate class constructors.

Like all decorators, it is also possible to call staticmethod as a regular function and do something with its result. This is needed in some cases where you need a reference to a function from a class body and you want to avoid the automatic transformation to instance method. For these cases, use this idiom:

```
class C:
  builtin_open = staticmethod(open)
```

For more information on static methods, see The standard type hierarchy.

```
class str(object=")
class str(object=b", encoding='utf-8', errors='strict')
Return a str version of object. See str() for details.
```

str is the built-in string class. For general information about strings, see Text Sequence Type — str.

```
sum(iterable, /, start=0)
```

Sums *start* and the items of an *iterable* from left to right and returns the total. The *iterable*'s items are normally numbers, and the start value is not allowed to be a string.

For some use cases, there are good alternatives to sum(). The preferred, fast way to concatenate a sequence of strings is by calling ''.join(sequence). To add floating point

values with extended precision, see math.fsum(). To concatenate a series of iterables, consider using itertools.chain().

Changed in version 3.8: The start parameter can be specified as a keyword argument.

```
super([type[, object-or-type]])
```

Return a proxy object that delegates method calls to a parent or sibling class of *type*. This is useful for accessing inherited methods that have been overridden in a class.

The *object-or-type* determines the method resolution order to be searched. The search starts from the class right after the *type*.

For example, if $_mro_$ of object-or-type is D -> B -> C -> A -> object and the value of type is B, then super() searches C -> A -> object.

The __mro__ attribute of the *object-or-type* lists the method resolution search order used by both getattr() and super(). The attribute is dynamic and can change whenever the inheritance hierarchy is updated.

If the second argument is omitted, the super object returned is unbound. If the second argument is an object, isinstance(obj, type) must be true. If the second argument is a type, issubclass(type2, type) must be true (this is useful for classmethods).

There are two typical use cases for *super*. In a class hierarchy with single inheritance, *super* can be used to refer to parent classes without naming them explicitly, thus making the code more maintainable. This use closely parallels the use of *super* in other programming languages.

The second use case is to support cooperative multiple inheritance in a dynamic execution environment. This use case is unique to Python and is not found in statically compiled languages or languages that only support single inheritance. This makes it possible to implement "diamond diagrams" where multiple base classes implement the same method. Good design dictates that this method have the same calling signature in every case (because the order of calls is determined at runtime, because that order adapts to changes in the class hierarchy, and because that order can include sibling classes that are unknown prior to runtime).

For both use cases, a typical superclass call looks like this:

In addition to method lookups, super() also works for attribute lookups. One possible use case for this is calling descriptors in a parent or sibling class.

Note that super() is implemented as part of the binding process for explicit dotted attribute
lookups such as super().__getitem__(name). It does so by implementing its own
__getattribute__() method for searching classes in a predictable order that supports
cooperative multiple inheritance. Accordingly, super() is undefined for implicit lookups using
statements or operators such as super()[name].

Also note that, aside from the zero argument form, super() is not limited to use inside methods. The two argument form specifies the arguments exactly and makes the appropriate references. The zero argument form only works inside a class definition, as the compiler fills in the necessary details to correctly retrieve the class being defined, as well as accessing the current instance for ordinary methods.

For practical suggestions on how to design cooperative classes using super(), see guide to using super().

```
class tuple([iterable])
```

Rather than being a function, tuple is actually an immutable sequence type, as documented in Tuples and Sequence Types — list, tuple, range.

```
class type(object)
class type(name, bases, dict)
```

With one argument, return the type of an *object*. The return value is a type object and generally the same object as returned by object. class .

The isinstance() built-in function is recommended for testing the type of an object, because it takes subclasses into account.

With three arguments, return a new type object. This is essentially a dynamic form of the class statement. The *name* string is the class name and becomes the __name__ attribute; the *bases* tuple itemizes the base classes and becomes the __bases__ attribute; and the *dict* dictionary is the namespace containing definitions for class body and is copied to a standard dictionary to become the __dict__ attribute. For example, the following two statements create identical type objects:

See also Type Objects.

Changed in version 3.6: Subclasses of type which don't override type.__new__ may no longer use the one-argument form to get the type of an object.

```
vars([object])
```

Return the __dict__ attribute for a module, class, instance, or any other object with a dict__ attribute.

Objects such as modules and instances have an updateable <u>__dict__</u> attribute; however, other objects may have write restrictions on their <u>__dict__</u> attributes (for example, classes use a types.MappingProxyType to prevent direct dictionary updates).

Without an argument, vars() acts like locals(). Note, the locals dictionary is only useful for reads since updates to the locals dictionary are ignored.

zip(*iterables)

Make an iterator that aggregates elements from each of the iterables.

Returns an iterator of tuples, where the *i*-th tuple contains the *i*-th element from each of the argument sequences or iterables. The iterator stops when the shortest input iterable is exhausted. With a single iterable argument, it returns an iterator of 1-tuples. With no arguments, it returns an empty iterator. Equivalent to:

```
def zip(*iterables):
    # zip('ABCD', 'xy') --> Ax By
    sentinel = object()
    iterators = [iter(it) for it in iterables]
    while iterators:
        result = []
        for it in iterators:
            elem = next(it, sentinel)
            if elem is sentinel:
                return
            result.append(elem)
            yield tuple(result)
```

The left-to-right evaluation order of the iterables is guaranteed. This makes possible an idiom for clustering a data series into n-length groups using zip(*[iter(s)]*n). This repeats the same iterator n times so that each output tuple has the result of n calls to the iterator. This has the effect of dividing the input into n-length chunks.

zip() should only be used with unequal length inputs when you don't care about trailing, unmatched values from the longer iterables. If those values are important, use itertools.zip longest() instead.

zip() in conjunction with the * operator can be used to unzip a list:

```
>>> x = [1, 2, 3]
>>> y = [4, 5, 6]
>>> zipped = zip(x, y)
>>> list(zipped)
[(1, 4), (2, 5), (3, 6)]
>>> x2, y2 = zip(*zip(x, y))
```

```
>>> x == list(x2) and y == list(y2)
True
```

__import__(name, globals=None, locals=None, fromlist=(), level=0)

Note: This is an advanced function that is not needed in everyday Python programming, unlike importlib.import_module().

This function is invoked by the import statement. It can be replaced (by importing the builtins module and assigning to builtins.__import__) in order to change semantics of the import statement, but doing so is **strongly** discouraged as it is usually simpler to use import hooks (see **PEP 302**) to attain the same goals and does not cause issues with code which assumes the default import implementation is in use. Direct use of __import__() is also discouraged in favor of importlib.import module().

The function imports the module *name*, potentially using the given *globals* and *locals* to determine how to interpret the name in a package context. The *fromlist* gives the names of objects or submodules that should be imported from the module given by *name*. The standard implementation does not use its *locals* argument at all, and uses its *globals* only to determine the package context of the <u>import</u> statement.

level specifies whether to use absolute or relative imports. 0 (the default) means only perform absolute imports. Positive values for *level* indicate the number of parent directories to search relative to the directory of the module calling <u>__import__()</u> (see **PEP 328** for the details).

When the *name* variable is of the form package.module, normally, the top-level package (the name up till the first dot) is returned, *not* the module named by *name*. However, when a non-empty *fromlist* argument is given, the module named by *name* is returned.

For example, the statement import spam results in bytecode resembling the following code:

```
spam = __import__('spam', globals(), locals(), [], 0)
```

The statement import spam.ham results in this call:

```
spam = __import__('spam.ham', globals(), locals(), [], 0)
```

Note how __import__() returns the toplevel module here because this is the object that is bound to a name by the import statement.

On the other hand, the statement from spam.ham import eggs, sausage as saus results in

```
_temp = __import__('spam.ham', globals(), locals(), ['eggs', 'sausage'], 0)
eggs = _temp.eggs
saus = _temp.sausage
```

Here, the spam.ham module is returned from <u>__import__()</u>. From this object, the names to import are retrieved and assigned to their respective names.

If you simply want to import a module (potentially within a package) by name, use importlib.import module().

Changed in version 3.3: Negative values for *level* are no longer supported (which also changes the default value to 0).

Footnotes

[1] Note that the parser only accepts the Unix-style end of line convention. If you are reading the code from a file, make sure to use newline conversion mode to convert Windows or Macstyle newlines.