# Python Tips, Tricks, and Hidden Features

(using type, collections, meta-classes, and more)





## Irked.



#### jeffdeville 3:40 PM

In python, how can I create an empty object, and just start assigning properties to it. I don't want to have to define a class that is empty just to do this.

j = object()
j.hi = "there"
doesn't work... I'm irked

#### Irked.

```
>>> j = object()
>>> j.hi = 'there'
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'object' object has no attribute 'hi'
```

```
>>> type(['foo', 'bar'])
```

```
>>> type(['foo', 'bar'])
<type 'list'>
```

```
>>> type(list)
```

```
>>> type(list)
<type 'type'>
```

```
>>> type(type)
```

```
>>> type(type)
<type 'type'>
```

```
>>> type(None)
```

```
>>> type(None)
<type 'NoneType'>
```

```
>>> def func():
... pass
...
>>> type(func)
```

```
>>> def func():
... pass
...
>>> type(func)
<type 'function'>
```

```
>>> import types
>>> dir(types)
['BooleanType', 'BufferType', 'BuiltinFunctionType', 'BuiltinMethodType',
'ClassType', 'CodeType', 'ComplexType', 'DictProxyType', 'DictType',
'DictionaryType', 'EllipsisType', 'FileType', 'FloatType', 'FrameType',
'FunctionType', 'GeneratorType', 'GetSetDescriptorType', 'InstanceType',
'IntType', 'LambdaType', 'ListType', 'LongType', 'MemberDescriptorType',
'MethodType', 'ModuleType', 'NoneType', 'NotImplementedType', 'ObjectType',
'SliceType', 'StringType', 'StringTypes', 'TracebackType', 'TupleType',
'TypeType', 'UnboundMethodType', 'UnicodeType', 'XRangeType', '__all__',
'__builtins__', '__doc__', '__file__', '__name__', '__package__']
```

```
>>> import types
>>> type(types)
```

```
>>> import types
>>> type(types)
<type 'module'>
>>> type(types) == types.ModuleType
True
```

```
>>> class FooClass:
... pass
...
>>> type(FooClass)
```

```
>>> class FooClass: # Python 2.7
... pass
...
>>> type(FooClass)
<type 'classobj'>
```

```
>>> class FooClass: # Python 3.4
... pass
...
>>> type(FooClass)
<class 'type'>
```

```
>>> class FooClass(object): # Python 2.7
... pass
...
>>> type(FooClass)
<type 'type'>
```

```
>>> type(42) is int
True
>>> type(42)()
0
>>> int()
0
```

```
>>> j = type()
```

```
>>> j = type()
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
TypeError: type() takes 1 or 3 arguments
```

```
>>> j = type('FooClass', (object,), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> type(j)
<class 'type'>
```

```
>>> j = type('FooClass', (object,), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> j.hi
'there'
```

```
>>> j = type('', (object,), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> j.hi
'there'
```

```
>>> j = type('', (), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> j.hi
'there'
```

```
>>> j = type('', (), {})
>>> j.hi = 'there'
>>> j.hi
'there'
```

```
>>> j = object()
>>> j.hi = 'there'
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
AttributeError: 'object' object has no attribute 'hi'
```

```
>>> class FooClass():
... pass
...
>>> hasattr(FooClass(), '__dict__')
True
>>> hasattr(object(), '__dict__')
False
```

```
>>> from stackoverflow import getsize¹
>>> getsize(object())
16
>>> getsize(0)
24
>>> getsize(dict())
280
>>> getsize(FooClass())
344
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://stackoverflow.com/a/30316760/4842627

# Questions?

# collections

```
>>> def group(names):
```

```
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

```
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

```
>>> def group(names):
... d = {}
... for name in names:
...
```

```
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])

{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}

```
>>> def group(names):
       d = \{\}
       for name in names:
            key = len(name)
           if key not in d:
               d[key] = []
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

```
>>> def group(names):
       d = \{\}
        for name in names:
            key = len(name)
            if key not in d:
                d[key] = []
            d[key].append(name)
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

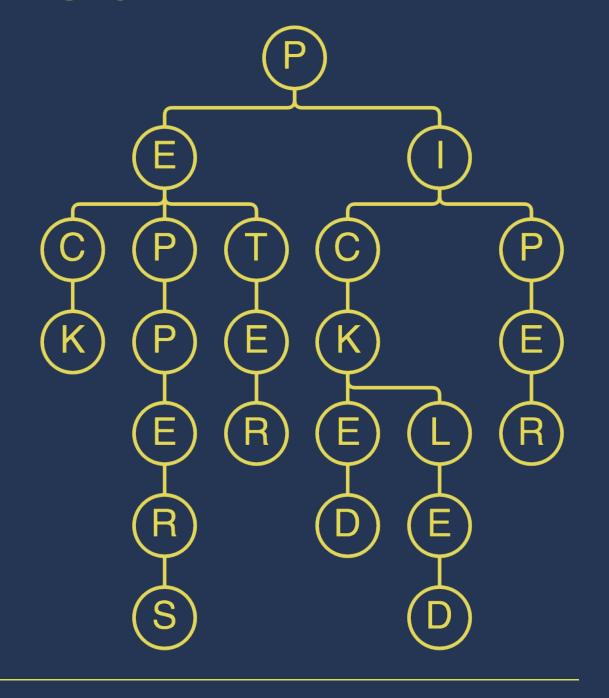
```
>>> def group(names):
       d = \{\}
        for name in names:
            key = len(name)
            if key not in d:
                d[key] = []
            d[key].append(name)
        return d
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

```
>>> def group(names):
       return {
            length: [
                name for name in names if len(name) == length
            for length in {len(name) for name in names}
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> def group(names):
        d = defaultdict(list)
        for name in names:
            key = len(name)
            d[key].append(name)
       return dict(d)
>>> group(['tom', 'dick', 'harry', 'guido'])
{3: ['tom'], 4: ['dick'], 5: ['harry', 'guido']}
```

trie: an ordered tree data structure that is used to store a dynamic set or associative array where the keys are usually strings<sup>2</sup>.

e.g.: "peter piper picked a peck of pickled peppers"



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trie

```
>>> trie = ...
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] == True
True
>>> trie['f']['o']['o'] == True
False
>>> trie
{'b': {'a': {'r': True}}}
```

```
>>> trie = {}
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'b'
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> trie = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(dict))
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] == True
True
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> trie = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(dict))
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] == True
True
>>> trie['f']['o']['o'] == True
Traceback (most recent call last):
 File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'o'
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> trie = defaultdict(lambda: defaultdict(dict))
>>> trie['t']['r']['i']['e'] = True
Traceback (most recent call last):
   File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'i'
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> infinitedict = lambda: defaultdict(infinitedict)
>>> trie = infinitedict()
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] == True
True
>>> trie['f']['o']['o'] == True
False
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> def infinitedict():
        return defaultdict(infinitedict)
>>> trie = infinitedict()
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] = True
>>> trie['b']['a']['r'] == True
True
>>> trie['f']['o']['o'] == True
False
```

```
>>> def count(names):
>>> count(['beetlejuice', 'beetlejuice', 'guido'])
{'beetlejuice': 2, 'guido': 1}
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> def count(names):
       d = defaultdict(int)
>>> count(['beetlejuice', 'beetlejuice', 'guido'])
{'beetlejuice': 2, 'guido': 1}
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> def count(names):
        d = defaultdict(int)
        for name in names:
            d name += 1
>>> count(['beetlejuice', 'beetlejuice', 'guido'])
{ 'beetlejuice': 2, 'guido': 1}
```

```
>>> from collections import defaultdict
>>> def count(names):
        d = defaultdict(int)
        for name in names:
            d[name] += 1
       return dict(d)
>>> count(['beetlejuice', 'beetlejuice', 'guido'])
{ 'beetlejuice': 2, 'guido': 1}
```

#### collections.Counter

```
>>> from collections import Counter
>>> def count(names):
...     return dict(Counter(names))
...
>>> count(['beetlejuice', 'beetlejuice', 'guido'])
{'beetlejuice': 2, 'guido': 1}
```

# Questions?

```
>>> class FooClass():
... pass
...
```

```
>>> class FooClass():
...     pass
...
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
False
```

>>> class Singleton():

```
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
... pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

>>> class Singleton():

```
... _instance = None
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
... pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton():
       _instance = None
       def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
... pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton():
       _instance = None
       def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
... pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton():
       _instance = None
        def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
                cls._instance = object.__new__(cls, *args, **kwargs)
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
... pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton():
        _instance = None
        def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
                cls._instance = object.__new__(cls, *args, **kwargs)
            return cls._instance
>>> class FooClass(Singleton):
        pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

classes: instances:: metaclasses: classes

```
>>> j = type('FooClass', (object,), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> type(j)
<class 'type'>
```

```
>>> j = type('FooClass', (object,), {'hi': 'there'})
>>> type(j)
<class 'type'>
>>> type(j())
<class '__main__.FooClass'>
```

```
>>> class MyMeta(type):
... pass
...
```

```
>>> class MyMeta(type):
...     pass
...
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=MyMeta):
...     pass
...
```

```
>>> class MyMeta(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            print('New {}'.format(name))
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=MyMeta):
        pass
New FooClass
```

```
>>> class MyMeta(type):
        def __call__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            print('Call {}'.format(cls.__name__))
            return super().__call__(*args, **kwargs)
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=MyMeta):
        pass
>>> f = FooClass()
Call FooClass
```

>>> class Singleton(type):

```
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

>>> class Singleton(type):

```
def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

>>> class Singleton(type):

```
def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
        pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
     def __call__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
     def __call__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
     def __call__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
                cls._instance = super().__call__(*args, **kwargs)
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

```
>>> class Singleton(type):
       def __new__(meta, name, bases, attrs):
            attrs['_instance'] = None
            return super().__new__(meta, name, bases, attrs)
     def __call__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
            if not cls._instance:
                cls._instance = super().__call__(*args, **kwargs)
            return cls._instance
>>> class FooClass(metaclass=Singleton):
       pass
>>> a, b = FooClass(), FooClass()
>>> a is b
True
```

# Questions?

# Wat

# wat #0

```
>>> x = ...
>>> x == x
False
```

```
>>> x = float('nan')
>>> x == x
False
```

```
>>> x = 0*1e400
>>> x == x
False
```

http://python-wats.herokuapp.com/

# wat #1

```
>>> x = ...
>>> a = ...
>>> b = ...
>>> c = ...
>>> max(x) < max(x[a:b:c])
True</pre>
```

### wat #1 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> a = ...
>>> b = ...
>>> c = ...
>>> max(x) < max(x[a:b:c])
True</pre>
```

## wat #2

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> min(x, y) == min(y, x)
False
```

```
>>> x = {0}
>>> y = {1}
>>> min(x, y) == min(y, x)
False
```

```
>>> min({0}, {1})
set([0])
>>> min({1}, {0})
set([1])
```

```
>>> min({0}, {1})
set([0])
>>> min({1}, {0})
set([1])
>>> min({0, 1}, {0})
set([0])
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
...
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
... has_item = False
... min_item = None
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
... has_item = False
... min_item = None
... for x in args:
...
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
... has_item = False
... min_item = None
... for x in args:
... if not has_item or x < min_item:</pre>
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
        has_item = False
        min_item = None
        for x in args:
             if not has_item or x < min_item:</pre>
                 has_item = True
                 min_item = x
```

```
>>> def min(*args):
        has_item = False
        min_item = None
        for x in args:
             if not has_item or x < min_item:</pre>
                 has_item = True
                 min_item = x
        return min_item
```

```
>>> {1} < {0}
False
>>> {1} < {0}, 1}
True</pre>
```

```
>>> {1} < {0}
False
>>> {1} < {0, 1}
>>> fill < {0, 1}
True
>>> min({0}, {1})
set([0])
```

# wat #3

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> any(x) and not any(x + y)
True
```

## wat #3 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> any(x) and not any(x + y)
True
```

# wat #4

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> x.count(y) > len(x)
True
```

```
>>> x = 'a'
>>> y = ''
>>> x.count(y) > len(x)
True
```

```
>>> x = 'a'
>>> y = ''
>>> x.count(y) > len(x)
True
>>> len('a')
1
```

```
>>> x = 'a'
>>> y = ''
>>> x.count(y) > len(x)
True
>>> len('a')
1
>>> 'a'.count('')
2
```

```
>>> def count(s, sub):
...
```

```
>>> def count(s, sub):
... result = 0
```

```
>>> def count(s, sub):
...     result = 0
...     for i in range(len(s) + 1 - len(sub)):
...         possible_match = s[i:i + len(sub)]
...
```

```
>>> def count(s, sub):
        result = 0
        for i in range(len(s) + 1 - len(sub)):
            possible_match = s[i:i + len(sub)]
            if possible_match == sub:
                result += 1
        return result
```

```
>>> def count(s, sub):
        result = 0
        for i in range(len(s) + 1 - len(sub)):
            possible_match = s[i:i + len(sub)]
            if possible_match == sub:
                result += 1
        return result
>>> count('a', '')
```

```
>>> count('foofoof', 'foof') # my implementation
2
>>> 'foofoof'.count('foof')
1
```

## wat #5

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> z = ...
>>> x * (y * z) == (x * y) * z
False
```

```
>>> x = [0]
>>> y = -1
>>> z = -1
>>> x * (y * z) == (x * y) * z
False
```

```
>>> x = [0]
>>> y = -1
>>> z = -1
>>> x * (y * z) == (x * y) * z
False
>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1)
```

```
>>> x = [0]

>>> y = -1

>>> z = -1

>>> x * (y * z) == (x * y) * z

False

>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1) == [0]*1
```

```
>>> x = [0]
>>> y = -1
>>> z = -1
>>> x * (y * z) == (x * y) * z
False
>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1) == [0]*1 == [0]
True
```

```
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow x = 0
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \forall = -1
\rangle \rangle \rangle Z = -1
False
>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1) == [0]*1 == [0]
True
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow (x * y) * z == ([0]*-1)*-1
```

```
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow x = [0]
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \vee = -1
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow z = -1
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z
False
>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1) == [0]*1 == [0]
True
>>> (x * y) * z == ([0]*-1)*-1 == []*-1
```

```
\rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle x = [0]
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow \vee = -1
\rightarrow \rightarrow \rightarrow z = -1
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow x + (y + z) = (x + y) + z
False
>>> x * (y * z) == [0]*(-1*-1) == [0]*1 == [0]
True
(x * y) * z == ([0]*-1)*-1 == []*-1 ==
True
```

## wat #6

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> x < y and all(a >= b for a, b in <math>zip(x, y))
True
```

```
>>> x = []
>>> y = [0]
>>> x < y and all(a >= b for a, b in <math>zip(x, y))
True
```

```
>>> x = []
>>> y = [0]
>>> x < y and all(a >= b for a, b in zip(x, y))
True
>>> [] < [0]
True</pre>
```

```
>>> x = []
\rangle \rangle \rangle \rangle = [0]
\rightarrow \rightarrow x < y \text{ and all}(a \rightarrow = b \text{ for a, b in } zip(x, y))
True
>>> [] < [0]
True
>>> zip([], [0])
```

```
>>> x = []
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow y = [\emptyset]
\rightarrow \rightarrow x < y \text{ and all}(a \rightarrow = b \text{ for a, b in } zip(x, y))
True
>>> [] < [0]
True
>>> zip([], [0])
>>> all([])
True
```

## wat #7

```
>>> x = ...
>>> len(set(list(x))) == len(list(set(x)))
False
```

## wat #7 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> len(set(list(x))) == len(list(set(x)))
False
```

# wat #8

```
>>> x = ...
>>> min(x) == min(*x)
False
```

```
>>> x = [[0]]
>>> min(x) == min(*x)
False
```

```
>>> x = [[0]]
>>> min(x) == min(*x)
False
>>> min([1, 2, 3]) == min(*[1, 2, 3]) == min(1, 2, 3)
True
```

```
>>> x = [[0]]
>>> min(x) == min(*x)
False
>>> min([1, 2, 3]) == min(*[1, 2, 3]) == min(1, 2, 3)
True
>>> min(x) == [0]
True
```

```
\rightarrow \rightarrow \times = [0]
>>> min(x) == min(*x)
False
>>> min([1, 2, 3]) == min(*[1, 2, 3]) == min(1, 2, 3)
True
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \min(x) == [0]
True
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow \min(*x) == \min([0]) == 0
True
```

## wat #9

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> sum(0 * x, y) == y
False
```

## wat #9 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> sum(0 * x, y) == y
False
```

#### wat #9 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> sum(0 * x, y) == y
False
>>> sum([1, 1, 1], 7)
10
```

#### wat #9 - Not Possible

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> sum(0 * x, y) == y
False
>>> sum([1, 1, 1], 7)
10
>>> sum([], 7)
7
```

## wat #10

```
>>> x = ...
>>> y = ...
>>> y > max(x) and y in x
True
```

```
>>> x = 'aa'
>>> y = 'aa'
>>> y > max(x) and y in x
True
```

```
>>> x = 'aa'
>>> y = 'aa'
>>> y > max(x) and y in x
True
>>> max('aa')
'a'
```

```
>>> x = 'aa'
>>> y = 'aa'
>>> y > max(x) and y in x
True
>>> max('aa')
'a'
>>> 'aa' > 'a'
True
```

```
>>> x = 'aa'
>>> y = 'aa'
\Rightarrow \Rightarrow y \Rightarrow max(x) and y in x
True
>>> max('aa')
'a'
>>> 'aa' > 'a'
True
>>> 'aa' in 'aa'
True
```

# Questions?

# Thanks!