

Python Decorators: Full Notes with Code & Emojis



What is a Decorator?

A decorator in Python is a function that modifies the behavior of another function or method without changing its actual code.

Think of decorators as wrappers 🏗 you put around your functions to give them superpowers!

Why Use Decorators?

- Code Reusability
- Cleaner and More Readable Code
- Separation of Concerns
- DRY Principle (Don't Repeat Yourself)

Basic Syntax

```
def decorator_function(original_function):
    def wrapper_function():
        print("Before the original function")
        original_function()
        print("After the original function")
    return wrapper_function

@decorator_function
def say_hello():
    print("Hello!")

say_hello()
```

Output:

```
Before the original function
Hello!
After the original function
```

Core Concepts

Concept	Emoji	Description
Functions are first-class objects	E	Functions can be passed as arguments
Nested functions	\oint{\oint}	Functions inside functions
Returning functions	&	Functions can return other functions
Decorators	T	Wrap a function to extend its behavior

© Real-World Use Cases

Use Case	Emoji	Description
Timing	Ø	Measure how long a function takes
Debugging	®	Log function calls and arguments
Caching	©	Avoid recomputation by storing results
Authentication	₽	Restrict access to sensitive routes (e.g., in Flask)
Validation		Check input before running logic

Decorator Examples with Code and Explanation

1. 👸 Time Measuring Decorator

```
import time

def timer(func):
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        start = time.time()
        result = func(*args, **kwargs)
        end = time.time()
        print(f" Execution time: {end - start:.4f} seconds")
        return result
    return wrapper

@timer

def slow_function():
    time.sleep(2)
    return "Done!"

print(slow_function()))
```

Why? Useful for performance optimization.

2. 🚯 Debugging Decorator

```
def debug(func):
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        print(f"  Calling {func.__name__} with args={args} kwargs={kwargs}")
        return func(*args, **kwargs)
    return wrapper

@debug
def greet(name, msg="Hello"):
    return f"{msg}, {name}!"

print(greet("Darshan", msg="Hi"))
```

- **Why?** Helps trace bugs and understand flow.

```
def cache(func):
    memory = \{\}
    def wrapper(*args):
        if args in memory:
            print("@ Returning cached result")
            return memory[args]
        print(" Computing new result")
        result = func(*args)
        memory[args] = result
        return result
    return wrapper
@cache
def fibonacci(n):
   if n <= 1:
        return n
    return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)
print(fibonacci(10))
```

• Why? Boosts performance of recursive functions.

➢ Advanced Decorator Features

Decorators with Arguments

```
def repeat(num_times):
    def decorator(func):
        def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
```

```
for _ in range(num_times):
        func(*args, **kwargs)
    return wrapper
    return decorator

@repeat(3)
def say_hi():
    print("Hi!")

say_hi()
```

Mested decorators: Allows parameterized behavior.

Preserving Metadata with functools.wraps

Decorators in Flask (Web Example)

```
from flask import Flask, request
app = Flask(__name__)

def require_api_key(func):
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        if request.args.get('api_key') != 'secret123':
            return "Unauthorized", 403
        return func(*args, **kwargs)
    return wrapper

@app.route('/data')
```

```
@require_api_key
def get_data():
    return {"data": "Here it is!"}
```

Why? Used for security and access control.

Multiple Decorators on One Function

```
@timer
@debug
def example():
    print("Running example...")
example()
```

Order Matters! Outer decorator runs first.

Create Your Own Utility Decorators

Want to build:

- ¿Z Delay execution decorator?
- 🛮 Log-to-file decorator?

Let me know and I'll help you build it!

☆ Summary Table

Feature	Emoji	Purpose
@timer	ø	Measure execution time
@debug		Log calls and arguments
@cache	©	Store and reuse return values
@wraps from functools	X ⁵	Preserve original function info
Parametrized decorator		Customize decorator behavior



Keep practicing and try creating decorators for:

- Authentication
- Rate Limiting

- Retry Logic
- Logging to Files
- Access Control



Master Python Decorators with Magical Mini-Quests 🥕

Decorators in Python are like magical cloaks 🚯 that wrap your functions to give them superpowers without changing their core logic. Ready to enchant your functions?

Details

1. **** Time Tracker Spell: Measure Execution Time**

প্লে Problem:

Write a decorator @timer that measures how long a function takes to run and prints the duration in seconds.

✓ Use Case:

Perfect for **benchmarking** heavy or slow operations like data processing, simulations, or API requests.

Explanation:

- Use time.time() to capture start and end times.
- Calculate the difference.
- Print the result before returning the original function's output.

Code:

```
import time
def timer(func):
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        start time = time.time()
        result = func(*args, **kwargs)
        end_time = time.time()
        print(f"  Function '{func. name }' took {end time - start time:.4f}
seconds to run")
        return result
    return wrapper
@timer
def long_task():
    time.sleep(2)
    return " XX Task completed!"
print(long_task())
```

▶ Details

2. B Debug Mirror Charm: Trace Function Calls

🕸 Problem:

Create a decorator @debug that prints the function name, arguments, and keyword arguments every time the function is called.

✓ Use Case:

Debugging mysterious bugs in functions or APIs. This is your real-time x-ray vision.

- **Explanation:**
 - Access *args and **kwargs to log input values.
 - Print before running the function.

▶ Details

3. Memory Potion: Cache Function Results

ঞ্জ Problem:

Create a decorator @cache that stores the result of function calls with given arguments, and **returns the** cached result if the function is called again with the same inputs.

✓ Use Case:

Highly useful for recursive functions, data fetching, and any CPU-heavy tasks with repeated inputs.

(2) Explanation:

- Use a dictionary to store (args, kwargs) as the key and the result as the value.
- Return from cache if key exists; otherwise compute and store.

Code:

```
def cache(func):
    memory = \{\}
    def wrapper(*args):
        if args in memory:
            print(f"@ Using cached result for {func.__name__}}{args}")
            return memory[args]
        print(f"  Calculating new result for {func.__name__} {args}")
        result = func(*args)
        memory[args] = result
        return result
    return wrapper
@cache
def fibonacci(n):
    if n <= 1:
        return n
    return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2)
print(f"Result: {fibonacci(10)}")
```

Summary

Decorator	Purpose	Real-World Use
@timer	Track how long a function runs	Benchmarking, performance testing
@debug	Log function calls and parameters	Debugging, tracing
@cache	Store and reuse function results	Recursive ops, optimization

Python Decorators Practice Workbook + Advanced Patterns Guide

Level: Beginner → Intermediate → Pro **Includes:** Practice problems 🖏 , advanced use cases 🗲 , and reusable patterns 🗗

& Section 1: Core Practice – Build Your Decorator Skills

✓ 1. Log Function Calls

Problem: Write a @logger decorator that logs:

- Function name
- Arguments
- Return value

Hint: Use print() and repr().

```
@logger
def add(a, b):
    return a + b
add(3, 7)
```

2. Authorize Access

Problem: Write a decorator <code>@admin_only</code> that allows function access **only if** a global user has role "admin".

```
user = {"name": "Darshan", "role": "admin"}

@admin_only
def delete_database():
    return " DB deleted!"
```

☑ 3. Delay Function Execution

Problem: Write a decorator @delay(seconds) that delays function execution by given seconds using time.sleep().

```
@delay(2)
def say_hi():
    print("Hi after 2 seconds")
```

✓ 4. Retry on Failure

Problem: Build a decorator @retry(n) that retries a function n times if it raises an exception.

```
@retry(3)
def fragile():
   if random.random() < 0.7:</pre>
```

```
raise ValueError("★ Random failure")
return "☑ Success"
```

♣ Section 2: Advanced Decorator Patterns

5. Decorator with Parameters

Problem: Create a <code>@tag(msg)</code> decorator that prints a custom message before executing the function.

@ 6. Cache with Expiry

Problem: Build a @cache_with_expiry(seconds) that caches return values for a limited time (like LRU cache with TTL).

```
@cache_with_expiry(5)
def fetch_data():
    print("Fetching fresh data...")
    return "Data at " + str(time.time())
```

7. Function Access Control (Auth)

Problem: Write a @require_login decorator that prevents access unless a user["logged_in"] is True.

```
user = {"logged_in": False}

@require_login
def view_profile():
    return "User profile data"
```

8. Decorator for Logging to File

Problem: Create @log_to_file("logs.txt") that writes logs to a file instead of printing them.

```
@log_to_file("logs.txt")
def signup(username):
```

```
return f"{username} signed up!"
```


Problem: Use decorators to log all methods of a class. Bonus: Create a class decorator @log_all_methods.

```
@log_all_methods
class BankAccount:
    def deposit(self, amt): ...
    def withdraw(self, amt): ...
```

10. Nesting Decorators

Problem: Create two decorators @upper_case and @add_greeting and apply both.

```
@add_greeting
@upper_case
def get_name():
    return "darshan"
# Output: "Hello, DARSHAN"
```

Bonus Patterns

Pattern	Use Case	Emoji
@singleton	Ensure only one instance	8
<pre>@throttle(seconds)</pre>	Limit how often function runs	000
@validate_types	Enforce function argument types	Q
@profile	Print memory/cpu stats of a function	
@inject_config	Inject global settings/configs	₩

Decorators in FastAPI

Supercharge your APIs with reusable logic like auth, logging, rate limiting, and more!

FastAPI is built on **Python functions** (path operations), so decorators are the perfect way to:

- 🕅 Authenticate users
- 🐯 Log requests
- § Apply rate-limiting
- E Retry failing operations
- **&** Apply validation or custom checks


```
from fastapi import FastAPI, Request
import time

app = FastAPI()

def log_request(func):
    async def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        start = time.time()
        result = await func(*args, **kwargs)
        duration = time.time() - start
        print(f" Request to {func.__name__} took {duration:.2f}s")
        return result
    return wrapper

@app.get("/hello")
@log_request
async def hello():
    return {"msg": "Hello, Darshan!"}
```

Works great for tracing performance and debugging!

f Example 2: Auth Decorator

```
from fastapi import Request, HTTPException

def require_api_key(func):
    async def wrapper(request: Request, *args, **kwargs):
        api_key = request.headers.get("x-api-key")
        if api_key != "supersecret":
            raise HTTPException(status_code=403, detail="note to forbidden: Invalid

API Key")
        return await func(request, *args, **kwargs)
        return wrapper

@app.get("/secure")
@require_api_key
async def secure_endpoint(request: Request):
        return {"msg": "Welcome to the vault note to five the five to five the return five to five the request five the five to five the return five the return five the request five the return fi
```

Add to any route for simple header-based access control.

Example 3: Simple Rate Limiter

```
import time
user_last_call = {}
def rate_limit(seconds: int):
    def decorator(func):
        async def wrapper(request: Request, *args, **kwargs):
            ip = request.client.host
            now = time.time()
            if ip in user_last_call and now - user_last_call[ip] < seconds:</pre>
                raise HTTPException(status_code=429, detail=" o Too Many
Requests")
            user_last_call[ip] = now
            return await func(request, *args, **kwargs)
        return wrapper
    return decorator
@app.get("/limited")
@rate_limit(5)
async def limited(request: Request):
    return {"msg": "This route is rate-limited by IP"}
```

Reusable, IP-based throttling!

Тір	Explanation
Use async def in wrappers	To support FastAPI's async stack
Add functools.wraps(func)	To preserve function metadata
Decorate outside FastAPI classes	Keeps code modular and clean
Avoid blocking code	Use asyncio.sleep() if needed

Function Factories & Dynamic Decorators

Build decorators on-the-fly with custom parameters or logic generators.

What's a Function Factory?

A **function factory** returns a function based on parameters. Think of it like a factory that builds decorators dynamically!

Example 1: @tag(msg) — Custom Logging Tag

Output:

```
[CRITICAL] �️ Calling run_job �� Running job...
```

Example 2: Retry Logic with Max Tries

```
import random
def retry(max_tries):
    def decorator(func):
        def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
            for i in range(max tries):
                    return func(*args, **kwargs)
                except Exception as e:
                    print(f" X Attempt {i+1} failed: {e}")
            raise Exception(" All attempts failed")
        return wrapper
    return decorator
@retry(3)
def unstable():
    if random.random() < 0.7:</pre>
        raise ValueError("Random fail")
    return "✓ Success"
```

```
print(unstable())
```

(a) Use Cases of Dynamic Decorators

Decorator Type	Factory Example
@retry(n)	Control error tolerance
<pre>@timeout(seconds)</pre>	Auto-cancel slow tasks
@require_role("admin")	Role-based access
@log_to_file(path)	Dynamic log paths
<pre>@cache_with_expiry(seconds)</pre>	Smart memoization

★ Tips for Function Factories

- Always **nest the wrapper** inside the parameterized outer function.
- Preserve metadata using functools.wraps().
- Return the inner decorated function.

Bonus Utilities with functools

```
from functools import wraps

def decorator(func):
    @wraps(func)
    def wrapper(*args, **kwargs):
        return func(*args, **kwargs)
    return wrapper
```

Why? ✓ Preserves:

- __name___
- __doc__
- __annotations__