Master the Python Magic Methods (__dunder__ methods)

These are **predefined methods** in Python that **start and end with double underscores** like **__init__**, **__str__**, **__len__**, etc. They let you *customize the behavior* of your classes and make them behave like built-in types!

String & Representation

Magic Method	Purpose	Example Use
str	Human-readable string (str())	<pre>print(obj) output</pre>
repr	Debug/developer string (repr())	Used in logging or debugging

Length, Size, Boolean

Magic Method	Purpose	Example Use
len	Length via len()	len(obj)
bool	Truth value via bool()	if obj:

```
class Basket:
    def __init__(self, items):
        self.items = items

def __len__(self):
        return len(self.items)

def __bool__(self):
        return bool(self.items)

b = Basket(['\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{\
```

+ Arithmetic Operations

Magic Method Operator Overloaded

```
__add__ +
__sub__ -
__mul__ *
__truediv__ /
__floordiv__ //
__mod__ %
__pow__ **
```

```
class Price:
    def __init__(self, value):
        self.value = value

def __add__(self, other):
        return Price(self.value + other.value)

def __str__(self):
        return f"${self.value:.2f}"

p1 = Price(40)
```

```
p2 = Price(60)
print(p1 + p2) # $100.00
```

III Comparison Operators

Magic Method Operator

eq	==
ne	!=
lt	<
le	<=
gt	>
ge	>=

```
class Student:
    def __init__(self, marks):
        self.marks = marks

    def __eq__(self, other):
        return self.marks == other.marks

a = Student(85)
b = Student(85)
print(a == b) # True
```

a Collections & Indexing

Magic Method Purpose

getitem	Access items obj[i]
setitem	Set items obj[i] = x
delitem	Delete items
contains	in operator
iter	Make iterable
next	For next() in loops

```
class MyList:
    def __init__(self):
        self.data = []
```

```
def __getitem__(self, index):
    return self.data[index]

def __setitem__(self, index, value):
    self.data[index] = value

def __contains__(self, item):
    return item in self.data

l = MyList()
l.data = [1, 2, 3]
print(l[1])  # 2
l[1] = 5
print(5 in 1)  # True
```

Context Managers

Magic Method Purpose

```
__enter__ Start of with block
__exit__ End of with block
```

```
class Demo:
    def __enter__(self):
        print("Entering...")
        return self

def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_val, exc_tb):
        print("Exiting...")

with Demo():
    print("Inside block")

# Output:
# Entering...
# Inside block
# Exiting...
```

Advanced Magic Methods

Method	Use Case
call	Make object callable like function
del	Called on object deletion

Method	Use Case
copy	Shallow copy of object
deepcopy	Deep copy
slots	Memory optimization

```
class Multiplier:
    def __init__(self, factor):
        self.factor = factor

    def __call__(self, number):
        return self.factor * number

double = Multiplier(2)
print(double(5)) # 10
```

Meta & Dynamic Stuff

Magic Method Description

getattr	Called if attribute not found normally
setattr	Triggered on attribute assignment
delattr	When attribute is deleted
dir	Customize dir(obj)

Dunder Methods You See Often

Method Why You See It __main__ Run file directly

__name__ Module name access

__doc__ String documentation

```
# In script file:
if __name__ == "__main__":
    print("This script is running directly")
```

Practice Tasks

1. Create a class with custom <u>__str__</u>, <u>__add__</u>, and <u>__len__</u>.

- 2. Implement a class that supports indexing with <u>getitem</u> and <u>setitem</u>.
- 3. Write a callable object with __call__.
- 4. Create a context manager using __enter__ and __exit__.

Wrap Up

Dunder methods let you:

- A Make objects feel like built-ins
- O Customize operators and behavior
- 🕉 Add flexibility and magic to your classes

Mastering these will level up your OOP wizardry in Python!



The Ultimate Guide to Python __dunder__ (Magic) Methods

Magic methods, also known as **dunder (double underscore) methods**, let you define how your objects behave with built-in Python operations (like printing, adding, comparing, indexing, etc.).

Why Learn Magic Methods?

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E Categorized Dunder Methods

String Representation

```
class Book:
    def __init__(self, title, author):
        self.title = title
        self.author = author

def __str__(self):
    return f"{self.title} by {self.author}" # human-readable
```

```
def __repr__(self):
    return f"Book('{self.title}', '{self.author}')" # debug-friendly

b = Book("Python 101", "Darshan")
print(str(b)) # Python 101 by Darshan
print(repr(b)) # Book('Python 101', 'Darshan')
```

+ Operator Overloading

```
class Point:
    def __init__(self, x, y):
        self.x, self.y = x, y

    def __add__(self, other):
        return Point(self.x + other.x, self.y + other.y)

    def __eq__(self, other):
        return self.x == other.x and self.y == other.y

    def __str__(self):
        return f"({self.x}, {self.y})"

p1 = Point(1, 2)
    p2 = Point(3, 4)
    print(p1 + p2)  # (4, 6)
    print(p1 == Point(1, 2))  # True
```

Object Construction

```
class MyClass:
    def __new__(cls, *args, **kwargs):
        print("Creating instance")
        return super().__new__(cls)

def __init__(self):
        print("Initializing instance")

obj = MyClass()
```

Callable Objects

```
class Greeter:
    def __call__(self, name):
        return f"Hello, {name}!"
```

```
greet = Greeter()
print(greet("Darshan")) # Hello, Darshan!
```

☐ Iteration Support

```
class CountDown:
    def __init__(self, start):
        self.current = start

def __iter__(self):
        return self

def __next__(self):
        if self.current <= 0:
            raise StopIteration
        val = self.current
        self.current -= 1
        return val

for num in CountDown(5):
    print(num)</pre>
```

🛱 Container Behavior

```
class MyList:
    def __init__(self, data):
       self.data = data
    def __getitem__(self, idx):
        return self.data[idx]
    def __setitem__(self, idx, value):
        self.data[idx] = value
    def __delitem__(self, idx):
        del self.data[idx]
    def len (self):
        return len(self.data)
    def __contains__(self, item):
        return item in self.data
ml = MyList([1, 2, 3])
                  # 2
print(ml[1])
ml[1] = 10
```

```
print(ml.data) # [1, 10, 3]
print(3 in ml) # True
```

Context Managers

```
class OpenFile:
    def __init__(self, filename, mode):
        self.filename = filename
        self.mode = mode

def __enter__(self):
        self.file = open(self.filename, self.mode)
        return self.file

def __exit__(self, exc_type, exc_value, traceback):
        self.file.close()

with OpenFile("sample.txt", "w") as f:
    f.write("Hello from context manager!")
```

Custom Attribute Behavior

```
class Demo:
    def __getattr__(self, name):
        return f"{name} not found!"

    def __setattr__(self, name, value):
        print(f"Setting {name} to {value}")
        self.__dict__[name] = value

    def __delattr__(self, name):
        print(f"Deleting {name}")
        del self.__dict__[name]

    obj = Demo()
    obj.x = 10  # Setting x to 10
    print(obj.y)  # y not found!
```

Object Lifecycle

```
class Person:
    def __init__(self, name):
        self.name = name
```

```
def __del__(self):
    print(f"{self.name} has been deleted.")

p = Person("Darshan")
del p # Darshan has been deleted.
```

Quick Reference Table

Method	Purpose
init	Object constructor
new	Object creation (beforeinit)
str	Human-readable string
repr	Developer-readable string
add,sub,mul	Operator overloading
eq,lt, etc.	Comparison methods
getitem,setitem,delitem	Subscript support
len,contains	Use with len(), in
call	Make instance callable
iter,next	Iteration support
enter,exit	Context manager support
getattr,setattr,delattr	Attribute hooks
del	Destructor

Pro Tips

- Only use magic methods when you **need to customize default behaviors**.
- Always return NotImplemented in binary magic methods when types are incompatible.
- Pair magic methods with **docstrings** for clarity.

Challenge: Create Your Own List-Like Class

```
class CustomList:
    def __init__(self):
        self.items = []

def __getitem__(self, index):
        return self.items[index]
```

```
def __setitem__(self, index, value):
        self.items[index] = value

def __len__(self):
        return len(self.items)

def __str__(self):
        return str(self.items)

cl = CustomList()
cl.items = [10, 20, 30]
print(cl[1])  # 20
cl[1] = 99
print(cl)  # [10, 99, 30]
```