

```
1 # A function is a piece of code with three things:
2 # 1. A name;
3 # 2. A list of parameters;
4 # 3. A return value (optional) computed based on the parameters.
5
6 # The def keyword defines a function.
7 def absolute_value(num):
8     # This defines a function named absolute_value. It takes one parameter
9     # called num. Based on the name, we can surmise that it is supposed to
10    # calculate the absolute value of a number.
11
12    # Inside a def is a block like any other. We can declare variables,
13    # use statements, and perform calculations.
14    if num < 0:
15        return -num
16
17    # This function's purpose is to compute an answer. When our answer
18    # is ready, we "return" it, sending it back to the person who wanted
19    # the answer.
20    return num
21
22
23 # Important: defining a function does not execute the code inside.
24 # We must "call" the function, as we do with print, input, int, etc.
25 number = int(input("Enter a number: "))
26 abs_number = absolute_value(-7)
27 print("The absolute value of {0} is {1}".format(number, abs_number))
28
29
30 # Adapt this into a main()
31
```

```
1 import random
2
3 # Play a simple guessing game with the user
4 def random_password():
5     return random.randrange(1, 11)
6
7 def get_guess():
8     return int(input("Guess the password, from 1 to 10: "))
9
10 def main():
11     password = random_password()
12     number_of_tries = 1
13     guess = get_guess()
14     while guess != password:
15         number_of_tries += 1
16         guess = get_guess()
17
18     # Give a message based on how many attempts it took
19     print("It took you", number_of_tries, "guesses!")
20     if number_of_tries == 1:
21         print("Nice! You cheated, didn't you?")
22     elif 2 <= number_of_tries <= 4:
23         print("Hey, that's better than average!")
24     elif number_of_tries == 5:
25         print("That's the average number of guesses!")
26     elif number_of_tries <= 9:
27         print("You're a little unlucky.")
28     elif number_of_tries == 10:
29         print("You're REALLY unlucky.")
30     else:
31         print("You may need to rethink your guessing strategy...")
32
33 main()
34
```

```
1 # is_factor
2 def is_factor(dividend, divisor):
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6 # square
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```
7 def square(num):
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11 # get_grade
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```
12 def get_grade(percent):
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13
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14
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15 # is_even / is_odd
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```
16 def is_even(x):
```

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17
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18
```

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19
```

```
20 def is_odd(x):
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21
```

```
22
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23
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```
24 # round_nearest
```

```
25 def round_nearest(x):
```

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26
```

```
27
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28
```

```
29 # gcd
```

```
30 def gcd(a, b):
```

```
31     while b != 0:
```

```
32         remainder = a % b
```

```
33         a = b
```

```
34         b = remainder
```

```
35     return a
```

```
36
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```
37 # max
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```
38 def max(a, b):
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39
```

```
40
```

```
41
```

```
42 def max3(a, b, c):
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43
```

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44
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45
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```
48 def median3(a, b, c):
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49
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```
1 # Some good functions are good. Some are bad. We want to write good functions.
2
3 def absolute_value(value, is_negative):
4     if is_negative:
5         return -value
6     return value
7
8 # Why is is_negative a parameter? Is it necessary?
9 # Good functions take only the parameters that are necessary
10 # to make their calculation or decision.
11
12
13 def power(base, exponent):
14     return exponent ** base
15
16 # Good functions use give meaningful names to parameters,
17 # and use them in the way they are named.
18
19
20 def maximum(num1, num2):
21     if num1 > num2:
22         print("The max is", num1)
23     else:
24         print("The max is", num2)
25
26 # Good functions RETURN the values they calculate,
27 # they don't print them. Don't print in functions, except in rare
28 # circumstances:
29 #     - the function's purpose is to gather input from the user
30 #     - the function's purpose is to display information to the user
31 # Such functions will generally have names that reflect their purpose,
32 # like "get_gunpowder" or "print_menu".
33
34
35 def minimum(num1, num2):
36     num1 = float(input("Please enter a positive number"))
37     while num1 <= 0:
38         num1 = float(input("Please enter a positive number"))
39
40     print("OK, let's find the min of those numbers!")
41     if num1 < num2:
42         return num1
43     return num2
44
45
46
47
```

```
1  # "Scope"
2
3  # Come back to this after looking at main()...
4  def some_function():
5      x = 20
6      print(x)
7
8  def another_function(x):
9      x = 30
10     print(x)
11
12 def main():
13     # Any time a variable is assigned a value for the very first time, that
14     # variable
15     # is created in the namespace with a scope bound to the function in which it
16     # was
17     # declared. If a variable is made outside of a function, we call it "global"
18     # --
19     # more on this later.
20
21     x = 10
22     # x did not exist before this line, so it is created. Its scope starts on the
23     # line
24     # it is declared, and terminates at the end of this main() function.
25     print(x)
26     # When we attempt to use a variable, we make sure it is still in scope. A
27     # semantic
28     # error if it is not.
29
30     if x != 10:
31         # this variable y has a scope that ends when main() ends.
32         y = 5
33     else:
34         y = 0
35     print(y)
36
37     # This can get confusing when calling other functions...
38     some_function()
39     print(x)
40     # The x in some_function is a DIFFERENT variable named x, because it was
41     # declared
42     # in a different namespace. Assigning 20 to x in some_function does *not*
43     # change the x
44     # declared here in main.
45
46     # This also applies to parameters. Even if the parameter has the same name
47     # as the argument sent to it, it is really a different variable.
48     another_function(x)
49     print(x)
50
51 main()
52
```