Python Strings

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Strings

Strings in python are surrounded by either single quotation marks, or double quotation marks.

'hello' is the same as "hello".

You can display a string literal with the print() function:

Example

```
print("Hello")
print('Hello')
```

Assign String to a Variable

Assigning a string to a variable is done with the variable name followed by an equal sign and the string:

Example

```
a = "Hello"
print(a)
```

Multiline Strings

You can assign a multiline string to a variable by using three quotes:

Example

You can use three double quotes:

```
a = """Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua."""
print(a)
```

Or three single quotes:

Example

```
a = '''Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.'''
print(a)
```

Strings are Arrays

Like many other popular programming languages, strings in Python are arrays of bytes representing unicode characters.

However, Python does not have a character data type, a single character is simply a string with a length of 1.

Square brackets can be used to access elements of the string.

Example

Get the character at position 1 (remember that the first character has the position 0):

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a[1])
```

Looping Through a String

Since strings are arrays, we can loop through the characters in a string, with a for loop.

Example

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

```
for x in "banana":
  print(x)
```

String Length

To get the length of a string, use the len() function.

Example

The len() function returns the length of a string:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(len(a))
```

Check String

To check if a certain phrase or character is present in a string, we can use the keyword in.

Example

Check if "free" is present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("free" in txt)
```

Use it in an if statement:

Example

Print only if "free" is present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "free" in txt:
  print("Yes, 'free' is present.")
```

Check if NOT

To check if a certain phrase or character is NOT present in a string, we can use the keyword not in.

Example

Check if "expensive" is NOT present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("expensive" not in txt)
```

Use it in an if statement:

Example

print only if "expensive" is NOT present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "expensive" not in txt:
  print("No, 'expensive' is NOT present.")
```

Python - Slicing Strings

Slicing

You can return a range of characters by using the slice syntax.

Specify the start index and the end index, separated by a colon, to return a part of the string.

Example

Get the characters from position 2 to position 5 (not included):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[2:5])
```

Slice From the Start

By leaving out the start index, the range will start at the first character:

Example

Get the characters from the start to position 5 (not included):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[:5])
```

Slice To the End

By leaving out the *end* index, the range will go to the end:

Example

Get the characters from position 2, and all the way to the end:

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[2:])
```

Negative Indexing

Use negative indexes to start the slice from the end of the string:

Example

Get the characters:

From: "o" in "World!" (position -5)

To, but not included: "d" in "World!" (position -2):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[-5:-2])
```

Python - Modify Strings

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on strings.

Upper Case

Example

The upper() method returns the string in upper case:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.upper())
```

Lower Case

Example

The lower() method returns the string in lower case:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.lower())
```

Remove Whitespace

Whitespace is the space before and/or after the actual text, and very often you want to remove this space.

Example

The strip() method removes any whitespace from the beginning or the end:

```
a = " Hello, World! "
print(a.strip()) # returns "Hello, World!"
```

Replace String

Example

The **replace()** method replaces a string with another string:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.replace("H", "J"))
```

Split String

The split() method returns a list where the text between the specified separator becomes the list items.

Example

The split() method splits the string into substrings if it finds instances of the separator:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.split(",")) # returns ['Hello', ' World!']
```

Python - String Concatenation

To concatenate, or combine, two strings you can use the + operator.

Example

Merge variable a with variable b into variable c:

```
a = "Hello"
b = "World"
c = a + b
print(c)
```

Python - Format - Strings

String Format

As we learned in the Python Variables chapter, **we cannot combine strings and numbers like this**:

Example

```
age = 36
txt = "My name is John, I am " + age
print(txt)
```

But we can combine strings and numbers by using the format() method!

The **format()** method takes the passed arguments, formats them, and places them in the string where the placeholders {} are:

Example

Use the format() method to insert numbers into strings:

```
age = 36
txt = "My name is John, and I am {}"
print(txt.format(age))
```

The format() method takes unlimited number of arguments, and are placed into the respective placeholders:

Example

```
quantity = 3
itemno = 567
price = 49.95
myorder = "I want {} pieces of item {} for {} dollars."
print(myorder.format(quantity, itemno, price))
```

You can use index numbers {0} to be sure the arguments are placed in the correct placeholders:

Example

```
quantity = 3
itemno = 567
price = 49.95
myorder = "I want to pay {2} dollars for {0} pieces of item {1}."
print(myorder.format(quantity, itemno, price))
```

Python - Escape Characters

Escape Character

To insert characters that are illegal in a string, use an escape character.

An escape character is a backslash \ followed by the character you want to insert.

An example of an illegal character is a double quote inside a string that is surrounded by double quotes:

Example

You will get an error if you use double quotes inside a string that is surrounded by double quotes:

```
txt = "We are the so-called "Vikings" from the north."
```

To fix this problem, use the escape character \":

Example

The escape character allows you to use double quotes when you normally would not be allowed:

```
txt = "We are the so-called \"Vikings\" from the north."
```

Code	Result
\'	Single Quote
\\\\	Backslash
\n	New Line
\r	Carriage Return
\t	Tab
\b	Backspace
\f	Form Feed
\ooo	Octal value
\xhh	Hex value

String methods

List of string methods **:** Python - String Methods (w3schools.com)

Coding questions

1. **Write a program to ignore spaces while calculation string length**
2. **Write a Python program to print half letters in uppercase in a string**
3. **Write a Python program to check if a string has at least one letter and one number**
4. **Write a Python program to find maximum frequency character in String**
5. **Replace all occurrences of a substring in a string**

More questions to solve

Python String Exercise - GeeksforGeeks