

Collections : List - Part 1

Let us get familiar with the 'Collections' module on Python.

Collections in Python are containers that store collections of data. In total, there are four collections on python:

- List
- Dict
- Set
- Tuple

Using these collections we can store any type of data that is related in some manner. We will study all types of collections in the course...

List - definition

Lets begin, by starting with the first Collection type, which is 'List:

- ★ In Python, a list is created by placing all the values (elements) inside square brackets [], separated by commas between each value.
- ★ A list can have any number of values.
- ★ List can contain a mixed types of values (Integer, Float, String, etc)

Quick example:

Creation of a list: `my_list = []`

A list of integers: `my_list = [1, 2, 3]`

A Mixed list: `my_list = [1, "Hello", 3.4]`

How to access value in a list?

There are 2 ways to access items inside a list

1. Accessing by index

We can use the index of a list's value, to access it. But, its important to remember that the first value would have the index 0 (and not 1).

For example a list with 5 values in it, will have the index '4' as its last one.

`list_of_random_values = [31, 4, 31.5, 3, "Yes"]`

Value in list cell	31	4	31.5	3	"Yes"
Index of the value	0	1	2	3	4

Trying to access other indexes than these, will raise an `IndexError`.

2. Negative indexing:

Python allows us to access the values. starting at the end of a list, by adding the prefix '-' to it.

In other words the index '-1' is referring to the last item of the list (= "Yes"), and index '-2' is referring to the second before last (=3).

So for the same list :

List_of_random_values = [31, 4, 31.5 , 3, "Yes"]

The once accessing to the values using 'Negative indexing', it will look like that

Value in list cell	31	4	31.5	3	"Yes"
Index of the value	-5	-4	-3	-2	-1

Accessing the list by index - examples:

- print(List_of_random_values [0]) -> output : 31
- print(List_of_random_values [3]) -> output : 3
- print(List_of_random_values [-2]) -> output : 3
- print(List_of_random_values [-1]) -> output : "Yes"
- print(List_of_random_values [7]) -> IndexError

Collections : List - (Advanced)

Let's get familiar with additional manipulations upon a list collections...

First let's declare a new list,

```
numbers_list = [123 , 111.9 , 10000 , 0.4]
```

Get list's length (number of existing cells)

To find out what is the length of a list we should apply

And command `len(numbers_list)`, and if we print it we would get an integer variable indicating the length.

Change a value of a specific cell inside a list

Let's say we want to change the value in cell number '1'

(aka : `numbers_list[1]`) , and set the value '10' instead of '111.9'.

we can do it by using : `numbers_list[1] = 10`

Add an item to the end of an existing list

Once handling the list -> `numbers_list = [123 , 111.9 , 10000 , 0.4]`

As we seen in the last video [Lists - practice (basics), bonus assignment],

If we wish to add an item to the end of it, just is `append(value)`.

So for adding the number '15', we'd use: `numbers_list.append(15)`

And we'll have then : `numbers_list=[123 , 111.9 , 10000, 0.4 , 15]`

Done !

Add an item to a specific cell item in the list

Say we want to add '1005' to cell number 2 in the list,

We can achieve it by using `numbers_list.insert(1005, 2)` - this will cause the existing item in this cell to move forward to the next one.

Remove an item by mentioning the value

Let's learn how to remove the item we have just added - '1005',
We can do it by using '.remove()' - `numbers_list.remove(1005)`

Remove an item by mentioning the cell index

We have an additional way to remove cells from a list, by using the 'pop()' actions.

We can apply it in 2 ways:

- ❖ `numbers_list.pop()` - Will remove the last item of the list, the opposite of 'append()'
- ❖ `numbers_list.pop(0)` - Will remove the cell which we mention inside the brackets, in this example cell number '0'