Frequently Asked Questions

This document collects a set of frequently asked questions regarding Python programming topics introduced in the *Bioinformatics* course.

Why do I get an error when using the `raw_input()` function?

If you call the `raw_input()` function in Python 3 you get an error similar to the following one:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#0>", line 1, in <module>
    raw_input()
NameError: name 'raw_input' is not defined
```

The reason is that the `raw_input()` function available in Python 3 was renamed `input()` in Python 3.

Why do I get an error when using the `print` statement without parentheses?

If you use the Python 2 `print` statement in Python 3, you get an error similar to the following one:

```
SyntaxError: Missing parentheses in call to 'print'. Did you mean
print('Hello')?
```

The reason is that in Python 3 the `print` statement has been replaced by the `print()` function, which always requires brackets to be properly used.

How does number division behave in Python?

In Python 3 the `/` operator computes the ratio of two number and returns a result of type `float`. If you want to compute the *integer* division between you should use the `//` operator.

```
>>> 5 / 2
2.5
>>> 5 // 2
2
```

What is the difference between `str(object)` and `object.__str__(self)`?

In Python, `str(object)` calls `object.__str__(self)` for getting the string representation of the target object. For a detailed explanation, have a look at the official documentation of the `object.__str__(self)` method.
