

functions

A function is a block of code that is only run when it is called. It can receive data (known as parameters), and return it once processed as a result.

a function is defined by the
keyword **def**



```
def my_function(parameter):
```

The diagram illustrates the relationship between function definition and function call. A blue arrow points from the `def` keyword in the definition to the explanatory text above. Another blue arrow points from the `parameter` in the definition to the explanatory text below. A third blue arrow points from the `my_argument` in the function call to the explanatory text at the bottom.

The parameters contain information that the function uses or transforms to return a result.

```
my_function(my_argument)
```

We can call a function by its name, giving the arguments that it requires inside parentheses.