Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. **What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?**

An Object Relational Mapper (ORM) converts the contents and structure of a database into classes and objects. The advantages of ORM are that it saves times, therefore allowing developers to concentrate on more   important tasks as well as giving developers less time to worry about the SQL syntax as it is converted by ORM.

2. **By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?**

The app went well, and I definitely learnt a lot about Python over the course of developing the recipe app. I think I handled using if-elif logic and the Python syntax quite well in general. If I was to start over, I would review   for and while loops because at times, I wasn't as confident as I would like to be when using them.

3. **Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.**

I have had experience with Python by making the back-end to a recipe app. Essentially, this app allows users to create, edit and delete

recipes. It also allows users to search for recipes by an ingredient.

To develop this app, I used a combination of logic to perform certain actions. I used if-elif statements, logical operators, while and for loops as well as functions and classes. The data was all stored in the mySQL database   and to interact with the data, object relational mapper was implemented. The operations on the app are use ORM as well, which saved time whilst developing.

4. **You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:**
   a. **What went well during this Achievement?**

   I think the overall development of the recipe app went well and quite smoothly in this achievement. I was pleased that my understanding of Python improved over time.

   a. **What's something you're proud of?**

   I am proud of how this achievement went in terms of my understanding and execution of code to make the recipe app function well.

   a. **What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?**

   The most challenging aspect for me was learning a lot in a short period of time. I could grasp the concepts, however more practise will be of great benefit to me.

   a. **Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?**

   This achievement has met some of my expectations and gave me some confidence to work with Python. I think this achievement taught me what the available possibilities are when working in Python, but more work   and practice is needed to implement all of these possibilities with confidence.

a. **What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?**

Something I will keep in mind to help me in Achievement 2 is making notes and talking through on what needs to be done in each part of the developing process. At times, it was difficult to break things down into steps   rather than just trying to get to the end result. Making notes and talking through my process on how to go about each step would help me be successful in Achievement 2 and beyond.

Well done—you've now completed the Learning Journal for Achievement 1. As you'll have seen, a little metacognition can go a long way!