Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions

1. **Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?**

   In Python, file storage is important and necessary because when it is not completed, data is lost after a program/application is closed. If you data is not stored in local files, it will be lost.

2. **In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the pickle.dump() method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?**

   Pickles are important and useful when more complex data structures need to be stored. Pickles convert complex data into a packaged stream of bytes and then this data is written into a binary file. I would use pickles in situations where I need to save and load complex python structures as this is the most beneficial way to achieve this.

3. **In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?**

   The function that you use to get of the directory that you are currently in is os.getcwd() and if you wanted to change your current working directory you use os.chdir('<path to folder>').

4. **Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried**

there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

To approach the situation in preventing the entire termination of a script, I would use a try-except-else block. This block works by putting the code you want to run in the try section. If it is successful at this point, the code will continue to the else section. However if an error occurs, it will be caught at the except section and inform the user of the error before proceeding the the else section.

5. **You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.**

Python is going okay for me so far. I am proud of how far I have come with my knowledge of functions. I definitely need more practice of all concepts, but I know this will come as I continue to learn and develop. More logical questions would help me improve my understanding.