Python From Scratch

Python Strings

Lesson 4 Content

Python Strings

- Assign String to a Variable
- Multiline Strings
- Strings are Arrays
- Looping Through a String
- String Length
- Check String
- Check if NOT

Python Slicing Strings

- Slicing
- Slice From the Start
- Slice To the End
- Negative Indexing

Python String Concatenation

Python Format Strings

Python Escape Characters

Python - String Methods

Python - String Exercises

Python Strings

Strings

Strings in python are surrounded by either single quotation marks, or double quotation marks.

'hello' is the same as "hello".

You can display a string literal with the print() function:

Example

```
print("Hello")
print('Hello')
```

Assign String to a Variable

Assigning a string to a variable is done with the variable name followed by an equal sign and the string:

Example

```
a = "Hello"
print(a)
```

Multiline Strings

You can assign a multiline string to a variable by using three quotes:

Example

You can use three double quotes:

```
a = """Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua."""
print(a)
```

Or

Three single quotes:

```
a = '''Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipiscing elit,
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.'''
print(a)
```

Note: in the result, the line breaks are inserted at the same position as in the code.

Strings are Arrays

Like many other popular programming languages, strings in Python are arrays of bytes representing unicode characters.

However, Python does not have a character data type, a single character is simply a string with a length of 1.

Square brackets can be used to access elements of the string.

Example

Get the character at position 1 (remember that the first character has the position 0):

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a[1])
```

Looping Through a String

Since strings are arrays, we can loop through the characters in a string, with a for loop.

Example

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

```
for x in "banana":
  print(x)
```

String Length

To get the length of a string, use the len() function.

Example

The len() function returns the length of a string:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(len(a))
```

Check String

To check if a certain phrase or character is present in a string, we can use the keyword in.

Example

Check if "free" is present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("free" in txt)
```

- **Use it in an if statement:**

  Example

  Print only if "free" is present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "free" in txt:
  print("Yes, 'free' is present.")
```

Check if NOT

To check if a certain phrase or character is NOT present in a string, we can use the keyword not in.

Example

Check if "expensive" is NOT present in the following text:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
print("expensive" not in txt)
```

- **Use it in an if statement:**

  Example

  print only if "expensive" is NOT present:

```
txt = "The best things in life are free!"
if "expensive" not in txt:
  print("No, 'expensive' is NOT present.")
```

Python Slicing Strings

Slicing

You can return a range of characters by using the slice syntax.

Specify the start index and the end index, separated by a colon, to return a part of the string.

Example

Get the characters from position 2 to position 5 (not included):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[2:5])
```

Note: The first character has index 0.

Slice From the Start

By leaving out the start index, the range will start at the first character:

Example

Get the characters from the start to position 5 (not included):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[:5])
```

Slice To the End

By leaving out the end index, the range will go to the end:

Example

Get the characters from position 2, and all the way to the end:

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[2:])
```

Negative Indexing

Use negative indexes to start the slice from the end of the string:

Example

Get the characters:

From: "o" in "World!" (position -5)

To, but not included: "d" in "World!" (position -2):

```
b = "Hello, World!"
print(b[-5:-2])
```

Python Modify Strings

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on strings.

Upper Case

Example

The upper() method returns the string in upper case:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.upper())
```

Lower Case

Example

The lower() method returns the string in lower case:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.lower())
```

Remove Whitespace

Whitespace is the space before and/or after the actual text, and very often you want to remove this space.

Example

The strip() method removes any whitespace from the beginning or the end:

```
a = " Hello, World! "
print(a.strip()) # returns "Hello, World!"
```

Replace String

Example

The replace() method replaces a string with another string:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.replace("H", "J"))
```

Split String

The split() method returns a list where the text between the specified separator becomes the list items.

Example

The split() method splits the string into substrings if it finds instances of the separator:

```
a = "Hello, World!"
print(a.split(",")) # returns ['Hello', ' World!']
```

Python String Concatenation

String Concatenation

To concatenate, or combine, two strings you can use the + operator.

Example

Merge variable a with variable b into variable c:

```
a = "Hello"
b = "World"
c = a + b
print(c)
```

To add a space between them, add a " ":

```
a = "Hello"
b = "World"
c = a + " " + b
print(c)
```

Python Format Strings

String Format

As we learned in the Python Variables chapter, we cannot combine strings and numbers like this:

Example

```
age = 36
txt = "My name is John, I am " + age
print(txt)
```

But we can combine strings and numbers by using the format() method!

- The format() method takes the passed arguments, formats them, and places them in the string where the placeholders {} are:

Example

Use the format() method to insert numbers into strings:

```
age = 36
txt = "My name is John, and I am {}"
print(txt.format(age))
```

- The format() method takes unlimited number of arguments, and are placed into the respective placeholders:

Example

```
quantity = 3
itemno = 567
price = 49.95
myorder = "I want {} pieces of item {} for {} dollars."
print(myorder.format(quantity, itemno, price))
```

- You can use index numbers {0} to be sure the arguments are placed in the correct placeholders:

Example

```
quantity = 3
itemno = 567
price = 49.95
myorder = "I want to pay {2} dollars for {0} pieces of item {1}."
print(myorder.format(quantity, itemno, price))
```

Python Escape Characters

Escape Character

To insert characters that are illegal in a string, use an escape character.

An escape character is a backslash \ followed by the character you want to insert.

An example of an illegal character is a double quote inside a string that is surrounded by double quotes:

Example

You will get an error if you use double quotes inside a string that is surrounded by double quotes:

```
txt = "We are the so-called "Vikings" from the north."
```

- To fix this problem, use the escape character \":

Example

The escape character allows you to use double quotes when you normally would not be allowed:

```
txt = "We are the so-called \"Vikings\" from the north."
```

Escape Characters

Other escape characters used in Python:

Code	Result	Code	Result	Code	Result
\'	Single Quote	\r	Carriage Return	\f	Form Feed
\\	Backslash	\t	Tab	\ooo	Octal value
\n	New Line	\b	Backspace	\xhh	Hex value

Python - String Methods

String Methods

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on strings.

Note: All string methods return new values. They do not change the original string.

Method	Description
capitalize()	Converts the first character to upper case
casefold()	Converts string into lower case
center()	Returns a centered string
count()	Returns the number of times a specified value occurs in a string
encode()	Returns an encoded version of the string
endswith()	Returns true if the string ends with the specified value
expandtabs()	Sets the tab size of the string
find()	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found
format()	Formats specified values in a string
format_map()	Formats specified values in a string
index()	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found
isalnum()	Returns True if all characters in the string are alphanumeric
isalpha()	Returns True if all characters in the string are in the alphabet
isdecimal()	Returns True if all characters in the string are decimals
isdigit()	Returns True if all characters in the string are digits
isidentifier()	Returns True if the string is an identifier
islower()	Returns True if all characters in the string are lower case
isnumeric()	Returns True if all characters in the string are numeric
isprintable()	Returns True if all characters in the string are printable
isspace()	Returns True if all characters in the string are whitespaces
istitle()	Returns True if the string follows the rules of a title
isupper()	Returns True if all characters in the string are upper case
join()	Joins the elements of an iterable to the end of the string
ljust()	Returns a left justified version of the string
lower()	Converts a string into lower case
lstrip()	Returns a left trim version of the string

maketrans()	Returns a translation table to be used in translations
partition()	Returns a tuple where the string is parted into three parts
replace()	Returns a string where a specified value is replaced with a specified value
rfind()	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the last position of where it was found
rindex()	Searches the string for a specified value and returns the last position of where it was found
rjust()	Returns a right justified version of the string
rpartition()	Returns a tuple where the string is parted into three parts
rsplit()	Splits the string at the specified separator, and returns a list
rstrip()	Returns a right trim version of the string
split()	Splits the string at the specified separator, and returns a list
splitlines()	Splits the string at line breaks and returns a list
startswith()	Returns true if the string starts with the specified value
strip()	Returns a trimmed version of the string
swapcase()	Swaps cases, lower case becomes upper case and vice versa
title()	Converts the first character of each word to upper case
translate()	Returns a translated string
upper()	Converts a string into upper case
zfill()	Fills the string with a specified number of 0 values at the beginning

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Python - String Exercises

Test Yourself With Exercises

Now you have learned a lot about Strings, and how to use them in Python.

Are you ready for a test?

Try to insert the missing part to make the code work as expected:

Exercise:

Use the len method to print the length of the string.

```
x = "Hello World"
print(    )
```