Functions

Functions allow you to create a block of code that performs a specific job or function. For instance you can create a function to compute a number of values and return the result. The advantage of this approach is that each time you call the function you can pass in different values according to the needs of your program at that particular time.

To define a function you use the **def** keyword

```
def SumNums (x,y):
        result = int(x) + int(y)
        return result


print SumNums(5,10)
15
```

The function above takes 2 arguments which it puts in variables x and y. It then adds then together and returns the result to the calling statement using the **return** keyword.

The defining line of a function is ended with a colon and all statements below are indented to show they are part of the function.

You can also give a function a default value. In this case if the argument is not given in the calling statement the default value will be given.

```
def SumNums (x,y = 20):
        result = int(x) + int(y)
        return result


print SumNums(5)
25
```