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1 Python Primer

1.1 Expressions, operations, and precedence

1.1.1 Extended assignment operators

- `count += 5` is a shorthand for the more verbose `count = count + 5`
- For an immutable type, such as a number or a string, one should not presume that this syntax changes the value of the existing object, but instead that it will reassign the identifier to a newly constructed value.
- However, it is possible for a type to redefine such semantics to mutate the object, as the `list` class does for the `+=` operator.

```
alpha = [1, 2, 3]
beta = alpha           # an alias for alpha
beta += [4, 5]         # extends the original list with two more elements
beta = beta + [6, 7]   # reassigns beta to a new list [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]
print(alpha)          # will be [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
```

1.1.2 Functions