

# Working with strings

INTRODUCTION TO PYTHON FOR DEVELOPERS



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# Strings are everywhere!



- User profiles
- Search engines
- Large language models

<sup>1</sup> [https://unsplash.com/@steve\\_j](https://unsplash.com/@steve_j)

# Python knows single and double quotes

```
# This works  
my_text = 'Hello, my name is George.'
```

```
# This also works  
my_text = "Hello, my name is George."
```

- ' = apostrophe = single quote

# Advantages of double quotes

```
# Single quote string variable containing an apostrophe  
my_text = 'Hello, my name's George.'
```

SyntaxError: invalid syntax.

```
# Double quote string variable containing an apostrophe  
my_text = "Hello, my name's George."  
print(my_text)
```

Hello, my name's George.

# Methods

- Method = a function that is only available to a specific data type
- `str` methods

```
# Calling a string method  
str_variable.method()
```

# Replacing parts of strings

- `.replace(text_to_be_replaced, text_to_change_it_to)`

```
my_text = "Hello, my name's George."  
  
# Replace George with John  
my_text = my_text.replace("George", "John")  
print(my_text)
```

Hello, my name's John.

- Common use cases
  - Reformatting e.g., change spaces to underscores
  - Fixing or removing typos

# Changing case

```
current_top_album = "For All The Dogs"

# Convert to lowercase
current_top_album = current_top_album.lower()
print(current_top_album)
```

```
for all the dogs
```

```
# Change to uppercase
current_top_album = current_top_album.upper()
print(current_top_album)
```

```
FOR ALL THE DOGS
```

# Sentences and paragraphs

```
nineteen_eightyfour = "It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen."
```

# Multi-line strings

```
# Create a string variable over multiple lines
harry_potter = """Mr. and Mrs. Dursley,
of number four Privet Drive,
were proud to say that they were perfectly normal,
thank you very much.

"""
```

- `"""text"""` : Multi-line strings
  - Enhance readability
  - Avoid the need to use special characters
  - Longer text such as customer reviews
  - Used to describe what functions do

# String cheat sheet

Syntax	Purpose	Example
Single quotes ''	String variable	<code>my_string = 'My string'</code>
Double quotes ""	String variable	<code>my_string = "My string"</code>
Triple quotes """	Multi-line string variable	<code>my_string = """My string"""</code>
<code>str.replace()</code>	Replacing parts of strings	<code>my_string = my_string.replace("text_to_remove", "text_to_change_to")</code>
<code>str.lower()</code>	Lowercase string	<code>my_string = my_string.lower()</code>
<code>str.upper()</code>	Uppercase string	<code>my_string = my_string.upper()</code>

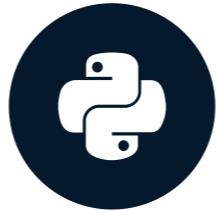
<sup>1</sup> <https://docs.python.org/3/library/stdtypes.html#string-methods>

# **Let's practice!**

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# Lists

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# Problem

```
# Variables of product prices  
price_one = 10  
price_two = 20  
price_three = 30  
price_four = 15  
price_five = 25  
price_six = 35
```

# Lists to the rescue!

- List = store multiple values in a single variable
  - Can contain any combination of data types e.g., str , float , int , bool

```
# List of prices  
prices = [10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]
```

```
# List of prices using variables as values  
prices = [price_one, price_two, price_three,  
          price_four, price_five, price_six]
```

# Checking the data type

```
# Check the data type of a list  
type(prices)
```

```
<class 'list'>
```

```
# Check the data type of a string  
type("Hello")
```

```
<class 'str'>
```

# Accessing elements of a list

```
# Print all values in the list variable  
print(prices)
```

```
[10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]
```

- Lists are ordered
  - Can use subsetting or indexing
  - Python counts values starting from **zero** for the *first element*

# Accessing elements of a list

- List = []
- Subsetting = a\_list[index]

```
prices = [10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]
```

```
# Get the value at the first index  
prices[0]
```

```
10
```

```
# Get the value at the fourth index  
prices[3]
```

```
15
```

# Finding the last element in a list

```
prices = [10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]
```

```
# Get the last element of a list  
prices[5]
```

```
35
```

```
# Get the last element of a list  
prices[-1]
```

```
35
```

# Accessing multiple elements

```
prices = [10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]  
  
# Access the second and third elements  
prices[1:3]
```

```
[20, 30]
```

- `[starting_element:last_element + 1]`
- Add one to the last element's index because:
  - Python returns everything up to **but not including** that index

# Accessing multiple elements

```
# Access all elements from the fourth index onwards  
prices[3:]
```

```
[15, 25, 35]
```

```
# Get the first three elements  
prices[:3]
```

```
[10, 20, 30]
```

# Alternating access

```
# Access every other element  
prices[::2]
```

```
[10, 30, 25]
```

```
# Access every other element, starting at the second  
prices[1::3]
```

```
[20, 25]
```

# Lists cheat sheet

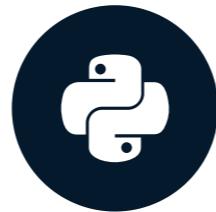
Syntax	Functionality
<code>a_list = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]</code>	Create a list variable
<code>a_list[0]</code>	Get the first element at index zero
<code>a_list[-1]</code>	Get the last element
<code>a_list[0:3]</code>	Get the first, second, and third elements
<code>a_list[:3]</code>	Get the first, second, and third elements
<code>a_list[2:]</code>	Get all elements from the third index onwards
<code>a_list[::-2]</code>	Get every other element from the first index onwards

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# Dictionaries

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# Products list

```
prices = [10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35]  
  
# Product IDs  
product_ids = ["AG32", "HT91", "PL65", "OS31", "KB07", "TR48"]
```

# Dictionary

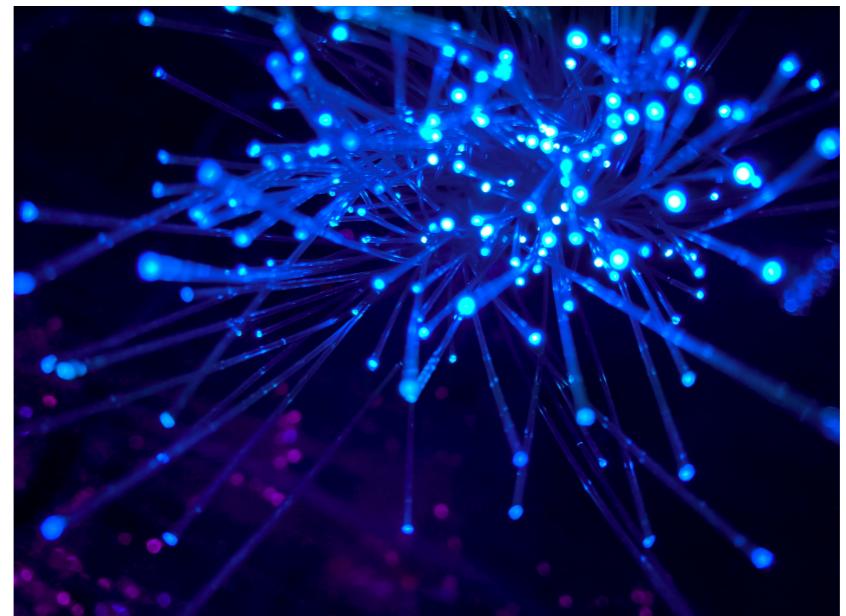
- Dictionary = key-value pairs



<sup>1</sup> <https://unsplash.com/@sandym10>

# Why use dictionaries?

- user\_id
- order\_number
- date
- value
- payment\_method
- ip\_address
- location



<sup>1</sup> <https://unsplash.com/@sharonmccutcheon>; <https://unsplash.com/@jyjyng>

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict =
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32":
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32":
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32": 10}
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32": 10,
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32": 10, "HT91": 20,
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32": 10, "HT91": 20,  
                 "PL65": 30, "OS31": 15,  
                 "KB07": 25, "TR48": 35}
```

# Creating a dictionary

```
# Creating a dictionary  
products_dict = {"AG32": 10, "HT91": 20,  
                 "PL65": 30, "OS31": 15,  
                 "KB07": 25, "TR48": 35}
```

# Accessing a value based on the key

- Dictionaries are ordered
  - Allows values to be accessed by **subsetting on the key**
- What is the price of product ID "AG32" ?

```
# Find the product's price  
products_dict["AG32"]
```

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# Accessing all values

```
# Get all values from a dictionary  
products_dict.values()
```

```
dict_values([10, 20, 30, 15, 25, 35])
```

# Accessing all keys

```
# Retrieve all keys in a dictionary  
products_dict.keys()
```

```
dict_keys(['AG32', 'HT91', 'PL65', 'OS31', 'KB07', 'TR48'])
```

# Viewing an entire dictionary

```
# Print the dictionary  
print(products_dict)
```

```
{'AG32': 10, 'HT91': 20, 'PL65': 30, 'OS31': 15, 'KB07': 25, 'TR48': 35}
```

```
# Get all items (key-value pairs)  
products_dict.items()
```

```
dict_items([('AG32', 10), ('HT91', 20), ('PL65', 30), ('OS31', 15), ('KB07', 25),  
('TR48', 35)])
```

- `.items()` is useful when iterating or looping

# Adding a key-value pair

```
# Add a new key-value pair  
products_dict["UI56"] = 40
```

# Updating a value

```
# Updating a value associated with an existing key  
products_dict["HT91"] = 12
```

# Duplicate keys

```
# Creating a dictionary with a duplicate key
products_dict = {"AG32": 10, "AG32": 20,
                  "PL65": 30, "OS31": 15,
                  "KB07": 25, "TR48": 35}

# Print the duplicate key's value
print(products_dict["AG32"])
```

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# Sets and tuples

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# Sets

- Contain **unique** data
- Unchangeable\*
  - Can add or remove values, but *cannot change them*
- Ideal to identify and remove duplicates
- Quick to search (compared to other data structures such as lists)

# Creating a set

- Set = `{}`
- `:` = Dictionary
- No `:` = Set

```
# Create an attendee set
attendees_set = {"John Smith", "Alan Jones", "Roger Thompson",
                  "John Smith", "Brandon Sharp", "Sam Washington"}
print(attendees_set)
```

```
{'Alan Jones', 'Brandon Sharp', 'John Smith',
 'Roger Thompson', 'Sam Washington'}
```

# Converting to a set

```
# Existing list variable  
attendees_list = ["John Smith", "Alan Jones", "Roger Thompson",  
                   "John Smith", "Brandon Sharp", "Sam Washington"]  
  
# Convert to a set  
attendees_set = set(attendees_list)  
  
# Check the data type  
type(attendees_set)
```

set

# Converting to a set

```
print(attendees_set)
```

```
{'Sam Washington', 'Roger Thompson', 'Alan Jones', 'John Smith', 'Brandon Sharp'}
```

# Limitations of sets

- Don't have an index
  - Can't have duplicates
  - Can't subset with `[]`

```
# Trying to subset a set  
attendees_set[0]
```

```
TypeError: 'set' object is not subscriptable
```

# Sorting a set

```
attendees_set = {"John Smith", "Alan Jones", "Roger Thompson",
                  "John Smith", "Brandon Sharp", "Sam Washington"}
```

```
# Sorting a set
sorted(attendees_set)
```

```
['Alan Jones', 'Brandon Sharp', 'John Smith', 'Roger Thompson', 'Sam Washington']
```

- `sorted()` returns a list

# Tuples

- **Immutable** - *cannot be changed*
  - No adding values
  - No removing values
  - No changing values
- **Ordered**
  - Can subset by index i.e., [0]



<sup>1</sup> <https://unsplash.com/@towfiqu99999>

# Creating a tuple

```
# Creating a tuple
office_locations = ("New York City", "London", "Leuven")

# Convert another data structure to a tuple
attendees = tuple(attendees_list)
```

# Accessing tuples

```
# Access the second element  
office_locations[1]
```

```
"London"
```

# Data structures summary

Data structure	Syntax	Immutable	Allow duplicate values	Ordered	Subset with []
List	[1, 2, 3]	No	Yes	Yes	Yes - index
Dictionary	{key:value}	No	Yes	Yes	Yes - key
Set	{1, 2, 3}	No	No	No	No
Tuple	(1, 2, 3)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes - index

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