

Formatting Strings using Escape Sequences

You can use two or more specially designated characters within a string to format a string or perform a command. These characters are called **escape sequences**. An escape sequence in Python starts with a backslash (\). For example, \n is an escape sequence in which the common meaning of the letter n is literally escaped and given an alternative meaning - a new line.

Displayed here are a few common escape sequences available in python. You can try these out in IDLE or the Python prompt from the windows command prompt.

Escape sequence	Description	Example	Result
\n	Breaks line	the >>> print('I designed this rhyme to explain in due time\nAll I know')	I designed this rhyme to explain in due time All I know
\t	Adds horizontal tab	a >>> print('Time is a \tvaluable thing')	Time is a valuable thing
\\	Prints backslash	a >>> print('Watch it fly by\\ Watch it fly by\\ as the pendulum swings')	Watch it fly by\ Watch it fly by\ as the pendulum swings
\'	Prints a single quote	a >>> print('It doesn\'t even matter how hard you try')	It doesn't even matter how hard you try
\"	Prints a double quote	>>> print('It is so \"unreal\"')	It is so "unreal"
\a	makes a sound like a bell	>>> print('\a')	Sound effect is heard