

CHAPTER 3: Decision Structures and Boolean Logic

3.6 Boolean Variables

A Boolean variable can reference one of two values: `True` or `False`.

In addition to `int`, `float`, and `str` (string) variables, Python provides a `bool` data type. The `bool` data type variables provide reference to one of two possible values: `True` or `False`.

Example:

```
hungry = True
sleepy = False
```

Boolean variables used as flags

A *flag* is a variable that signals when some condition exists in the program. When the flag variable is set to `False`, it indicates the condition does not exist. When the flag variable is set to `True`, it means the condition does exist.

Example:

Let suppose a salesperson has a quota of \$50,000. Assuming `sales` references the amount that the salesperson has sold, the following code determines whether the quota has been met:

```
if sales >= 50000.0:
    sales_quota_met = True
else:
    sales_quota_met = False
```

The `sales_quota_met` variable can be used as a flag to indicate whether the sales quota has been met.

The flag can be used in the program in the following way:

```
if sales_quota_met:
    print('You have met your sales quota!')
```

This code displays 'You have met your sales quota!' if the `bool` variable `sales_quota_met` is `True`.

We do not have to use the `==` operator to explicitly compare the `sales_quota_met` variable with the value `True`. This code is equivalent to the following:

```
if sales_quota_met == True:
    print('You have met your sales quota!')
```