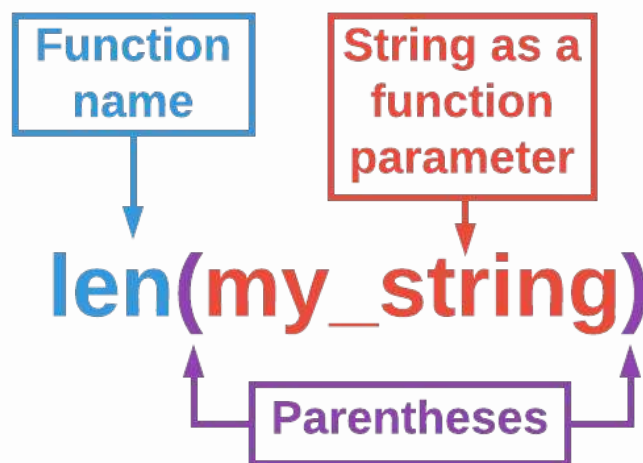# Learning Objectives - String Functions

- **Identify the syntax for string functions**

- **Demonstrate how to use the `min` function**

- **Demonstrate how to use the `max` function**

Min Function

String Functions

String functions are predefined functions that perform an action on a string. Functions have a specific syntax — function name, parentheses, and a string (often a variable) between the parentheses. The string between the parentheses is called a parameter, which is a piece of information the function requires so it can do its job.

String Function Syntax

In fact, `len` is a string function. There are a few other functions that work with strings.

The Min Function

The `min` function returns the "smallest" character from a string. Often times this is the character that appears first in alphabetical order. When characters are numbers and symbols, things are not so clear.

```
my_string = "abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz"
print(min(my_string))
```

challenge

What happens if you:

- Change `my_string` to `"AaBbCcDd"`?
- Change `my_string` to `"The brown dog jumps over the lazy fox."`?

▼ **Note**
The program does not have an error. You do not see anything because the "smallest" character is the " " between words. You cannot easily see a blank space on its own, which is why it seems like there is a problem with your code.

- Change `my_string` to `"@<#$%!^&*="`?

Max Function

The Max Function

The `max` function is the opposite of the `min` function. Instead of returning the "smallest" character, it returns the "biggest".

```
my_string = "xyz321"
print(max(my_string))
```

challenge

What happens if you:

- Change `my_string` to "123^&$"?
- Change `my_string` to "99 abc"?
- Change `my_string` to "AaBbCcDd"?

Formative Assessment 1

Formative Assessment 2