Lecture 2-3

Flow Control; Lists

Week 2 Friday

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Adapted from *Think Python* by Allen B. Downey and *A Whirlwind Tour of Python* by Jake VanderPlas

if-elif-else

The basic statement for control the flow of execution are the if-elif-else conditional statements.

- There is no need to use parenthesis in the conditional statements.
- Use a colon to end the conditional statement.
- Lines indented after the colon are associated with the if statement.
- When there is no longer indentation, the lines are no longer associated with the if statement.
- elif (else if) and else must be on the same level of indentation as the first if statement.

-3 must be negative

Like other languages, the elif or else statements are only executed if the original if statement is false

```
In [2]: x = 100

if x > 0:
    print(x, 'is positive')
elif x > 3:
    print(x, 'is greater than 3') # will not get executed
else:
    print(x, 'is zero or negative')
```

100 is positive

You can nest conditionals, but they can be hard to read and should be avoided when possible.

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```
In [3]:
    x = 5
    if 0 < x:
        if x < 10:
            print('x is a positive single-digit number.')</pre>
```

x is a positive single-digit number.

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```
In [3]:
    x = 5
    if 0 < x:
        if x < 10:
            print('x is a positive single-digit number.')

    x is a positive single-digit number.

In [4]:
    # better alternative
    if 0 < x and x < 10:
        print('x is a positive single-digit number.')

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```

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```
In [3]:
          x = 5
          if 0 < x:
              if x < 10:
                  print('x is a positive single-digit number.')
           x is a positive single-digit number.
In [4]:
          # better alternative
          if 0 < x and x < 10:
              print('x is a positive single-digit number.')
           x is a positive single-digit number.
In [5]:
          # concise format:
          if 0 < x < 10:
              print('x is a positive single-digit number.')
           x is a positive single-digit number.
```

Recursion

When you write a recursive function, the function calls itself inside the function.

When you write a recursive function, there should always be a base case that does not call the function recursively. This will end the function to avoid it from running forever.

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```
In [6]:
    def countdown(n):
        if n <= 0:
            print('Blastoff!')
        else:
            print(n)
            countdown(n - 1)</pre>
```

Recursion

When you write a recursive function, the function calls itself inside the function.

When you write a recursive function, there should always be a base case that does not call the function recursively. This will end the function to avoid it from running forever.

- The execution of countdown begins with n=3, and since n is greater than 0, it prints the value 3, and then calls itself with n=2
 - The execution of countdown begins with n=2, and since n is greater than 0, it prints the value 2, and then calls itself with n=1
 - The execution of countdown begins with n=1, and since n is greater than 0, it prints the value 1, and then calls itself with n = 0
 - The execution of countdown begins with n=0, and since n is not greater than 0, it prints the word, "Blastoff!" and then returns.
 - The countdown that got n=1 returns.
 - The countdown that got n=2 returns.
- The countdown that got n=3 returns.

```
In [8]: # another example
# a function that prints a string n times

In [9]: def print_n(s, n):
    if n <= 0:
        return None # exits the function
    print(s)
    print_n(s, n - 1)

In [10]: print_n("hello", 3)

hello
hello
hello
hello</pre>
```

- 4! = 4 * 3!
- 3! = 3 * 2!
- 2! = 2 * 1!
- 1! = 1 * 0!
- 0! = 1

```
• 4! = 4 * 3!
```

- 3! = 3 * 2!
- 2! = 2 * 1!
- 1! = 1 * 0!
- 0! = 1

```
In [11]:
    def factorial(n):
        if n <= 0:
            return 1
        else:
            return n * factorial(n - 1)</pre>
```

• 4! = 4 * 3!

```
    3! = 3 * 2!
    2! = 2 * 1!
    1! = 1 * 0!
    0! = 1

In [11]: def factorial(n):
    if n <= 0:
        return 1
    else:
        return n * factorial(n - 1)

In [12]: factorial(4)

Out[12]: 24
</pre>
```

• 4! = 4 * 3!

• 3! = 3 * 2!

```
• 2! = 2 * 1!
              • 1! = 1 * 0!
              • 0! = 1
In [11]:
            def factorial(n):
                if n <= 0:
                    return 1
                else:
                    return n * factorial(n - 1)
In [12]:
            factorial(4)
Out[12]:
            24
In [13]:
            factorial(5)
Out[13]:
            120
```

for loops

It is technically possible to accomplish all forms of repetition with recursion only. However, repetition can also be achieved using other coding forms like loops.

The most basic loop type is the for loop, which will repeat the associated lines of code for each value in an iterable. Python has several iterable data structures (list, tuple, range, strings, etc.) which will be covered in more detail later.

for loops

It is technically possible to accomplish all forms of repetition with recursion only. However, repetition can also be achieved using other coding forms like loops.

The most basic loop type is the for loop, which will repeat the associated lines of code for each value in an iterable. Python has several iterable data structures (list, tuple, range, strings, etc.) which will be covered in more detail later.

```
In [14]:
    values = [5, 7, 2, 1]
    y = 0
    for x in values:
        print(x)
        y += x # short for y = y + x
        print('running sum is:', y)

5
    running sum is: 5
7
    running sum is: 12
2
    running sum is: 14
1
    running sum is: 15
```

The range object

If you want just a sequence of numbers, you can use a range() object.

range (10) is similar to writing 0:9 in R. It creates a range of indexes that is 10 items long and begins with index 0.

The general format is

```
range( start , end , step size)
```

by default, the range will begin at the start value, increment by step size, and go up to but not include the end value. If you only specify one integer value, it will assume start = 0 and step size is 1.

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```
In [16]: range(10)
Out[16]: range(0, 10)
```

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by default, the range will begin at the start value, increment by step size, and go up to but not include the end value. If you only specify one integer value, it will assume start = 0 and step size is 1.

```
In [16]: range(10)

Out[16]: range(0, 10)

In [17]: for i in range(10):
    print(i, end = ' ')
    # the end argument tells python to use a space rather than a new line
```

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

In [18]: range(5,10) # creates a range from 5 up to but not including 10

Out[18]: range(5, 10)

```
In [18]: range(5,10) # creates a range from 5 up to but not including 10
Out[18]: range(5, 10)
In [19]: list(range(5,10)) # if you want to see the actual values, throw in list
```

Out[19]: [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

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In [18]: range(5,10) # creates a range from 5 up to but not including 10

Out[18]: range(5, 10)

In [19]: list(range(5,10)) # if you want to see the actual values, throw in list

Out[19]: [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]

In [20]: list(range(0, 20, 2)) # range from 0 to 20 by 2
```

Out[20]: [0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18]

```
In [18]:
           range(5,10) # creates a range from 5 up to but not including 10
Out[18]: range(5, 10)
In [19]:
           list(range(5,10)) # if you want to see the actual values, throw in list
Out[19]: [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
In [20]:
           list(range(0, 20, 2)) # range from 0 to 20 by 2
Out[20]: [0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18]
In [21]:
           list(range(0, 21, 2))
Out[21]: [0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20]
```

```
In [18]:
           range(5,10) # creates a range from 5 up to but not including 10
Out[18]: range(5, 10)
In [19]:
           list(range(5,10)) # if you want to see the actual values, throw in list
Out[19]: [5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
In [20]:
          list(range(0, 20, 2)) # range from 0 to 20 by 2
Out[20]: [0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18]
In [21]:
           list(range(0, 21, 2))
Out[21]: [0, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20]
In [22]:
           list(range(0, 20.1, 2)) #does not accept floats as arguments
                                                       Traceback (most recent call last)
           TypeError
           <ipython-input-22-7c865feae284> in <module>
           ----> 1 list(range(0, 20.1, 2)) #does not accept floats as arguments
           TypeError: 'float' object cannot be interpreted as an integer
```

In [23]: list(range(10,5,-1)) # need to specify a negative step

Out[23]: [10, 9, 8, 7, 6]

```
In [23]: list(range(10,5,-1)) # need to specify a negative step
Out[23]: [10, 9, 8, 7, 6]
In [24]: list(range(10,5)) # otherwise you get no values in your list
```

Out[24]: []

while loops

Another common loop is the while loop. It repeats the associated code until the conditional statement is False

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Another common loop is the while loop. It repeats the associated code until the conditional statement is False

```
i = 0
while i < 10:
    print(i, end=' ')
    i += 1</pre>
```

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

while loops

Another common loop is the while loop. It repeats the associated code until the conditional statement is False

break and continue

- The break statement breaks-out of the loop entirely
- The continue statement skips the remainder of the current loop, and goes to the next iteration

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- The continue statement skips the remainder of the current loop, and goes to the next iteration

```
In [27]:
    for n in range(20):
        # if the remainder of n / 2 is 0, skip the rest of the loop
        if n % 2 == 0:
            continue
        print(n, end=' ')
```

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19

an example to create fibonacci numbers

break and continue

- The break statement breaks-out of the loop entirely
- The continue statement skips the remainder of the current loop, and goes to the next iteration

```
In [27]:
    for n in range(20):
        # if the remainder of n / 2 is 0, skip the rest of the loop
        if n % 2 == 0:
            continue
        print(n, end=' ')
```

1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19

an example to create fibonacci numbers

```
In [28]:
    a, b = 0, 1  # you can assign multiple values using tuples
    amax = 100  # set a maximum value
    L = []

while True:  # the while True will run forever until it reaches a break
    (a, b) = (b, a + b)
    if a > amax:
        break
    L.append(a)

print(L)
```

[1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, 55, 89]

```
In [29]: 5 == 5
Out[29]: True
```

```
In [29]: 5 == 5
Out[29]: True
In [30]: 5 == 6
Out[30]: False
```

```
In [29]: 5 == 5
Out[29]: True
In [30]: 5 == 6
Out[30]: False
In [31]: 5 != 6
Out[31]: True
```

In [32]: 5 > 6

Out[32]: False

In [32]: 5 > 6

Out[32]: False

In [33]: 5 < 6

Out[33]: True

In [32]: 5 > 6

Out[32]: False

In [33]: 5 < 6

Out[33]: True

In [34]: 5 >= 6

Out[34]: False

```
In [32]: 5 > 6
Out[32]: False
In [33]: 5 < 6
Out[33]: True
In [34]: 5 >= 6
Out[34]: False
```

Out[35]: True

5 <= 6

In [35]:

```
In [36]: "5" == 5
```

When comparing strings, greater than or less than is determined by alphabetical order, with things coming earlier in the alphabet being "less than" things later in the alphabet.

```
In [36]: "5" == 5
```

When comparing strings, greater than or less than is determined by alphabetical order, with things coming earlier in the alphabet being "less than" things later in the alphabet.

All upper case letters come before all lower case letters

```
In [37]: "A" < "B"
```

Out[37]: True

```
In [36]: "5" == 5
```

When comparing strings, greater than or less than is determined by alphabetical order, with things coming earlier in the alphabet being "less than" things later in the alphabet.

```
In [37]: "A" < "B"

Out[37]: True
In [38]: "A" <"a"

Out[38]: True</pre>
```

```
In [36]: "5" == 5
```

When comparing strings, greater than or less than is determined by alphabetical order, with things coming earlier in the alphabet being "less than" things later in the alphabet.

```
In [37]: "A" < "B"

Out[37]: True

In [38]: "A" <"a"

Out[38]: True

In [39]: "Z" < "a"

Out[39]: True</pre>
```

```
In [36]: "5" == 5
```

When comparing strings, greater than or less than is determined by alphabetical order, with things coming earlier in the alphabet being "less than" things later in the alphabet.

```
In [37]:
           "Δ" < "B"
Out[37]:
           True
In [38]:
           "Δ" <"a"
Out[38]:
           True
In [39]:
           "7" < "a"
Out[39]:
           True
In [40]:
           "a" < "z"
Out[40]:
           True
```

and or not are written in lowercase

```
In [41]: True and True
```

Out[41]: True

```
In [41]: True and True
Out[41]: True
In [42]: True and False
Out[42]: False
```

```
In [41]: True and True

Out[41]: True
In [42]: True and False

Out[42]: False
In [43]: True or False

Out[43]: True
```

```
In [41]:
           True and True
Out[41]:
           True
In [42]:
           True and False
Out[42]:
           False
In [43]:
           True or False
Out[43]:
           True
In [44]:
           not True
Out[44]:
           False
```

```
In [41]:
           True and True
Out[41]:
           True
In [42]:
           True and False
Out[42]:
          False
In [43]:
           True or False
Out[43]:
           True
In [44]:
           not True
Out[44]:
           False
In [45]:
           not False
Out[45]:
           True
```

In [46]: False or not False

Out[46]: True

```
In [46]: False or not False
```

Out[46]: True

```
In [47]: True and not False
```

Out[47]: True

The idiom x % y == 0 is a way to check if x is divisible by y.

```
In [46]:
           False or not False
Out[46]:
           True
In [47]:
           True and not False
Out[47]:
           True
         The idiom x \% y == 0 is a way to check if x is divisible by y.
In [48]:
           n = 6
           n % 2 == 0 and n % 3 == 0
Out[48]:
           True
```

```
In [46]:
           False or not False
Out[46]:
           True
In [47]:
           True and not False
Out[47]: True
         The idiom x \% y == 0 is a way to check if x is divisible by y.
In [48]:
           n = 6
           n % 2 == 0 and n % 3 == 0
Out[48]:
           True
In [49]:
           n % 2 == 0 and n % 3 == 0
```

Out[49]:

False

```
In [46]:
           False or not False
Out[46]: True
In [47]:
           True and not False
Out[47]: True
         The idiom x \% y == 0 is a way to check if x is divisible by y.
In [48]:
           n = 6
           n % 2 == 0 and n % 3 == 0
Out[48]: True
In [49]:
           n % 2 == 0 and n % 3 == 0
Out[49]:
          False
In [50]:
           n % 2 == 0 or n % 3 == 0
Out[50]:
           True
```

A little bit on strategies for writing functions

When writing a function, I advise against going straight to writing the function.

You should first write code in the global environment to achieve the desired task.

Once you achieve this, then you can encapsulate the lines within a function.

```
# pseudo code for drawing a square
go_forward(100) # value in px
turn_left(90) # value in degrees
go_forward(100)
turn_left(90)
go_forward(100)
turn_left(90)
go_forward(100)
turn_left(90)
```

Encapsulation

At the most basic level, a function encapsulates a few lines of code. This associates a name with statements and allows us to reuse the code.

For example let's say we wanted to write some functions for drawing shapes:

Encapsulation

At the most basic level, a function encapsulates a few lines of code. This associates a name with statements and allows us to reuse the code.

For example let's say we wanted to write some functions for drawing shapes:

```
# psuedo code
def draw_square():
    for i in range(4):
        go_forward(100) # value in px
        turn_left(90) # value in degrees
```

Generalization

Generalization adds variables to functions so that the same function can be slightly altered.

```
# further generalize by adding an argument for length
def draw_square(length):
    for i in range(4):
        go_forward(length)
        turn left(90)
```

We can make a polygon function.

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Draw a pentagon

```
angle = 360 / 5
for i in range(5):
    go_forward(100)
    turn_left(angle)
```

We can make a polygon function.

Draw a pentagon

```
angle = 360 / 5
for i in range(5):
    go_forward(100)
    turn left(angle)
```

Draw a hexagon

```
angle = 360 / 6
for i in range(6):
    go_forward(100)
    turn_left(angle)
```

We can make a polygon function.

Draw a pentagon

```
angle = 360 / 5
for i in range(5):
    go_forward(100)
    turn left(angle)
```

Draw a hexagon

```
angle = 360 / 6
for i in range(6):
    go_forward(100)
    turn_left(angle)
```

After creating the code for a pentagon and hexagon, we can generalize to an n sided polygon:

```
def polygon(t, n, length):
    angle = 360 / n
    for i in range(n):
        go_forward(length)
        turn_left(angle)
```

Lists

We will start with lists in Python

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List Creation

Use square brackets. Lists can contain any mix of data types. You can nest lists inside other lists.

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Use square brackets. Lists can contain any mix of data types. You can nest lists inside other lists.

```
In [51]: fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
```

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Use square brackets. Lists can contain any mix of data types. You can nest lists inside other lists.

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List Creation

Use square brackets. Lists can contain any mix of data types. You can nest lists inside other lists.

```
In [51]:
           fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
In [52]:
           fam2 = [["liz", 1.73],
           ["emma", 1.68],
           ["mom", 1.71],
           ["dad", 1.89]]
In [53]:
           fam
Out[53]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [54]:
           fam2
Out[54]: [['liz', 1.73], ['emma', 1.68], ['mom', 1.71], ['dad', 1.89]]
```

- index starts at 0 (hardest part to adapt for R users)
- use a series of square brackets for nested lists
- use negative numbers to count from the end

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```
In [55]: fam[0]
Out[55]: 'liz'
```

- index starts at 0 (hardest part to adapt for R users)
- use a series of square brackets for nested lists
- use negative numbers to count from the end

```
In [55]: fam[0]
Out[55]: 'liz'
In [56]: fam2[0]
Out[56]: ['liz', 1.73]
```

- index starts at 0 (hardest part to adapt for R users)
- use a series of square brackets for nested lists
- use negative numbers to count from the end

```
In [55]: fam[0]
Out[55]: 'liz'
In [56]: fam2[0]
Out[56]: ['liz', 1.73]
In [57]: fam2[0][0]
Out[57]: 'liz'
```

In [58]: fam[-1]

Out[58]: 1.89

```
In [58]: fam[-1]
Out[58]: 1.89
In [59]: fam2[-1]
```

Out[59]: ['dad', 1.89]

```
In [58]: fam[-1]
Out[58]: 1.89
In [59]: fam2[-1]
Out[59]: ['dad', 1.89]
In [60]: fam2[-1][-1]
```

Out[60]:

1.89

```
In [61]: fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
Out[61]: [1.73, 'emma']
```

```
In [61]: fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
fam[1:3]

Out[61]: [1.73, 'emma']

In [62]: fam[1:2]

Out[62]: [1.73]
```

```
In [61]: fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
Out[61]: [1.73, 'emma']
In [62]: fam[1:2]
Out[62]: [1.73]
In [63]: fam[1]
Out[63]: 1.73
```

```
In [61]:
            fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
            fam[1:3]
Out[61]:
           [1.73, 'emma']
In [62]:
            fam[1:2]
Out[62]:
            [1.73]
In [63]:
            fam[1]
Out[63]:
            1.73
In [64]:
            fam[1:1]
                    # there is nothing between the first and first commas
Out[64]:
            []
```

In [65]: fam[0:2]

Out[65]: ['liz', 1.73]

```
In [65]: fam[0:2]
Out[65]: ['liz', 1.73]
In [66]: fam[6:8]
Out[66]: ['dad', 1.89]
```

```
In [65]: fam[0:2]
Out[65]: ['liz', 1.73]
In [66]: fam[6:8]
Out[66]: ['dad', 1.89]
In [67]: fam[2:]
```

Out[67]: ['emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]

```
In [65]:
          fam[0:2]
Out[65]: ['liz', 1.73]
In [66]:
          fam[6:8]
Out[66]: ['dad', 1.89]
In [67]:
          fam[2:]
Out[67]: ['emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [68]:
          fam[:4]
Out[68]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68]
```

In [69]: fam[:] # slice with no indices will create a (shallow) copy of the list.

Out[69]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]

```
In [69]: fam[:] # slice with no indices will create a (shallow) copy of the list.

Out[69]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]

In [70]: fam[] # throws error

File "<ipython-input-70-792e48a646bd>", line 1
    fam[] # throws error

SyntaxError: invalid syntax
```

```
In [69]:
           fam[:] # slice with no indices will create a (shallow) copy of the list.
Out[69]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [70]:
           fam[] # throws error
             File "<ipython-input-70-792e48a646bd>", line 1
               fam[] # throws error
           SyntaxError: invalid syntax
In [71]:
           fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
           print(fam)
           print(fam[-5:-2])
           ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
           [1.68, 'mom', 1.71]
In [72]:
           fam2
Out[72]: [['liz', 1.73], ['emma', 1.68], ['mom', 1.71], ['dad', 1.89]]
In [73]:
           fam2[1:3]
Out[73]: [['emma', 1.68], ['mom', 1.71]]
In [74]:
           fam2[1:3][0][0:1]
```

Out[74]: ['emma']

Lists are mutable

This means that methods change the lists themselves. If the list is assigned to another name, both names refer to the exact same object.

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```
In [75]: fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
    print(fam)
    second = fam  # second references fam. second is not a copy of fam.
    second[0] = "sister" # we make a change to the list 'second'
    print(second)
    print(fam) # changing the list 'second' has changed the list 'fam'

['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
    ['sister', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
    ['sister', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
```

```
In [76]:
    fam = ["liz", 1.73, "emma", 1.68, "mom", 1.71, "dad", 1.89]
    print(fam)
    second = fam[:] # creates a copy of the list
    # second = fam.copy() # you can also create a list using the copy() method
    second[0] = "sister"
    print(second)
    print(fam) # changing the list second does not modify fam because second is a copy
```

['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
['sister', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]

```
In [77]:
          third = fam.copy()
           print(third)
           third[1] = 1.65
           print(third)
           print(fam)
           ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
           ['liz', 1.65, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
           ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [78]:
           fam
Out[78]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [79]:
          list2 = list(fam)
In [80]:
          list2[1] = 1.9
In [81]:
           list2
Out[81]: ['liz', 1.9, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
In [82]:
           fam
Out[82]: ['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
```

You can use list slicing in conjuction with assignment to change values

You can use list slicing in conjuction with assignment to change values

```
In [83]:
    print(fam)
    fam[1:3] = [1.8, "jenny"]
    print(fam)

['liz', 1.73, 'emma', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
    ['liz', 1.8, 'jenny', 1.68, 'mom', 1.71, 'dad', 1.89]
```