



How to Create an Array in Python

By Techwalla Internet Editor

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How to Create an Array in Python. Arrays are useful and fundamental structures that exist in every high-level language. In Python, arrays are native objects called "lists," and they have a variety of methods associated with each object.



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Step 1

Create a List With Text or Numeric Elements. You can create a list with a series of text elements in one line in Python.

List out the text elements you want, separated by commas:my_array = ['rebecca', 'juan', 'samir', 'heather']You may also use numbers in the array:my_array = [-1,0,1,2]Or you can mix and match letters and numbers:my_array = [1, 'rebecca', 'allard', 15]

Step 2

Access the values of an array by using an index.

Know that this index is 0 based, meaning that the first element of the array is referenced by using position 0, the second element of the list is referenced by using position 1, and so forth:print my_array[2]>>> samir

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Step 3

Use a list as a dictionary. You can use a dictionary to look up name value pairs for quick retrieval.

Use a dictionary to look up last names associated with a first name. For example:
my_dic['rebecca'] = 'allard'
my_dic['juan'] = 'hernandez'
my_dic['heather'] = 'aston'
You can then use the dictionary to print out the value (the last name) using the key (the first name):
print my_dic['rebecca'] >>> allard

Step 4

Nest a list--realize that arrays in Python can contain any data type, including other arrays.

Create a list that contains another by simply inserting it into the array element list. For example:
my_friends = ['rebecca', 'ben', 'biella', 'kevin']
my_contacts = ['steve', my_friends, 'lee']
You can now use my_contacts as a normal array:
print my_contacts[0] >>> steve
And you can access the nested list by using a second reference:
print my_contacts[1][2] >>> biella

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