Python Sets

Set

Sets are used to store multiple items in a single variable.

A set is a collection which is *unordered*, *unchangeable\**, and *unindexed*.

**\* Note:** Set *items* are unchangeable, but you can remove items and add new items.

Sets are written with curly brackets.

Example

Create a Set:

thisset = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}  
print(thisset)

**Note:** Sets are unordered, so you cannot be sure in which order the items will appear.

Set Items

Set items are unordered, unchangeable, and do not allow duplicate values.

Unordered

Unordered means that the items in a set do not have a defined order.

Set items can appear in a different order every time you use them, and cannot be referred to by index or key.

Unchangeable

Set items are unchangeable, meaning that we cannot change the items after the set has been created.

Once a set is created, you cannot change its items, but you can remove items and add new items.

Duplicates Not Allowed

Sets cannot have two items with the same value.

Example

Duplicate values will be ignored:

thisset = {"apple", "banana", "cherry", "apple"}  
  
print(thisset)

Get the Length of a Set

To determine how many items a set has, use the len() function.

Example

Get the number of items in a set:

thisset = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}  
  
print(len(thisset))

Set Items - Data Types

Set items can be of any data type:

Example

String, int and boolean data types:

set1 = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}  
set2 = {1, 5, 7, 9, 3}  
set3 = {True, False, False}

A set can contain different data types:

Example

A set with strings, integers and boolean values:

set1 = {"abc", 34, True, 40, "male"}

type()

From Python's perspective, sets are defined as objects with the data type 'set':

<class 'set'>

Example

What is the data type of a set?

myset = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}  
print(type(myset))

The set() Constructor

It is also possible to use the set() constructor to make a set.

Example

Using the set() constructor to make a set:

thisset = set(("apple", "banana", "cherry")) # note the double round-brackets  
print(thisset)

Python - Set Methods

Set Methods

Python has a set of built-in methods that you can use on sets.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Description** |
| [add()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_add.asp) | Adds an element to the set |
| [clear()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_clear.asp) | Removes all the elements from the set |
| [copy()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_copy.asp) | Returns a copy of the set |
| [difference()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_difference.asp) | Returns a set containing the difference between two or more sets |
| [difference\_update()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_difference_update.asp) | Removes the items in this set that are also included in another, specified set |
| [discard()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_discard.asp) | Remove the specified item |
| [intersection()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_intersection.asp) | Returns a set, that is the intersection of two other sets |
| [intersection\_update()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_intersection_update.asp) | Removes the items in this set that are not present in other, specified set(s) |
| [isdisjoint()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_isdisjoint.asp) | Returns whether two sets have a intersection or not |
| [issubset()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_issubset.asp) | Returns whether another set contains this set or not |
| [issuperset()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_issuperset.asp) | Returns whether this set contains another set or not |
| [pop()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_pop.asp) | Removes an element from the set |
| [remove()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_remove.asp) | Removes the specified element |
| [symmetric\_difference()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_symmetric_difference.asp) | Returns a set with the symmetric differences of two sets |
| [symmetric\_difference\_update()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_symmetric_difference_update.asp) | inserts the symmetric differences from this set and another |
| [union()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_union.asp) | Return a set containing the union of sets |
| [update()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_set_update.asp) | Update the set with the union of this set and others |