Python Strings

Strings

Strings in python are surrounded by either single quotation marks, or double quotation marks.

'hello' is the same as "hello".

You can display a string literal with the print() function:

Example:

print("Hello")  
print('Hello')

Assign String to a Variable

Assigning a string to a variable is done with the variable name followed by an equal sign and the string:

Example:

a = "Hello"  
print(a)

Multiline Strings

You can assign a multiline string to a variable by using three quotes:

Example:

You can use three double quotes:

a = """Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,  
consectetur adipiscing elit,  
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt  
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua."""  
print(a)

Or three single quotes:

Example:

a = '''Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,  
consectetur adipiscing elit,  
sed do eiusmod tempor incididunt  
ut labore et dolore magna aliqua.'''  
print(a)

**Note:** in the result, the line breaks are inserted at the same position as in the code.

Strings are Arrays

Like many other popular programming languages, strings in Python are arrays of bytes representing unicode characters.

However, Python does not have a character data type, a single character is simply a string with a length of 1.

Square brackets can be used to access elements of the string.

Example:

Get the character at position 1 (remember that the first character has the position 0):

a = "Hello, World!"  
print(a[1])

Looping Through a String

Since strings are arrays, we can loop through the characters in a string, with a for loop.

Example:

Loop through the letters in the word "banana":

for x in "banana":  
  print(x)

String Length

To get the length of a string, use the len() function.

Example

The len() function returns the length of a string:

a = "Hello, World!"  
print(len(a))

Check String

To check if a certain phrase or character is present in a string, we can use the keyword in.

Example

Check if "free" is present in the following text:

txt = "The best things in life are free!"  
print("free" in txt)

Use it in an if statement:

Example

Print only if "free" is present:

txt = "The best things in life are free!"  
if "free" in txt:  
  print("Yes, 'free' is present.")

Check if NOT

To check if a certain phrase or character is NOT present in a string, we can use the keyword not in.

Example

Check if "expensive" is NOT present in the following text:

txt = "The best things in life are free!"  
print("expensive" not in txt)

Use it in an if statement:

Example

print only if "expensive" is NOT present:

txt = "The best things in life are free!"  
if "expensive" not in txt:  
  print("No, 'expensive' is NOT present.")

Slicing

You can return a range of characters by using the slice syntax.

Specify the start index and the end index, separated by a colon, to return a part of the string.

Example

Get the characters from position 2 to position 5 (not included):

b = "Hello, World!"  
print(b[2:5])

**Note:**The first character has index 0.

Slice From the Start

By leaving out the start index, the range will start at the first character:

Example

Get the characters from the start to position 5 (not included):

b = "Hello, World!"  
print(b[:5])

Slice To the End

By leaving out the *end*index, the range will go to the end:

Example

Get the characters from position 2, and all the way to the end:

b = "Hello, World!"  
print(b[2:])

Negative Indexing

Use negative indexes to start the slice from the end of the string:

Example

Get the characters:

From: "o" in "World!" (position -5)

To, but not included: "d" in "World!" (position -2):

b = "Hello, World!"  
print(b[-5:-2])

String Methods:

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

**Note:** All string methods returns new values. They do not change the original string.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Method** | **Description** |
| [capitalize()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_capitalize.asp) | Converts the first character to upper case |
| [casefold()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_casefold.asp) | Converts string into lower case |
| [center()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_center.asp) | Returns a centered string |
| [count()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_count.asp) | Returns the number of times a specified value occurs in a string |
| [encode()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_encode.asp) | Returns an encoded version of the string |
| [endswith()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_endswith.asp) | Returns true if the string ends with the specified value |
| [expandtabs()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_expandtabs.asp) | Sets the tab size of the string |
| [find()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_find.asp) | Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found |
| [format()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_format.asp) | Formats specified values in a string |
| format\_map() | Formats specified values in a string |
| [index()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_index.asp) | Searches the string for a specified value and returns the position of where it was found |
| [isalnum()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isalnum.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are alphanumeric |
| [isalpha()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isalpha.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are in the alphabet |
| [isdecimal()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isdecimal.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are decimals |
| [isdigit()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isdigit.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are digits |
| [isidentifier()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isidentifier.asp) | Returns True if the string is an identifier |
| [islower()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_islower.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are lower case |
| [isnumeric()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isnumeric.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are numeric |
| [isprintable()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isprintable.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are printable |
| [isspace()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isspace.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are whitespaces |
| [istitle()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_istitle.asp) | Returns True if the string follows the rules of a title |
| [isupper()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_isupper.asp) | Returns True if all characters in the string are upper case |
| [join()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_join.asp) | Joins the elements of an iterable to the end of the string |
| [ljust()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_ljust.asp) | Returns a left justified version of the string |
| [lower()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_lower.asp) | Converts a string into lower case |
| [lstrip()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_lstrip.asp) | Returns a left trim version of the string |
| [maketrans()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_maketrans.asp) | Returns a translation table to be used in translations |
| [partition()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_partition.asp) | Returns a tuple where the string is parted into three parts |
| [replace()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_replace.asp) | Returns a string where a specified value is replaced with a specified value |
| [rfind()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rfind.asp) | Searches the string for a specified value and returns the last position of where it was found |
| [rindex()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rindex.asp) | Searches the string for a specified value and returns the last position of where it was found |
| [rjust()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rjust.asp) | Returns a right justified version of the string |
| [rpartition()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rpartition.asp) | Returns a tuple where the string is parted into three parts |
| [rsplit()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rsplit.asp) | Splits the string at the specified separator, and returns a list |
| [rstrip()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_rstrip.asp) | Returns a right trim version of the string |
| [split()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_split.asp) | Splits the string at the specified separator, and returns a list |
| [splitlines()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_splitlines.asp) | Splits the string at line breaks and returns a list |
| [startswith()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_startswith.asp) | Returns true if the string starts with the specified value |
| [strip()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_strip.asp) | Returns a trimmed version of the string |
| [swapcase()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_swapcase.asp) | Swaps cases, lower case becomes upper case and vice versa |
| [title()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_title.asp) | Converts the first character of each word to upper case |
| [translate()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_translate.asp) | Returns a translated string |
| [upper()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_upper.asp) | Converts a string into upper case |
| [zfill()](https://www.w3schools.com/python/ref_string_zfill.asp) | Fills the string with a specified number of 0 values at the beginning |