Python Functions

A function is a block of code which only runs when it is called.

You can pass data, known as parameters, into a function.

A function can return data as a result.

Creating a Function

In Python a function is defined using the def keyword:

Example

```python
def my_function():
    print("Hello from a function")
```

Calling a Function

To call a function, use the function name followed by parenthesis:

Example

```python
def my_function():
    print("Hello from a function")

my_function()
```

Parameters

Information can be passed to functions as parameter.

Parameters are specified after the function name, inside the parentheses. You can add as many parameters as you want, just separate them with a comma.

The following example has a function with one parameter (fname). When the function is called, we pass along a first name, which is used inside the function to print the full name:

Example

```python
def my_function(fname):
    print(fname + " Refsnes")

my_function("Emil")
```

```
my_function("Ann")
my_function("Linus")
```

Default Parameter Value

The following example shows how to use a default parameter value.

If we call the function without parameter, it uses the default value:

Example

```
def my_function(country = "Norway"):
    print("I am from " + country)

my_function("Sweden")
my_function("India")
my_function()
my_function("Brazil")
```

Python Classes/Objects

Python is an object oriented programming language.

Almost everything in Python is an object, with its properties and methods.

A Class is like an object constructor, or a "blueprint" for creating objects.

Create a Class

To create a class, use the keyword `class`:

Example

Create a class named MyClass, with a property named x:

```
class MyClass:
  x = 5
```

Create Object

Now we can use the class named myClass to create objects:

Create an object named p1, and print the value of x:

p1 = MyClass()
print(p1.x)

The __init__() Function

The examples above are classes and objects in their simplest form, and are not really useful in real life applications.

To understand the meaning of classes we have to understand the built-in __init__() function.

All classes have a function called __init__(), which is always executed when the class is being initiated.

Use the __init__() function to assign values to object properties, or other operations that are necessary to do when the object is being created:

Example

Create a class named Person, use the __init__() function to assign values for name and age:

class Person:
  def __init__(self, name, age):
    self.name = name
    self.age = age

p1 = Person("John", 36)

print(p1.name)
print(p1.age)

Note: The __init__() function is called automatically every time the class is being used to create a new object.

Object Methods

Objects can also contain methods. Methods in objects are functions that belong to the object.

Let us create a method in the Person class:

Example

Insert a function that prints a greeting, and execute it on the p1 object:

class Person:
  def __init__(self, name, age):
    self.name = name

```python
    self.age = age

  def myfunc(self):
    print("Hello my name is " + self.name)

p1 = Person("John", 36)
p1.myfunc()
```