**[Python: read() vs readline() vs readlines()](http://www.pisika.com/2013/09/python-read-vs-readline-vs-readlines.html)**

a.txt contains  
a1  
a2  
a3

read() example:

f = open('a.txt','r')

**print** f.read()

f.close()

Output:

a1

a2

a3

readline() example:

f = open('a.txt','r')

**print** f.readline()

f.close()

Output:

a1

readlines() example:

f = open('a.txt','r')

**print** f.readlines()

f.close()

Output:

['a1\n', 'a2\n', 'a3\n']