

Reflection Questions Exercise 1.4

1. **Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?**

Storing local files is important because pure scripts lack permanence. To perform more complicated actions, we need to create re-usable variables. If those variables weren't stored in local files, they would be created and destroyed every time a script was run. This leads to repetitive code and, in turn, more error-prone code, not to mention incredibly time-consuming work.

2. **In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?**

Pickles are packaged stream of bytes that are usually written into a binary file. They're useful for storing complex data structures (like dictionaries). The binary files can then be accessed, read, and manipulated using scripts.

3. **In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?**

In Python, the `os.getcwd()` method will print the current working directory. If a developer wants to switch directories, they can use the `os.chdir()` method and input the path to their desired folder.

4. **Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?**

The quickest error handling technique is the `try-except` block. If I was working with error-prone code, I'd put it into the `try` part of the block, adding error-handling actions under `except`.

5. **You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.**

There's not a lot I'd like to say about the course experience so far. The information is presented in a clear and understandable format, the language logic makes sense. I'm happy with my progress and ability to process the new concepts. I can use more practice applying these concepts on my own. That tends to be my biggest struggle: I understand the examples shown in the reading, but applying them to the homework assignments takes a while.