Reflection Questions Exercise 2.8

1. **Explain how you can use CSS and JavaScript in your Django web application.**
   In this application I used CSS and JavaScript mostly for styling purposes. Obviously, that is what CSS is designed to do. I tried to keep the design itself simple and focus more on the Python work. Since we used Python for the majority of the backend logic, JS was helpful to make simple actions work, such as showing/hiding HTML elements on the click of a button or creating whole modals for the add/update/delete recipe functionalities.

2. **In your own words, explain the steps you'd need to take to deploy your Django web application**
   After making sure one more time that everything runs smoothly, I would first make a back-up copy of my GitHub repository. Next, I would update the application for hosting by following these steps:
   - download the necessary dependencies through pip install
   - create the `Procfile`
   - configure settings.py (for Heroku, in this case)
   - make sure `DEBUG = False` and `SECRET_KEY` is changed to be secure
   - run `pip freeze > requirements.txt` to create requirements.txt file
   - create the app on Heroku and add the URL to `ALLOWED_HOSTS` variable
   - run `heroku run python manage.py migrate` to set up the database table
   - open the app and make sure everything works as needed

3. **You've now finished Achievement 2 and, with it, the whole course! Take a moment to reflect on your learning:**
   a. **What went well during this Achievement?**
      For the most part, I was able to keep pace with the exercises and maintain a solid understanding of the concepts presented.
   b. **What was something you're proud of?**
      I got better at asking for help as soon as I was stuck on an issue, instead of waiting till the last minute.
   c. **What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?**
      My biggest hurdles were Task 2.7 and 2.8. I struggled when applying the search functionality and adding recipes from the user interface. The directions in the exercise accounted for a FBV approach, not CBV like we had in our own projects. My lack of experience with QuerySet and Pandas DataFrame really set me back.
   d. **Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you confidence to start working with your new Django skills?**
      Yes, this Achievement met my expectations. While by no means an expert, I am leaving this course with a sturdy base of Python knowledge. I will have to work on several more projects before I can be truly comfortable with Django, but I at least have a good starting point now.