

Python Belt - Activity One

Intro to repl.it and `print()` Function



Getting Familiar With repl.it

To run Python, you normally run from a command line application. But there is also an online tool that allows us to run and test out Python code. Let's get familiar with this tool in this lesson using print statements.

Exercise #1

1. Go to <https://repl.it.com/@CodeNinjas16/pythonActivity1>.
2. For every project moving forward, you need to click "**Fork**" to spawn a new script for your own testing. So, make sure you click the "Fork" button at the top.
3. You should see a print statement that prints "Hello World"
4. Click on green button at the top right side with the label "Run".
5. You should see "Hello World" at the right side panel. That is output of your code.
6. Note that the code is written in a file called `main.py`. This is called the source code file and all Python files and projects should be named with the suffix ".py"

What is a function?

Intro to `print()` Function

A function is a set of instructions (lines of code) that we can run over and over again without needing to type all of the lines of code everytime. Functions are called by the function name. For example, **`print()`** is a function in Python. Everytime you run **`print()`**, a set of instructions will be run by the computer, but we do not need to know what those lines of code are, just by the name.

Let's learn more about the `print()` function!

In Python, the `print()` function is called `print` and takes some word or numbers as input to the function called parameters. They are set inside the parentheses "`()`" of the function call. Note that if we want to print a word or phrase, we must wrap the parameter with quotes inside the parentheses — `()`.

Exercise #2

In the same Activity1 source file, print your name to the console with the following code. Note your full name is a word parameter, so you must wrap it with quotes. >> print ("first name & last name")

Exploring Activities

Continue using print() to print anything you like and explore! Ask your Sensei any questions you have.

Challenge

Now that you are a little more comfortable with the REPL tool, let's test out a bit of the print() function and your current knowledge! Follow the below instructions and see if you can accomplish them.

1. Update the "Hello World" statement to print your full first and last name.
2. Print one asterisk (*). Note that every key on the keyboard is considered a word, so you must wrap them with quotes. **Except in some cases for numbers which we will go into later.**
3. Then print two asterisks with five spaces between them.
4. Now print three more rows of asterisks with each row adding one more than the previous.

At the end of the challenge, you should have a program that will print the following in the console:

John Smith

```
*  
* *  
* * *  
* * * *  
* * * * *
```