

2. Built-in Functions

The Python interpreter has a number of functions and types built into it that are always available. They are listed here in alphabetical order.

		Built-in Functions		
<code>abs()</code>	<code>dict()</code>	<code>help()</code>	<code>min()</code>	<code>setattr()</code>
<code>all()</code>	<code>dir()</code>	<code>hex()</code>	<code>next()</code>	<code>slice()</code>
<code>any()</code>	<code>divmod()</code>	<code>id()</code>	<code>object()</code>	<code>sorted()</code>
<code>ascii()</code>	<code>enumerate()</code>	<code>input()</code>	<code>oct()</code>	<code>staticmethod()</code>
<code>bin()</code>	<code>eval()</code>	<code>int()</code>	<code>open()</code>	<code>str()</code>
<code>bool()</code>	<code>exec()</code>	<code>isinstance()</code>	<code>ord()</code>	<code>sum()</code>
<code>bytearray()</code>	<code>filter()</code>	<code>issubclass()</code>	<code>pow()</code>	<code>super()</code>
<code>bytes()</code>	<code>float()</code>	<code>iter()</code>	<code>print()</code>	<code>tuple()</code>
<code>callable()</code>	<code>format()</code>	<code>len()</code>	<code>property()</code>	<code>type()</code>
<code>chr()</code>	<code>frozenset()</code>	<code>list()</code>	<code>range()</code>	<code>vars()</code>
<code>classmethod()</code>	<code>getattr()</code>	<code>locals()</code>	<code>repr()</code>	<code>zip()</code>
<code>compile()</code>	<code>globals()</code>	<code>map()</code>	<code>reversed()</code>	<code>__import__()</code>
<code>complex()</code>	<code>hasattr()</code>	<code>max()</code>	<code>round()</code>	
<code>delattr()</code>	<code>hash()</code>	<code>memoryview()</code>	<code>set()</code>	

abs(*x*)

Return the absolute value of a number. The argument may be an integer or a floating point number. If the argument is a complex number, its magnitude is returned.

all(*iterable*)

Return `True` if all elements of the *iterable* are true (or if the iterable is empty). Equivalent to:

```
def all(iterable):
    for element in iterable:
        if not element:
```

```
        return False
    return True
```

any(*iterable*)

Return `True` if any element of the *iterable* is true. If the iterable is empty, return `False`. Equivalent to:

```
def any(iterable):
    for element in iterable:
        if element:
            return True
    return False
```

ascii(*object*)

As `repr()`, return a string containing a printable representation of an object, but escape the non-ASCII characters in the string returned by `repr()` using `\x`, `\u` or `\U` escapes. This generates a string similar to that returned by `repr()` in Python 2.

bin(*x*)

Convert an integer number to a binary string prefixed with “0b”. The result is a valid Python expression. If *x* is not a Python `int` object, it has to define an `__index__()` method that returns an integer. Some examples:

```
>>> bin(3)
'0b11'
>>> bin(-10)
'-0b1010'
```

If prefix “0b” is desired or not, you can use either of the following ways.

```
>>> format(14, '#b'), format(14, 'b')
('0b1110', '1110')
>>> f'{14:#b}', f'{14:b}'
('0b1110', '1110')
```

See also `format()` for more information.

`class bool([x])`

Return a Boolean value, i.e. one of `True` or `False`. `x` is converted using the standard [truth testing procedure](#). If `x` is false or omitted, this returns `False`; otherwise it returns `True`. The `bool` class is a subclass of `int` (see [Numeric Types — int, float, complex](#)). It cannot be subclassed further. Its only instances are `False` and `True` (see [Boolean Values](#)).

`class bytearray([source[, encoding[, errors]]])`

Return a new array of bytes. The `bytearray` class is a mutable sequence of integers in the range $0 \leq x < 256$. It has most of the usual methods of mutable sequences, described in [Mutable Sequence Types](#), as well as most methods that the `bytes` type has, see [Bytes and Bytearray Operations](#).

The optional `source` parameter can be used to initialize the array in a few different ways:

- If it is a *string*, you must also give the *encoding* (and optionally, *errors*) parameters; `bytearray()` then converts the string to bytes using `str.encode()`.
- If it is an *integer*, the array will have that size and will be initialized with null bytes.
- If it is an object conforming to the *buffer* interface, a read-only buffer of the object will be used to initialize the bytes array.
- If it is an *iterable*, it must be an iterable of integers in the range $0 \leq x < 256$, which are used as the initial contents of the array.

Without an argument, an array of size 0 is created.

See also [Binary Sequence Types — bytes, bytearray, memoryview](#) and [Bytearray Objects](#).

`class bytes([source[, encoding[, errors]]])`

Return a new “bytes” object, which is an immutable sequence of integers in the range $0 \leq x < 256$. `bytes` is an immutable version of `bytearray` – it has the same non-mutating methods and the same indexing and slicing behavior.

Accordingly, constructor arguments are interpreted as for `bytearray()`.

Bytes objects can also be created with literals, see [String and Bytes literals](#).

See also [Binary Sequence Types — bytes, bytearray, memoryview](#), [Bytes Objects](#), and [Bytes and Bytearray Operations](#).

callable(*object*)

Return [True](#) if the *object* argument appears callable, [False](#) if not. If this returns true, it is still possible that a call fails, but if it is false, calling *object* will never succeed. Note that classes are callable (calling a class returns a new instance); instances are callable if their class has a `__call__()` method.

New in version 3.2: This function was first removed in Python 3.0 and then brought back in Python 3.2.

chr(*i*)

Return the string representing a character whose Unicode code point is the integer *i*. For example, `chr(97)` returns the string `'a'`, while `chr(8364)` returns the string `'€'`. This is the inverse of [ord\(\)](#).

The valid range for the argument is from 0 through 1,114,111 (0x10FFFF in base 16). [ValueError](#) will be raised if *i* is outside that range.

@classmethod

Transform a method into a class method.

A class method receives the class as implicit first argument, just like an instance method receives the instance. To declare a class method, use this idiom:

```
class C:
    @classmethod
    def f(cls, arg1, arg2, ...): ...
```

The `@classmethod` form is a function [decorator](#) – see the description of function definitions in [Function definitions](#) for details.

It can be called either on the class (such as `C.f()`) or on an instance (such as `c.f()`). The instance is ignored except for its class. If a class method is called for a derived class, the derived class object is passed as the implied first argument.

Class methods are different than C++ or Java static methods. If you want those, see [staticmethod\(\)](#) in this section.

For more information on class methods, consult the documentation on the standard type hierarchy in [The standard type hierarchy](#).

compile(*source*, *filename*, *mode*, *flags*=0, *dont_inherit*=False, *optimize*=-1)

Compile the *source* into a code or AST object. Code objects can be executed by [exec\(\)](#) or [eval\(\)](#). *source* can either be a normal string, a byte string, or an AST object. Refer to the [ast](#) module documentation for information on how to work with AST objects.

The *filename* argument should give the file from which the code was read; pass some recognizable value if it wasn't read from a file ('<string>' is commonly used).

The *mode* argument specifies what kind of code must be compiled; it can be 'exec' if *source* consists of a sequence of statements, 'eval' if it consists of a single expression, or 'single' if it consists of a single interactive statement (in the latter case, expression statements that evaluate to something other than None will be printed).

The optional arguments *flags* and *dont_inherit* control which future statements (see [PEP 236](#)) affect the compilation of *source*. If neither is present (or both are zero) the code is compiled with those future statements that are in effect in the code that is calling [compile\(\)](#). If the *flags* argument is given and *dont_inherit* is not (or is zero) then the future statements specified by the *flags* argument are used in addition to those that would be used anyway. If *dont_inherit* is a non-zero integer then the *flags* argument is it – the future statements in effect around the call to compile are ignored.

Future statements are specified by bits which can be bitwise ORed together to specify multiple statements. The bitfield required to specify a given feature can be found as the `compiler_flag` attribute on the `_Feature` instance in the [__future__](#) module.

The argument *optimize* specifies the optimization level of the compiler; the default value of -1 selects the optimization level of the interpreter as given by [-O](#) options. Explicit levels are 0 (no optimization; `__debug__` is true), 1 (asserts are removed, `__debug__` is false) or 2 (docstrings are removed too).

This function raises [SyntaxError](#) if the compiled source is invalid, and

[ValueError](#) if the source contains null bytes.

If you want to parse Python code into its AST representation, see [ast.parse\(\)](#).

Note: When compiling a string with multi-line code in 'single' or 'eval' mode, input must be terminated by at least one newline character. This is to facilitate detection of incomplete and complete statements in the [code](#) module.

Changed in version 3.2: Allowed use of Windows and Mac newlines. Also input in 'exec' mode does not have to end in a newline anymore. Added the *optimize* parameter.

Changed in version 3.5: Previously, [TypeError](#) was raised when null bytes were encountered in *source*.

class **complex**([*real*[, *imag*]])

Return a complex number with the value *real* + *imag**1j or convert a string or number to a complex number. If the first parameter is a string, it will be interpreted as a complex number and the function must be called without a second parameter. The second parameter can never be a string. Each argument may be any numeric type (including complex). If *imag* is omitted, it defaults to zero and the constructor serves as a numeric conversion like [int](#) and [float](#). If both arguments are omitted, returns 0j.

Note: When converting from a string, the string must not contain whitespace around the central + or – operator. For example, `complex('1+2j')` is fine, but `complex('1 + 2j')` raises [ValueError](#).

The complex type is described in [Numeric Types — int, float, complex](#).

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

delattr(*object*, *name*)

This is a relative of [setattr\(\)](#). The arguments are an object and a string. The string must be the name of one of the object's attributes. The function deletes the named attribute, provided the object allows it. For example, `delattr(x, 'foobar')` is equivalent to `del x.foobar`.

```
class dict(**kwarg)
class dict(mapping, **kwarg)
class dict(iterable, **kwarg)
```

Create a new dictionary. The `dict` object is the dictionary class. See [dict](#) and [Mapping Types — dict](#) for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in [list](#), [set](#), and [tuple](#) classes, as well as the [collections](#) module.

```
dir([object])
```

Without arguments, return the list of names in the current local scope. With an argument, attempt to return a list of valid attributes for that object.

If the object has a method named `__dir__()`, this method will be called and must return the list of attributes. This allows objects that implement a custom `__getattr__()` or `__getattribute__()` function to customize the way `dir()` reports their attributes.

If the object does not provide `__dir__()`, the function tries its best to gather information from the object's `__dict__` attribute, if defined, and from its type object. The resulting list is not necessarily complete, and may be inaccurate when the object has a custom `__getattr__()`.

The default `dir()` mechanism behaves differently with different types of objects, as it attempts to produce the most relevant, rather than complete, information:

- If the object is a module object, the list contains the names of the module's attributes.
- If the object is a type or class object, the list contains the names of its attributes, and recursively of the attributes of its bases.
- Otherwise, the list contains the object's attributes' names, the names of its class's attributes, and recursively of the attributes of its class's base classes.

The resulting list is sorted alphabetically. For example:

```
>>> import struct
>>> dir()      # show the names in the module namespace
['__builtins__', '__name__', 'struct']
>>> dir(struct) # show the names in the struct module
['Struct', '__all__', '__builtins__', '__cached__', '__doc__', '__file__',
 '__initializing__', '__loader__', '__name__', '__package__',
```

```
'_clearcache', 'calcsizes', 'error', 'pack', 'pack_into',
'unpack', 'unpack_from']
>>> class Shape:
...     def __dir__(self):
...         return ['area', 'perimeter', 'location']
>>> s = Shape()
>>> dir(s)
['area', 'location', 'perimeter']
```

Note: Because `dir()` is supplied primarily as a convenience for use at an interactive prompt, it tries to supply an interesting set of names more than it tries to supply a rigorously or consistently defined set of names, and its detailed behavior may change across releases. For example, metaclass attributes are not in the result list when the argument is a class.

divmod(*a*, *b*)

Take two (non complex) numbers as arguments and return a pair of numbers consisting of their quotient and remainder when using integer division. With mixed operand types, the rules for binary arithmetic operators apply. For integers, the result is the same as $(a // b, a \% b)$. For floating point numbers the result is $(q, a \% b)$, where q is usually `math.floor(a / b)` but may be 1 less than that. In any case $q * b + a \% b$ is very close to a , if $a \% b$ is non-zero it has the same sign as b , and $0 \leq \text{abs}(a \% b) < \text{abs}(b)$.

enumerate(*iterable*, *start*=0)

Return an enumerate object. *iterable* must be a sequence, an [iterator](#), or some other object which supports iteration. The `__next__()` method of the iterator returned by `enumerate()` returns a tuple containing a count (from *start* which defaults to 0) and the values obtained from iterating over *iterable*.

```
>>> seasons = ['Spring', 'Summer', 'Fall', 'Winter']
>>> list(enumerate(seasons))
[(0, 'Spring'), (1, 'Summer'), (2, 'Fall'), (3, 'Winter')]
>>> list(enumerate(seasons, start=1))
[(1, 'Spring'), (2, 'Summer'), (3, 'Fall'), (4, 'Winter')]
>>>
```

Equivalent to:

```
def enumerate(sequence, start=0):
    n = start
```



```
for elem in sequence:
    yield n, elem
    n += 1
```

eval(*expression*, *globals*=None, *locals*=None)

The arguments are a string and optional globals and locals. If provided, *globals* must be a dictionary. If provided, *locals* can be any mapping object.

The *expression* argument is parsed and evaluated as a Python expression (technically speaking, a condition list) using the *globals* and *locals* dictionaries as global and local namespace. If the *globals* dictionary is present and lacks `'__builtins__'`, the current globals are copied into *globals* before *expression* is parsed. This means that *expression* normally has full access to the standard `builtins` module and restricted environments are propagated. If the *locals* dictionary is omitted it defaults to the *globals* dictionary. If both dictionaries are omitted, the expression is executed in the environment where `eval()` is called. The return value is the result of the evaluated expression. Syntax errors are reported as exceptions. Example:

```
>>> x = 1
>>> eval('x+1')
2
```

>>>

This function can also be used to execute arbitrary code objects (such as those created by `compile()`). In this case pass a code object instead of a string. If the code object has been compiled with `'exec'` as the *mode* argument, `eval()`'s return value will be `None`.

Hints: dynamic execution of statements is supported by the `exec()` function. The `globals()` and `locals()` functions returns the current global and local dictionary, respectively, which may be useful to pass around for use by `eval()` or `exec()`.

See `ast.literal_eval()` for a function that can safely evaluate strings with expressions containing only literals.

exec(*object*[, *globals*[, *locals*]])

This function supports dynamic execution of Python code. *object* must be either a string or a code object. If it is a string, the string is parsed as a suite of Python

statements which is then executed (unless a syntax error occurs). [1] If it is a code object, it is simply executed. In all cases, the code that's executed is expected to be valid as file input (see the section “File input” in the Reference Manual). Be aware that the `return` and `yield` statements may not be used outside of function definitions even within the context of code passed to the `exec()` function. The return value is `None`.

In all cases, if the optional parts are omitted, the code is executed in the current scope. If only *globals* is provided, it must be a dictionary, which will be used for both the global and the local variables. If *globals* and *locals* are given, they are used for the global and local variables, respectively. If provided, *locals* can be any mapping object. Remember that at module level, globals and locals are the same dictionary. If `exec` gets two separate objects as *globals* and *locals*, the code will be executed as if it were embedded in a class definition.

If the *globals* dictionary does not contain a value for the key `__builtins__`, a reference to the dictionary of the built-in module `builtins` is inserted under that key. That way you can control what builtins are available to the executed code by inserting your own `__builtins__` dictionary into *globals* before passing it to `exec()`.

Note: The built-in functions `globals()` and `locals()` return the current global and local dictionary, respectively, which may be useful to pass around for use as the second and third argument to `exec()`.

Note: The default *locals* act as described for function `locals()` below: modifications to the default *locals* dictionary should not be attempted. Pass an explicit *locals* dictionary if you need to see effects of the code on *locals* after function `exec()` returns.

filter(*function*, *iterable*)

Construct an iterator from those elements of *iterable* for which *function* returns true. *iterable* may be either a sequence, a container which supports iteration, or an iterator. If *function* is `None`, the identity function is assumed, that is, all elements of *iterable* that are false are removed.

Note that `filter(function, iterable)` is equivalent to the generator expression

(item for item in iterable if function(item)) if function is not None and
(item for item in iterable if item) if function is None.

See [itertools.filterfalse\(\)](#) for the complementary function that returns elements of *iterable* for which *function* returns false.

`class float([x])`

Return a floating point number constructed from a number or string *x*.

If the argument is a string, it should contain a decimal number, optionally preceded by a sign, and optionally embedded in whitespace. The optional sign may be '+' or '-'; a '+' sign has no effect on the value produced. The argument may also be a string representing a NaN (not-a-number), or a positive or negative infinity. More precisely, the input must conform to the following grammar after leading and trailing whitespace characters are removed:

```
sign          ::= "+" | "-"
infinity      ::= "Infinity" | "inf"
nan           ::= "nan"
numeric_value ::= floatnumber | infinity | nan
numeric_string ::= [sign] numeric_value
```

Here `floatnumber` is the form of a Python floating-point literal, described in [Floating point literals](#). Case is not significant, so, for example, “inf”, “Inf”, “INFINITY” and “iNfINity” are all acceptable spellings for positive infinity.

Otherwise, if the argument is an integer or a floating point number, a floating point number with the same value (within Python’s floating point precision) is returned. If the argument is outside the range of a Python float, an [OverflowError](#) will be raised.

For a general Python object *x*, `float(x)` delegates to `x.__float__()`.

If no argument is given, `0.0` is returned.

Examples:

```
>>> float('+1.23')
1.23
>>> float('    -12345\n')
-12345.0
```

```
>>>
```

```
>>> float('1e-003')
0.001
>>> float('+1E6')
1000000.0
>>> float('-Infinity')
-inf
```

The float type is described in [Numeric Types — int, float, complex](#).

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

format(*value*[, *format_spec*])

Convert a *value* to a “formatted” representation, as controlled by *format_spec*. The interpretation of *format_spec* will depend on the type of the *value* argument, however there is a standard formatting syntax that is used by most built-in types: [Format Specification Mini-Language](#).

The default *format_spec* is an empty string which usually gives the same effect as calling [str\(value\)](#).

A call to `format(value, format_spec)` is translated to `type(value).__format__(value, format_spec)` which bypasses the instance dictionary when searching for the value’s `__format__()` method. A `TypeError` exception is raised if the method search reaches `object` and the *format_spec* is non-empty, or if either the *format_spec* or the return value are not strings.

Changed in version 3.4: `object().__format__(format_spec)` raises `TypeError` if *format_spec* is not an empty string.

class frozenset([*iterable*])

Return a new `frozenset` object, optionally with elements taken from *iterable*. `frozenset` is a built-in class. See `frozenset` and [Set Types — set, frozenset](#) for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in `set`, `list`, `tuple`, and `dict` classes, as well as the `collections` module.

getattr(*object*, *name*[, *default*])

Return the value of the named attribute of *object*. *name* must be a string. If the

string is the name of one of the object's attributes, the result is the value of that attribute. For example, `getattr(x, 'foobar')` is equivalent to `x.foobar`. If the named attribute does not exist, *default* is returned if provided, otherwise `AttributeError` is raised.

globals()

Return a dictionary representing the current global symbol table. This is always the dictionary of the current module (inside a function or method, this is the module where it is defined, not the module from which it is called).

hasattr(object, name)

The arguments are an object and a string. The result is `True` if the string is the name of one of the object's attributes, `False` if not. (This is implemented by calling `getattr(object, name)` and seeing whether it raises an `AttributeError` or not.)

hash(object)

Return the hash value of the object (if it has one). Hash values are integers. They are used to quickly compare dictionary keys during a dictionary lookup. Numeric values that compare equal have the same hash value (even if they are of different types, as is the case for 1 and 1.0).

Note: For objects with custom `__hash__()` methods, note that `hash()` truncates the return value based on the bit width of the host machine. See `__hash__()` for details.

help([object])

Invoke the built-in help system. (This function is intended for interactive use.) If no argument is given, the interactive help system starts on the interpreter console. If the argument is a string, then the string is looked up as the name of a module, function, class, method, keyword, or documentation topic, and a help page is printed on the console. If the argument is any other kind of object, a help page on the object is generated.

This function is added to the built-in namespace by the `site` module.

Changed in version 3.4: Changes to `pydoc` and `inspect` mean that the reported signatures for callables are now more comprehensive and consistent.

hex(x)

Convert an integer number to a lowercase hexadecimal string prefixed with “0x”. If *x* is not a Python `int` object, it has to define an `__index__()` method that returns an integer. Some examples:

```
>>> hex(255)
'0xff'
>>> hex(-42)
'-0x2a'
```

>>>

If you want to convert an integer number to an uppercase or lower hexadecimal string with prefix or not, you can use either of the following ways:

```
>>> '%#x' % 255, '%x' % 255, '%X' % 255
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
>>> format(255, '#x'), format(255, 'x'), format(255, 'X')
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
>>> f'{255:#x}', f'{255:x}', f'{255:X}'
('0xff', 'ff', 'FF')
```

>>>

See also `format()` for more information.

See also `int()` for converting a hexadecimal string to an integer using a base of 16.

Note: To obtain a hexadecimal string representation for a float, use the `float.hex()` method.

id(object)

Return the “identity” of an object. This is an integer which is guaranteed to be unique and constant for this object during its lifetime. Two objects with non-overlapping lifetimes may have the same `id()` value.

CPython implementation detail: This is the address of the object in memory.

input([prompt])

If the *prompt* argument is present, it is written to standard output without a trailing newline. The function then reads a line from input, converts it to a string (stripping a trailing newline), and returns that. When EOF is read, `EOFError` is raised. Example:

```
>>> s = input('--> ')
--> Monty Python's Flying Circus
>>> s
"Monty Python's Flying Circus"
```

If the `readline` module was loaded, then `input()` will use it to provide elaborate line editing and history features.

`class int(x=0)`

`class int(x, base=10)`

Return an integer object constructed from a number or string `x`, or return 0 if no arguments are given. If `x` is a number, return `x.__int__()`. For floating point numbers, this truncates towards zero.

If `x` is not a number or if `base` is given, then `x` must be a string, `bytes`, or `bytearray` instance representing an **integer literal** in radix `base`. Optionally, the literal can be preceded by `+` or `-` (with no space in between) and surrounded by whitespace. A base-`n` literal consists of the digits 0 to `n-1`, with `a` to `z` (or `A` to `Z`) having values 10 to 35. The default `base` is 10. The allowed values are 0 and 2–36. Base-2, -8, and -16 literals can be optionally prefixed with `0b/0B`, `0o/0O`, or `0x/0X`, as with integer literals in code. Base 0 means to interpret exactly as a code literal, so that the actual base is 2, 8, 10, or 16, and so that `int('010', 0)` is not legal, while `int('010')` is, as well as `int('010', 8)`.

The integer type is described in [Numeric Types — int, float, complex](#).

Changed in version 3.4: If `base` is not an instance of `int` and the `base` object has a `base.__index__` method, that method is called to obtain an integer for the base. Previous versions used `base.__int__` instead of `base.__index__`.

Changed in version 3.6: Grouping digits with underscores as in code literals is allowed.

`isinstance(object, classinfo)`

Return true if the `object` argument is an instance of the `classinfo` argument, or of a (direct, indirect or **virtual**) subclass thereof. If `object` is not an object of the given type, the function always returns false. If `classinfo` is a tuple of type objects (or recursively, other such tuples), return true if `object` is an instance of any of the types. If `classinfo` is not a type or tuple of types and such tuples, a `TypeError` ex-

ception is raised.

issubclass(*class*, *classinfo*)

Return true if *class* is a subclass (direct, indirect or [virtual](#)) of *classinfo*. A class is considered a subclass of itself. *classinfo* may be a tuple of class objects, in which case every entry in *classinfo* will be checked. In any other case, a [TypeError](#) exception is raised.

iter(*object*[, *sentinel*])

Return an [iterator](#) object. The first argument is interpreted very differently depending on the presence of the second argument. Without a second argument, *object* must be a collection object which supports the iteration protocol (the [__iter__\(\)](#) method), or it must support the sequence protocol (the [__getitem__\(\)](#) method with integer arguments starting at 0). If it does not support either of those protocols, [TypeError](#) is raised. If the second argument, *sentinel*, is given, then *object* must be a callable object. The iterator created in this case will call *object* with no arguments for each call to its [__next__\(\)](#) method; if the value returned is equal to *sentinel*, [StopIteration](#) will be raised, otherwise the value will be returned.

See also [Iterator Types](#).

One useful application of the second form of [iter\(\)](#) is to read lines of a file until a certain line is reached. The following example reads a file until the [readline\(\)](#) method returns an empty string:

```
with open('mydata.txt') as fp:
    for line in iter(fp.readline, ''):
        process_line(line)
```

len(*s*)

Return the length (the number of items) of an object. The argument may be a sequence (such as a string, bytes, tuple, list, or range) or a collection (such as a dictionary, set, or frozen set).

class **list**([*iterable*])

Rather than being a function, [list](#) is actually a mutable sequence type, as documented in [Lists](#) and [Sequence Types — list, tuple, range](#).

locals()

Update and return a dictionary representing the current local symbol table. Free variables are returned by `locals()` when it is called in function blocks, but not in class blocks.

Note: The contents of this dictionary should not be modified; changes may not affect the values of local and free variables used by the interpreter.

map(function, iterable, ...)

Return an iterator that applies *function* to every item of *iterable*, yielding the results. If additional *iterable* arguments are passed, *function* must take that many arguments and is applied to the items from all iterables in parallel. With multiple iterables, the iterator stops when the shortest iterable is exhausted. For cases where the function inputs are already arranged into argument tuples, see `itertools.starmap()`.

max(iterable, *[, key, default])

max(arg1, arg2, *args[, key])

Return the largest item in an iterable or the largest of two or more arguments.

If one positional argument is provided, it should be an [iterable](#). The largest item in the iterable is returned. If two or more positional arguments are provided, the largest of the positional arguments is returned.

There are two optional keyword-only arguments. The *key* argument specifies a one-argument ordering function like that used for `list.sort()`. The *default* argument specifies an object to return if the provided iterable is empty. If the iterable is empty and *default* is not provided, a [ValueError](#) is raised.

If multiple items are maximal, the function returns the first one encountered. This is consistent with other sort-stability preserving tools such as `sorted(iterable, key=keyfunc, reverse=True)[0]` and `heapq.nlargest(1, iterable, key=keyfunc)`.

New in version 3.4: The *default* keyword-only argument.

memoryview(obj)

Return a “memory view” object created from the given argument. See [Memory](#)

[Views](#) for more information.

min(iterable, *[, key, default])

min(arg1, arg2, *args[, key])

Return the smallest item in an iterable or the smallest of two or more arguments.

If one positional argument is provided, it should be an [iterable](#). The smallest item in the iterable is returned. If two or more positional arguments are provided, the smallest of the positional arguments is returned.

There are two optional keyword-only arguments. The *key* argument specifies a one-argument ordering function like that used for [list.sort\(\)](#). The *default* argument specifies an object to return if the provided iterable is empty. If the iterable is empty and *default* is not provided, a [ValueError](#) is raised.

If multiple items are minimal, the function returns the first one encountered. This is consistent with other sort-stability preserving tools such as `sorted(iterable, key=keyfunc)[0]` and `heapq.nsmallest(1, iterable, key=keyfunc)`.

New in version 3.4: The *default* keyword-only argument.

next(iterator[, default])

Retrieve the next item from the *iterator* by calling its [__next__\(\)](#) method. If *default* is given, it is returned if the iterator is exhausted, otherwise [StopIteration](#) is raised.

class object

Return a new featureless object. [object](#) is a base for all classes. It has the methods that are common to all instances of Python classes. This function does not accept any arguments.

Note: [object](#) does *not* have a [__dict__](#), so you can't assign arbitrary attributes to an instance of the [object](#) class.

oct(x)

Convert an integer number to an octal string prefixed with “0o”. The result is a valid Python expression. If *x* is not a Python [int](#) object, it has to define an [__index__\(\)](#) method that returns an integer. For example:

```
>>> oct(8)
'0o10'
>>> oct(-56)
'-0o70'
```

>>>

If you want to convert an integer number to octal string either with prefix “0o” or not, you can use either of the following ways.

```
>>> '%#o' % 10, '%o' % 10
('0o12', '12')
>>> format(10, '#o'), format(10, 'o')
('0o12', '12')
>>> f'{10:#o}', f'{10:o}'
('0o12', '12')
```

>>>

See also [format\(\)](#) for more information.

open(*file*, *mode*='r', *buffering*=-1, *encoding*=None, *errors*=None, *newline*=None, *closefd*=True, *opener*=None)

Open *file* and return a corresponding [file object](#). If the file cannot be opened, an [OSError](#) is raised.

file is a [path-like object](#) giving the pathname (absolute or relative to the current working directory) of the file to be opened or an integer file descriptor of the file to be wrapped. (If a file descriptor is given, it is closed when the returned I/O object is closed, unless *closefd* is set to `False`.)

mode is an optional string that specifies the mode in which the file is opened. It defaults to 'r' which means open for reading in text mode. Other common values are 'w' for writing (truncating the file if it already exists), 'x' for exclusive creation and 'a' for appending (which on *some* Unix systems, means that *all* writes append to the end of the file regardless of the current seek position). In text mode, if *encoding* is not specified the encoding used is platform dependent: `locale.getpreferredencoding(False)` is called to get the current locale encoding. (For reading and writing raw bytes use binary mode and leave *encoding* unspecified.) The available modes are:

Character	Meaning
'r'	open for reading (default)

'w'	open for writing, truncating the file first
'x'	open for exclusive creation, failing if the file already exists
'a'	open for writing, appending to the end of the file if it exists
'b'	binary mode
't'	text mode (default)
'+'	open a disk file for updating (reading and writing)
'U'	universal newlines mode (deprecated)

The default mode is `'r'` (open for reading text, synonym of `'rt'`). For binary read–write access, the mode `'w+b'` opens and truncates the file to 0 bytes. `'r+b'` opens the file without truncation.

As mentioned in the [Overview](#), Python distinguishes between binary and text I/O. Files opened in binary mode (including `'b'` in the *mode* argument) return contents as [bytes](#) objects without any decoding. In text mode (the default, or when `'t'` is included in the *mode* argument), the contents of the file are returned as [str](#), the bytes having been first decoded using a platform–dependent encoding or using the specified *encoding* if given.

Note: Python doesn't depend on the underlying operating system's notion of text files; all the processing is done by Python itself, and is therefore platform–independent.

buffering is an optional integer used to set the buffering policy. Pass 0 to switch buffering off (only allowed in binary mode), 1 to select line buffering (only usable in text mode), and an integer > 1 to indicate the size in bytes of a fixed–size chunk buffer. When no *buffering* argument is given, the default buffering policy works as follows:

- Binary files are buffered in fixed–size chunks; the size of the buffer is chosen using a heuristic trying to determine the underlying device's “block size” and falling back on `io.DEFAULT_BUFFER_SIZE`. On many systems, the buffer will typically be 4096 or 8192 bytes long.
- “Interactive” text files (files for which `isatty()` returns `True`) use line buffering. Other text files use the policy described above for binary files.

encoding is the name of the encoding used to decode or encode the file. This

should only be used in text mode. The default encoding is platform dependent (whatever `locale.getpreferredencoding()` returns), but any [text encoding](#) supported by Python can be used. See the [codecs](#) module for the list of supported encodings.

errors is an optional string that specifies how encoding and decoding errors are to be handled—this cannot be used in binary mode. A variety of standard error handlers are available (listed under [Error Handlers](#)), though any error handling name that has been registered with `codecs.register_error()` is also valid. The standard names include:

- 'strict' to raise a [ValueError](#) exception if there is an encoding error. The default value of `None` has the same effect.
- 'ignore' ignores errors. Note that ignoring encoding errors can lead to data loss.
- 'replace' causes a replacement marker (such as '?') to be inserted where there is malformed data.
- 'surrogateescape' will represent any incorrect bytes as code points in the Unicode Private Use Area ranging from U+DC80 to U+DCFF. These private code points will then be turned back into the same bytes when the surrogateescape error handler is used when writing data. This is useful for processing files in an unknown encoding.
- 'xmlcharrefreplace' is only supported when writing to a file. Characters not supported by the encoding are replaced with the appropriate XML character reference `&#nnn;`.
- 'backslashreplace' replaces malformed data by Python's backslashed escape sequences.
- 'namereplace' (also only supported when writing) replaces unsupported characters with `\N{...}` escape sequences.

newline controls how [universal newlines](#) mode works (it only applies to text mode). It can be `None`, `' '`, `'\n'`, `'\r'`, and `'\r\n'`. It works as follows:

- When reading input from the stream, if *newline* is `None`, universal newlines mode is enabled. Lines in the input can end in `'\n'`, `'\r'`, or `'\r\n'`, and these are translated into `'\n'` before being returned to the caller. If it is `' '`, universal newlines mode is enabled, but line endings are returned to the caller untranslated. If it has any of the other legal values, input lines are only terminated by the given string, and the line ending is returned to the caller untranslated.

- When writing output to the stream, if *newline* is `None`, any `'\n'` characters written are translated to the system default line separator, `os.linesep`. If *newline* is `' '` or `'\n'`, no translation takes place. If *newline* is any of the other legal values, any `'\n'` characters written are translated to the given string.

If *closefd* is `False` and a file descriptor rather than a filename was given, the underlying file descriptor will be kept open when the file is closed. If a filename is given *closefd* must be `True` (the default) otherwise an error will be raised.

A custom opener can be used by passing a callable as *opener*. The underlying file descriptor for the file object is then obtained by calling *opener* with (*file*, *flags*). *opener* must return an open file descriptor (passing `os.open` as *opener* results in functionality similar to passing `None`).

The newly created file is [non-inheritable](#).

The following example uses the `dir_fd` parameter of the `os.open()` function to open a file relative to a given directory:

```
>>> import os
>>> dir_fd = os.open('somedir', os.O_RDONLY)
>>> def opener(path, flags):
...     return os.open(path, flags, dir_fd=dir_fd)
...
>>> with open('spamspam.txt', 'w', opener=opener) as f:
...     print('This will be written to somedir/spamspam.txt', file=f)
...
>>> os.close(dir_fd) # don't leak a file descriptor
```

The type of [file object](#) returned by the `open()` function depends on the mode. When `open()` is used to open a file in a text mode (`'w'`, `'r'`, `'wt'`, `'rt'`, etc.), it returns a subclass of `io.TextIOBase` (specifically `io.TextIOWrapper`). When used to open a file in a binary mode with buffering, the returned class is a subclass of `io.BufferedIOBase`. The exact class varies: in read binary mode, it returns an `io.BufferedReader`; in write binary and append binary modes, it returns an `io.BufferedWriter`, and in read/write mode, it returns an `io.BufferedRandom`. When buffering is disabled, the raw stream, a subclass of `io.RawIOBase`, `io.FileIO`, is returned.

See also the file handling modules, such as, [fileinput](#), [io](#) (where `open()` is de-

clared), `os`, `os.path`, `tempfile`, and `shutil`.

Changed in version 3.3:

- The `opener` parameter was added.
- The `'x'` mode was added.
- `IOError` used to be raised, it is now an alias of `OSError`.
- `FileExistsError` is now raised if the file opened in exclusive creation mode (`'x'`) already exists.

Changed in version 3.4:

- The file is now non-inheritable.

Deprecated since version 3.4, will be removed in version 4.0: The `'U'` mode.

Changed in version 3.5:

- If the system call is interrupted and the signal handler does not raise an exception, the function now retries the system call instead of raising an `InterruptedError` exception (see [PEP 475](#) for the rationale).
- The `'namereplace'` error handler was added.

Changed in version 3.6:

- Support added to accept objects implementing `os.PathLike`.
- On Windows, opening a console buffer may return a subclass of `io.RawIOBase` other than `io.FileIO`.

ord(*c*)

Given a string representing one Unicode character, return an integer representing the Unicode code point of that character. For example, `ord('a')` returns the integer 97 and `ord('€')` (Euro sign) returns 8364. This is the inverse of `chr()`.

pow(*x*, *y* [, *z*])

Return *x* to the power *y*; if *z* is present, return *x* to the power *y*, modulo *z* (computed more efficiently than `pow(x, y) % z`). The two-argument form `pow(x, y)` is equivalent to using the power operator: `x**y`.

The arguments must have numeric types. With mixed operand types, the coercion rules for binary arithmetic operators apply. For `int` operands, the result has the

same type as the operands (after coercion) unless the second argument is negative; in that case, all arguments are converted to float and a float result is delivered. For example, `10**2` returns 100, but `10**−2` returns 0.01. If the second argument is negative, the third argument must be omitted. If *z* is present, *x* and *y* must be of integer types, and *y* must be non-negative.

print(*objects, sep=' ', end='\n', file=sys.stdout, flush=False)

Print *objects* to the text stream *file*, separated by *sep* and followed by *end*. *sep*, *end*, *file* and *flush*, if present, must be given as keyword arguments.

All non-keyword arguments are converted to strings like `str()` does and written to the stream, separated by *sep* and followed by *end*. Both *sep* and *end* must be strings; they can also be `None`, which means to use the default values. If no *objects* are given, `print()` will just write *end*.

The *file* argument must be an object with a `write(string)` method; if it is not present or `None`, `sys.stdout` will be used. Since printed arguments are converted to text strings, `print()` cannot be used with binary mode file objects. For these, use `file.write(...)` instead.

Whether output is buffered is usually determined by *file*, but if the *flush* keyword argument is true, the stream is forcibly flushed.

Changed in version 3.3: Added the *flush* keyword argument.

class property(fget=None, fset=None, fdel=None, doc=None)

Return a property attribute.

fget is a function for getting an attribute value. *fset* is a function for setting an attribute value. *fdel* is a function for deleting an attribute value. And *doc* creates a docstring for the attribute.

A typical use is to define a managed attribute *x*:

```
class C:
    def __init__(self):
        self._x = None

    def getx(self):
        return self._x
```



```
def setx(self, value):
    self._x = value

def delx(self):
    del self._x

x = property(getx, setx, delx, "I'm the 'x' property.")
```

If *c* is an instance of *C*, *c.x* will invoke the getter, *c.x* = *value* will invoke the setter and *del c.x* the deleter.

If given, *doc* will be the docstring of the property attribute. Otherwise, the property will copy *fget*'s docstring (if it exists). This makes it possible to create read-only properties easily using `property()` as a decorator:

```
class Parrot:
    def __init__(self):
        self._voltage = 100000

    @property
    def voltage(self):
        """Get the current voltage."""
        return self._voltage
```

The `@property` decorator turns the `voltage()` method into a “getter” for a read-only attribute with the same name, and it sets the docstring for *voltage* to “Get the current voltage.”

A property object has `getter`, `setter`, and `deleter` methods usable as decorators that create a copy of the property with the corresponding accessor function set to the decorated function. This is best explained with an example:

```
class C:
    def __init__(self):
        self._x = None

    @property
    def x(self):
        """I'm the 'x' property."""
        return self._x

    @x.setter
    def x(self, value):
        self._x = value
```

```
@x.deleter
def x(self):
    del self._x
```

This code is exactly equivalent to the first example. Be sure to give the additional functions the same name as the original property (`x` in this case.)

The returned property object also has the attributes `fget`, `fset`, and `fdel` corresponding to the constructor arguments.

Changed in version 3.5: The docstrings of property objects are now writeable.

range(*stop*)

range(*start*, *stop*[, *step*])

Rather than being a function, `range` is actually an immutable sequence type, as documented in [Ranges](#) and [Sequence Types — list, tuple, range](#).

repr(*object*)

Return a string containing a printable representation of an object. For many types, this function makes an attempt to return a string that would yield an object with the same value when passed to `eval()`, otherwise the representation is a string enclosed in angle brackets that contains the name of the type of the object together with additional information often including the name and address of the object. A class can control what this function returns for its instances by defining a `__repr__()` method.

reversed(*seq*)

Return a reverse [iterator](#). *seq* must be an object which has a `__reversed__()` method or supports the sequence protocol (the `__len__()` method and the `__getitem__()` method with integer arguments starting at 0).

round(*number*[, *ndigits*])

Return *number* rounded to *ndigits* precision after the decimal point. If *ndigits* is omitted or is `None`, it returns the nearest integer to its input.

For the built-in types supporting `round()`, values are rounded to the closest multiple of 10 to the power minus *ndigits*; if two multiples are equally close, rounding is done toward the even choice (so, for example, both `round(0.5)` and

`round(-0.5)` are 0, and `round(1.5)` is 2). Any integer value is valid for *ndigits* (positive, zero, or negative). The return value is an integer if called with one argument, otherwise of the same type as *number*.

For a general Python object *number*, `round(number, ndigits)` delegates to `number.__round__(ndigits)`.

Note: The behavior of `round()` for floats can be surprising: for example, `round(2.675, 2)` gives 2.67 instead of the expected 2.68. This is not a bug: it's a result of the fact that most decimal fractions can't be represented exactly as a float. See [Floating Point Arithmetic: Issues and Limitations](#) for more information.

class `set`(*[iterable]*)

Return a new `set` object, optionally with elements taken from *iterable*. `set` is a built-in class. See `set` and [Set Types — set, frozenset](#) for documentation about this class.

For other containers see the built-in `frozenset`, `list`, `tuple`, and `dict` classes, as well as the `collections` module.

setattr(*object, name, value*)

This is the counterpart of `getattr()`. The arguments are an object, a string and an arbitrary value. The string may name an existing attribute or a new attribute. The function assigns the value to the attribute, provided the object allows it. For example, `setattr(x, 'foobar', 123)` is equivalent to `x.foobar = 123`.

class `slice`(*stop*)

class `slice`(*start, stop[, step]*)

Return a `slice` object representing the set of indices specified by `range(start, stop, step)`. The *start* and *step* arguments default to `None`. Slice objects have read-only data attributes `start`, `stop` and `step` which merely return the argument values (or their default). They have no other explicit functionality; however they are used by Numerical Python and other third party extensions. Slice objects are also generated when extended indexing syntax is used. For example: `a[start:stop:step]` or `a[start:stop, i]`. See `itertools.islice()` for an alternate version that returns an iterator.

sorted(*iterable*, *, *key=None*, *reverse=False*)

Return a new sorted list from the items in *iterable*.

Has two optional arguments which must be specified as keyword arguments.

key specifies a function of one argument that is used to extract a comparison key from each list element: `key=str.lower`. The default value is `None` (compare the elements directly).

reverse is a boolean value. If set to `True`, then the list elements are sorted as if each comparison were reversed.

Use `functools.cmp_to_key()` to convert an old-style *cmp* function to a *key* function.

The built-in `sorted()` function is guaranteed to be stable. A sort is stable if it guarantees not to change the relative order of elements that compare equal — this is helpful for sorting in multiple passes (for example, sort by department, then by salary grade).

For sorting examples and a brief sorting tutorial, see [Sorting HOW TO](#).

@staticmethod

Transform a method into a static method.

A static method does not receive an implicit first argument. To declare a static method, use this idiom:

```
class C:
    @staticmethod
    def f(arg1, arg2, ...): ...
```

The `@staticmethod` form is a function [decorator](#) – see the description of function definitions in [Function definitions](#) for details.

It can be called either on the class (such as `C.f()`) or on an instance (such as `C().f()`). The instance is ignored except for its class.

Static methods in Python are similar to those found in Java or C++. Also see `classmethod()` for a variant that is useful for creating alternate class constructors.

Like all decorators, it is also possible to call `staticmethod` as a regular function and do something with its result. This is needed in some cases where you need a reference to a function from a class body and you want to avoid the automatic transformation to instance method. For these cases, use this idiom:

```
class C:
    builtin_open = staticmethod(open)
```

For more information on static methods, consult the documentation on the standard type hierarchy in [The standard type hierarchy](#).

```
class str(object='')
class str(object=b'', encoding='utf-8', errors='strict')
Return a str version of object. See str\(\) for details.
```

`str` is the built-in string [class](#). For general information about strings, see [Text Sequence Type — str](#).

```
sum(iterable[, start])
```

Sums *start* and the items of an *iterable* from left to right and returns the total. *start* defaults to 0. The *iterable*'s items are normally numbers, and the start value is not allowed to be a string.

For some use cases, there are good alternatives to [sum\(\)](#). The preferred, fast way to concatenate a sequence of strings is by calling `''.join(sequence)`. To add floating point values with extended precision, see [math.fsum\(\)](#). To concatenate a series of iterables, consider using [itertools.chain\(\)](#).

```
super([type[, object-or-type]])
```

Return a proxy object that delegates method calls to a parent or sibling class of *type*. This is useful for accessing inherited methods that have been overridden in a class. The search order is same as that used by [getattr\(\)](#) except that the *type* itself is skipped.

The `__mro__` attribute of the *type* lists the method resolution search order used by both [getattr\(\)](#) and [super\(\)](#). The attribute is dynamic and can change whenever the inheritance hierarchy is updated.

If the second argument is omitted, the super object returned is unbound. If the

second argument is an object, `isinstance(obj, type)` must be true. If the second argument is a type, `issubclass(type2, type)` must be true (this is useful for classmethods).

There are two typical use cases for *super*. In a class hierarchy with single inheritance, *super* can be used to refer to parent classes without naming them explicitly, thus making the code more maintainable. This use closely parallels the use of *super* in other programming languages.

The second use case is to support cooperative multiple inheritance in a dynamic execution environment. This use case is unique to Python and is not found in statically compiled languages or languages that only support single inheritance. This makes it possible to implement “diamond diagrams” where multiple base classes implement the same method. Good design dictates that this method have the same calling signature in every case (because the order of calls is determined at runtime, because that order adapts to changes in the class hierarchy, and because that order can include sibling classes that are unknown prior to runtime).

For both use cases, a typical superclass call looks like this:

```
class C(B):
    def method(self, arg):
        super().method(arg)    # This does the same thing as:
                               # super(C, self).method(arg)
```

Note that `super()` is implemented as part of the binding process for explicit dotted attribute lookups such as `super().__getitem__(name)`. It does so by implementing its own `__getattr__()` method for searching classes in a predictable order that supports cooperative multiple inheritance. Accordingly, `super()` is undefined for implicit lookups using statements or operators such as `super()[name]`.

Also note that, aside from the zero argument form, `super()` is not limited to use inside methods. The two argument form specifies the arguments exactly and makes the appropriate references. The zero argument form only works inside a class definition, as the compiler fills in the necessary details to correctly retrieve the class being defined, as well as accessing the current instance for ordinary methods.

For practical suggestions on how to design cooperative classes using `super()`,

see [guide to using super\(\)](#).

tuple(*[iterable]*)

Rather than being a function, `tuple` is actually an immutable sequence type, as documented in [Tuples](#) and [Sequence Types — list, tuple, range](#).

class **type**(*object*)

class **type**(*name, bases, dict*)

With one argument, return the type of an *object*. The return value is a type object and generally the same object as returned by `object.__class__`.

The `isinstance()` built-in function is recommended for testing the type of an object, because it takes subclasses into account.

With three arguments, return a new type object. This is essentially a dynamic form of the `class` statement. The *name* string is the class name and becomes the `__name__` attribute; the *bases* tuple itemizes the base classes and becomes the `__bases__` attribute; and the *dict* dictionary is the namespace containing definitions for class body and is copied to a standard dictionary to become the `__dict__` attribute. For example, the following two statements create identical `type` objects:

```
>>> class X:
...     a = 1
...
>>> X = type('X', (object,), dict(a=1))
```

>>>

See also [Type Objects](#).

Changed in version 3.6: Subclasses of `type` which don't override `type.__new__` may no longer use the one-argument form to get the type of an object.

vars(*[object]*)

Return the `__dict__` attribute for a module, class, instance, or any other object with a `__dict__` attribute.

Objects such as modules and instances have an updateable `__dict__` attribute; however, other objects may have write restrictions on their `__dict__` attributes (for example, classes use a `types.MappingProxyType` to prevent direct dictionary

updates).

Without an argument, `vars()` acts like `locals()`. Note, the locals dictionary is only useful for reads since updates to the locals dictionary are ignored.

`zip(*iterables)`

Make an iterator that aggregates elements from each of the iterables.

Returns an iterator of tuples, where the *i*-th tuple contains the *i*-th element from each of the argument sequences or iterables. The iterator stops when the shortest input iterable is exhausted. With a single iterable argument, it returns an iterator of 1-tuples. With no arguments, it returns an empty iterator. Equivalent to:

```
def zip(*iterables):
    # zip('ABCD', 'xy') --> Ax By
    sentinel = object()
    iterators = [iter(it) for it in iterables]
    while iterators:
        result = []
        for it in iterators:
            elem = next(it, sentinel)
            if elem is sentinel:
                return
            result.append(elem)
        yield tuple(result)
```

The left-to-right evaluation order of the iterables is guaranteed. This makes possible an idiom for clustering a data series into *n*-length groups using `zip(*[iter(s)]*n)`. This repeats the *same* iterator *n* times so that each output tuple has the result of *n* calls to the iterator. This has the effect of dividing the input into *n*-length chunks.

`zip()` should only be used with unequal length inputs when you don't care about trailing, unmatched values from the longer iterables. If those values are important, use `itertools.zip_longest()` instead.

`zip()` in conjunction with the `*` operator can be used to unzip a list:

```
>>> x = [1, 2, 3]
>>> y = [4, 5, 6]
>>> zipped = zip(x, y)
>>> list(zipped)
```

>>>


```
[(1, 4), (2, 5), (3, 6)]
>>> x2, y2 = zip(*zip(x, y))
>>> x == list(x2) and y == list(y2)
True
```

`__import__`(*name*, *globals*=None, *locals*=None, *fromlist*=(), *level*=0)

Note: This is an advanced function that is not needed in everyday Python programming, unlike `importlib.import_module()`.

This function is invoked by the `import` statement. It can be replaced (by importing the `builtins` module and assigning to `builtins.__import__`) in order to change semantics of the `import` statement, but doing so is **strongly** discouraged as it is usually simpler to use import hooks (see [PEP 302](#)) to attain the same goals and does not cause issues with code which assumes the default import implementation is in use. Direct use of `__import__()` is also discouraged in favor of `importlib.import_module()`.

The function imports the module *name*, potentially using the given *globals* and *locals* to determine how to interpret the name in a package context. The *fromlist* gives the names of objects or submodules that should be imported from the module given by *name*. The standard implementation does not use its *locals* argument at all, and uses its *globals* only to determine the package context of the `import` statement.

level specifies whether to use absolute or relative imports. 0 (the default) means only perform absolute imports. Positive values for *level* indicate the number of parent directories to search relative to the directory of the module calling `__import__()` (see [PEP 328](#) for the details).

When the *name* variable is of the form `package.module`, normally, the top-level package (the name up till the first dot) is returned, *not* the module named by *name*. However, when a non-empty *fromlist* argument is given, the module named by *name* is returned.

For example, the statement `import spam` results in bytecode resembling the following code:

```
spam = __import__('spam', globals(), locals(), [], 0)
```

The statement `import spam.ham` results in this call:

```
spam = __import__('spam.ham', globals(), locals(), [], 0)
```

Note how `__import__()` returns the toplevel module here because this is the object that is bound to a name by the `import` statement.

On the other hand, the statement `from spam.ham import eggs, sausage as saus` results in

```
_temp = __import__('spam.ham', globals(), locals(), ['eggs', 'sausage'])
eggs = _temp.eggs
saus = _temp.sausage
```

Here, the `spam.ham` module is returned from `__import__()`. From this object, the names to import are retrieved and assigned to their respective names.

If you simply want to import a module (potentially within a package) by name, use `importlib.import_module()`.

Changed in version 3.3: Negative values for *level* are no longer supported (which also changes the default value to 0).

Footnotes

- [1] Note that the parser only accepts the Unix-style end of line convention. If you are reading the code from a file, make sure to use newline conversion mode to convert Windows or Mac-style newlines.