Python Classes and Objects

Python Classes/Objects

Python is an object oriented programming language.

Almost everything in Python is an object, with its properties and methods.

A Class is like an object constructor, or a "blueprint" for creating objects.

Create a Class

To create a class, use the keyword `class`:

Example

Create a class named MyClass, with a property named x:

```
class MyClass:
  x = 5
```

Create Object

Now we can use the class named MyClass to create objects:

Example

Create an object named p1, and print the value of x:

```
p1 = MyClass()
print(p1.x)
```

The __init__() Function

The examples above are classes and objects in their simplest form, and are not really useful in real life applications.

To understand the meaning of classes we have to understand the built-in __init__() function.

All classes have a function called __init__(), which is always executed when the class is being initiated.

Use the __init__() function to assign values to object properties, or other operations that are necessary to do when the object is being created:

Example

Create a class named Person, use the __init__() function to assign values for name and age:

Note: The `__init__()` function is called automatically every time the class is being used to create a new object.

```
class Person:
  def __init__(self, name, age):
    self.name = name
    self.age = age

p1 = Person("John", 36)

print(p1.name)
print(p1.age)
```

Object Methods

Objects can also contain methods. Methods in objects are functions that belong to the object.

Let us create a method in the Person class:

Example

Insert a function that prints a greeting, and execute it on the p1 object:

```
class Person:
  def __init__(self, name, age):
    self.name = name
    self.age = age

  def myfunc(self):
    print("Hello my name is " + self.name)

p1 = Person("John", 36)
p1.myfunc()
```

The self Parameter

The `self` parameter is a reference to the current instance of the class, and is used to access variables that belongs to the class.

It does not have to be named `self` , you can call it whatever you like, but it has to be the first parameter of any function in the class:

Example

Use the words *mysillyobject* and *abc* instead of *self*:

```
class Person:
  def __init__(mysillyobject, name, age):
    mysillyobject.name = name
    mysillyobject.age = age

  def myfunc(abc):
    print("Hello my name is " + abc.name)

p1 = Person("John", 36)
p1.myfunc()
```

Modify Object Properties

You can modify properties on objects like this:

Example

Set the age of p1 to 40:

```
p1.age = 40
```

Delete Object Properties

You can delete properties on objects by using the `del` keyword:

Example

Delete the age property from the p1 object:

```
del p1.age
```

Delete Objects

You can delete objects by using the `del` keyword:

Example

Delete the p1 object:

```
del p1
```

The pass Statement

`class` definitions cannot be empty, but if you for some reason have a `class` definition with no content, put in the `pass` statement to avoid getting an error.

Example

```
class Person:
  pass
```

Constructors in Python

Constructors are generally used for instantiating an object.The task of constructors is to initialize(assign values) to the data members of the class when an object of class is created.In Python the __init__() method is called the constructor and is always called when an object is created.

Syntax of constructor declaration :

```
def __init__(self):

    # body of the constructor
```

Types of constructors :

- **default constructor :**The default constructor is simple constructor which doesn't accept any arguments.It's definition has only one argument which is a reference to the instance being constructed.
- **parameterized constructor :**constructor with parameters is known as parameterized constructor.The parameterized constructor take its first argument as a reference to the instance being constructed known as self and the rest of the arguments are provided by the programmer.

Example of default constructor :

```
class GeekforGeeks:

    # default constructor
    def __init__(self):
        self.geek = "GeekforGeeks"

    # a method for printing data members
    def print_Geek(self):
        print(self.geek)


# creating object of the class
obj = GeekforGeeks()

# calling the instance method using the object obj
obj.print_Geek()
```

Example of parameterized constructor :

```
class Addition:
    first = 0
    second = 0
    answer = 0

    # parameterized constructor
    def __init__(self, f, s):
        self.first = f
        self.second = s

    def display(self):
```

```
        print("First number = " + str(self.first))
        print("Second number = " + str(self.second))
        print("Addition of two numbers = " + str(self.answer))

    def calculate(self):
        self.answer = self.first + self.second

# creating object of the class
# this will invoke parameterized constructor
obj = Addition(1000, 2000)

# perform Addition
obj.calculate()

# display result
obj.display()
```

Destructors in Python

Constructors in Python

Destructors are called when an object gets destroyed. In Python, destructors are not needed as much needed in C++ because Python has a garbage collector that handles memory management automatically.

The **__del__()** method is a known as a destructor method in Python. It is called when all references to the object have been deleted i.e when an object is garbage collected.

Syntax of destructor declaration :

```
def __del__(self):
  # body of destructor
```

Note : A reference to objects is also deleted when the object goes out of reference or when the program ends.

Example 1 : Here is the simple example of destructor. By using del keyword we deleted the all references of object 'obj', therefore destructor invoked automatically.

```
# Python program to illustrate destructor
class Employee:

    # Initializing
    def __init__(self):
        print('Employee created.')

    # Deleting (Calling destructor)
    def __del__(self):
        print('Destructor called, Employee deleted.')

obj = Employee()
del obj
```

Python File Open

Python File Open

File handling is an important part of any web application.

Python has several functions for creating, reading, updating, and deleting files.

File Handling
The key function for working with files in Python is the open() function.

The open() function takes two parameters; filename, and mode.

There are four different methods (modes) for opening a file:

"r" - Read - Default value. Opens a file for reading, error if the file does not exist

"a" - Append - Opens a file for appending, creates the file if it does not exist

"w" - Write - Opens a file for writing, creates the file if it does not exist

"x" - Create - Creates the specified file, returns an error if the file exists

In addition you can specify if the file should be handled as binary or text mode

"t" - Text - Default value. Text mode

"b" - Binary - Binary mode (e.g. images)

Syntax

To open a file for reading it is enough to specify the name of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt")
```

The code above is the same as:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "rt")
```

Because `"r"` for read, and `"t"` for text are the default values, you do not need to specify them.

Note: Make sure the file exists, or else you will get an error.

Open a File on the Server

Assume we have the following file, located in the same folder as Python:

demofile.txt

```
Hello! Welcome to demofile.txt
This file is for testing purposes.
Good Luck!
```

To open the file, use the built-in `open()` function.

The `open()` function returns a file object, which has a `read()` method for reading the content of the file:

Example

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

If the file is located in a different location, you will have to specify the file path, like this:

Example

Open a file on a different location:

```
f = open("D:\\myfiles\welcome.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

Read Only Parts of the File

By default the `read()` method returns the whole text, but you can also specify how many characters you want to return:

Example

Return the 5 first characters of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.read(5))
```

Read Lines

You can return one line by using the `readline()` method:

Example

Read one line of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
```

By calling `readline()` two times, you can read the two first lines:

Example

Read two lines of the file:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
print(f.readline())
```

By looping through the lines of the file, you can read the whole file, line by line:

Example

Loop through the file line by line:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
for x in f:
  print(x)
```

Close Files

It is a good practice to always close the file when you are done with it.

Example

Close the file when you are finish with it:

```
f = open("demofile.txt", "r")
print(f.readline())
f.close()
```

Write to an Existing File

To write to an existing file, you must add a parameter to the `open()` function:

`"a"` - Append - will append to the end of the file

`"w"` - Write - will overwrite any existing content

Example

Open the file "demofile2.txt" and append content to the file:

```
f = open("demofile2.txt", "a")
f.write("Now the file has more content!")
f.close()

#open and read the file after the appending:
f = open("demofile2.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

Example

Open the file "demofile3.txt" and overwrite the content:

```
f = open("demofile3.txt", "w")
f.write("Woops! I have deleted the content!")
f.close()

#open and read the file after the appending:
f = open("demofile3.txt", "r")
print(f.read())
```

Note: the "w" method will overwrite the entire file.

Create a New File

To create a new file in Python, use the `open()` method, with one of the following parameters:

`"x"` - Create - will create a file, returns an error if the file exist

`"a"` - Append - will create a file if the specified file does not exist

`"w"` - Write - will create a file if the specified file does not exist

Example

Create a file called "myfile.txt":

```
f = open("myfile.txt", "x")
```

Result: a new empty file is created!

Example

Create a new file if it does not exist:

```
f = open("myfile.txt", "w")
```

Python Try Except

The `try` block lets you test a block of code for errors.

The `except` block lets you handle the error.

The `finally` block lets you execute code, regardless of the result of the try- and except blocks.

Exception Handling

When an error occurs, or exception as we call it, Python will normally stop and generate an error message.

These exceptions can be handled using the `try` statement:

Example

The `try` block will generate an exception, because `x` is not defined:

```
try:
  print(x)
except:
  print("An exception occurred")
```

Since the try block raises an error, the except block will be executed.

Without the try block, the program will crash and raise an error:

Example

This statement will raise an error, because `x` is not defined:

```
print(x)
```

Many Exceptions

You can define as many exception blocks as you want, e.g. if you want to execute a special block of code for a special kind of error:

Example

Print one message if the try block raises a `NameError` and another for other errors:

```
try:
  print(x)
except NameError:
  print("Variable x is not defined")
except:
  print("Something else went wrong")
```

Else

You can use the `else` keyword to define a block of code to be executed if no errors were raised:

Example

In this example, the `try` block does not generate any error:

```
try:
  print("Hello")
except:
  print("Something went wrong")
else:
  print("Nothing went wrong")
```

Finally

The `finally` block, if specified, will be executed regardless if the try block raises an error or not.

Example

```
try:
  print(x)
except:
  print("Something went wrong")
finally:
  print("The 'try except' is finished")
```

This can be useful to close objects and clean up resources:

Example

Try to open and write to a file that is not writable:

```
try:
  f = open("demofile.txt")
  f.write("Lorum Ipsum")
except:
  print("Something went wrong when writing to the file")
finally:
  f.close()
```

he program can continue, without leaving the file object open.

Raise an exception

As a Python developer you can choose to throw an exception if a condition occurs.

To throw (or raise) an exception, use the `raise` keyword.

Example

Raise an error and stop the program if x is lower than 0:

```
x = -1

if x < 0:
  raise Exception("Sorry, no numbers below zero")
```

The `raise` keyword is used to raise an exception.

You can define what kind of error to raise, and the text to print to the user.

Example

Raise a TypeError if x is not an integer:

```
x = "hello"

if not type(x) is int:
  raise TypeError("Only integers are allowed")
```

Python Inheritance

Python Inheritance

Inheritance allows us to define a class that inherits all the methods and properties from another class.

Parent class is the class being inherited from, also called base class.

Child class is the class that inherits from another class, also called derived class.

Create a Parent Class

Any class can be a parent class, so the syntax is the same as creating any other class:

Example

Create a class named `Person`, with `firstname` and `lastname` properties, and a `printname` method:

```
class Person:
  def __init__(self, fname, lname):
    self.firstname = fname
    self.lastname = lname

  def printname(self):
    print(self.firstname, self.lastname)

#Use the Person class to create an object, and then execute the printname method:

x = Person("John", "Doe")
x.printname()
```

Create a Child Class

To create a class that inherits the functionality from another class, send the parent class as a parameter when creating the child class:

Example

Create a class named `Student`, which will inherit the properties and methods from the `Person` class:

```
class Student(Person):
  pass
```

Note: Use the `pass` keyword when you do not want to add any other properties or methods to the class.

Now the Student class has the same properties and methods as the Person class.

Example

Use the `Student` class to create an object, and then execute the `printname` method:

```
x = Student("Mike", "Olsen")
x.printname()
```

Add the __init__() Function

So far we have created a child class that inherits the properties and methods from its parent.

We want to add the `__init__()` function to the child class (instead of the `pass` keyword).

Note: The `__init__()` function is called automatically every time the class is being used to create a new object.

Example

Add the `__init__()` function to the `Student` class:

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname):
    #add properties etc.
```

When you add the `__init__()` function, the child class will no longer inherit the parent's `__init__()` function.

Note: The child's `__init__()` function **overrides** the inheritance of the parent's `__init__()` function.

To keep the inheritance of the parent's `__init__()` function, add a call to the parent's `__init__()` function:

Example

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname):
    Person.__init__(self, fname, lname)
```

Now we have successfully added the __init__() function, and kept the inheritance of the parent class, and we are ready to add functionality in the `__init__()` function.

Use the super() Function

Python also has a `super()` function that will make the child class inherit all the methods and properties from its parent:

Example

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname):
    super().__init__(fname, lname)
```

By using the `super()` function, you do not have to use the name of the parent element, it will automatically inherit the methods and properties from its parent.

Add Properties

Example

Add a property called `graduationyear` to the `Student` class:

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname):
    super().__init__(fname, lname)
    self.graduationyear = 2019
```

In the example below, the year 2019 should be a variable, and passed into the Student class when creating student objects. To do so, add another parameter in the __init__() function:

Example

Add a year parameter, and pass the correct year when creating objects:

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname, year):
    super().__init__(fname, lname)
    self.graduationyear = year

x = Student("Mike", "Olsen", 2019)
```

Add Methods

Example

Add a method called welcome to the Student class:

```
class Student(Person):
  def __init__(self, fname, lname, year):
    super().__init__(fname, lname)
    self.graduationyear = year

  def welcome(self):
    print("Welcome", self.firstname, self.lastname, "to the class of",
self.graduationyear)
```