

What are variables in python ?

Variables in Python are essentially **reserved memory locations to store values**. Think of them as named containers or labels that you use to hold data in your programs. When you create a variable, you're telling Python to set aside a space in memory, and you're giving that space a name so you can refer to it later.

Here's a breakdown of key aspects of variables in Python:

1. Naming Convention:

- Variable names must start with a letter (a-z, A-Z) or an underscore (_).
- They can contain letters, numbers (0-9), and underscores.
- They are case-sensitive (myVar is different from myvar).
- Keywords (like if, for, while, True, False, etc.) cannot be used as variable names.
- It's good practice to use descriptive names (e.g., user_age instead of ua).
- Python's conventional style for variable names is snake_case (all lowercase, words separated by underscores).

2. Assignment:

- You assign a value to a variable using the assignment operator (=).
- Example: name = "Alice" assigns the string "Alice" to the variable name.
- Example: age = 30 assigns the integer 30 to the variable age.

3. Dynamic Typing:

- Python is a **dynamically typed** language. This means you don't need to declare the data type of a variable explicitly when you create it. Python automatically infers the type based on the value you assign.
- You can even reassign a variable to a different type later:

Python

```
x = 10      # x is an integer
x = "hello" # now x is a string
```

- This is in contrast to statically typed languages (like Java or C++) where you'd typically declare `int age = 30;` and couldn't later assign a string to `age`.

4. No Fixed Memory Location (Reference Semantics):

- Unlike some other languages, a Python variable doesn't strictly *contain* the value in a fixed memory slot. Instead, it holds a **reference** (or pointer) to a memory location where the actual data object resides.
- When you reassign a variable, you're simply making it refer to a different object in memory. The old object (if no longer referenced) will eventually be garbage collected.

5. Types of Data Variables Can Hold: Python variables can hold various types of data, including:

- **Numbers:**
 - `int` (integers: 10, -5, 0)
 - `float` (floating-point numbers: 3.14, -0.5, 2.0)
 - `complex` (complex numbers: 1 + 2j)
- **Text:**
 - `str` (strings: "Hello", 'Python')
- **Boolean:**
 - `bool` (True, False)
- **Collections:**
 - `list` (ordered, mutable sequence: [1, 2, 3])
 - `tuple` (ordered, immutable sequence: (1, 2, 3))

- dict (unordered, mutable key-value pairs: {'name': 'Bob', 'age': 25})
- set (unordered, mutable collection of unique items: {1, 2, 3})
- And many more custom objects, functions, etc.