solution.md 2024-09-03

a) generate_id is not a pure function because it relies on a random number generator. weekday relies on the current date and time. This means that the result of the function depends on factors outside of its own scope. Because of that, the function is harder to test.

In case of <code>generate_id</code>, one way to write tests for this is to not use unit tests, but property tests instead. This way, you can at least test some properties like making sure that the length of the generated id corresponds to what you passed along as a parameter. A second way to test this is to make sure the random number generator always has the same seed. You can then predict the ids that are being generated. It does require extra care though. You might break your tests simply by changing the order in which you run them!

In case of weekday you're going to have to patch the today function so that it always returns the same date and then you can test that the function returns the right weekday name. This is all doable, but it does require extra work to write tests due to these functions not being pure.

b) The file exercise_1_solution.py contains a possible solution that turns these functions into pure functions. As you can see, I used the same approach for both functions: instead of directly calling a function (like random.choice) or creating an object (like a datetime object), I used dependency injection to provide the function or object. Testing the code is now way easier, because in our testing code, we can supply the function or object we want.

Another change is that you see that the main function now serves as the place where everything is created and patched up. It's a really good idea to setup your application in such a way that there is one place where this happens - let's call that the "dirty" place. If your application looks like this, it means that all the parts have been properly separated and you can easily patch them together and change things independently.

Note: I used partial function application to make sure random.choice adheres to the SelectionFn type. Unfortunately, this is not correctly detected by the type system, so I wrote a comment behind the line to ignore type issues in this case.