

Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

- 1. Why is file storage important when you're using Python? What would happen if you didn't store local files?**

File storage is important in Python because once a script stops running any variables or data you created with that script will be lost. Storing data allows us to access it even after we're done.

- 2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?**

Pickles are a stream of bytes used to store complex information in a binary format. Pickles are helpful for storing a lot of information in a small package, and because it is binary it is compatible with a wide variety of python objects.

- 3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?**

Using the `os` module the `os.getcwd()` command will show you which directory you are in, and the `os.chdir()` command will let you switch to a different directory. For `os.chdir()` you put the path to the desired directory in the command like so `os.chdir(path)`.

- 4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?**

You can check these blocks of code using a try-except block. This allows you to run your block and check for errors before proceeding with the rest of your code. If an error is found it will be caught in the "except" block where you can decide how you want to deal with the error.

- 5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.**

So far the hardest part of these exercises has been finding time to properly work on them! The lessons have been a lot of fun, and I have been really enjoying this slow build-up of the app each lesson. My largest struggle has probably been retaining all the new terminology and commands each lesson. Going back to check the exercise notes is expected, but using them as a crutch is an issue. I need to practice more and keep these new tools fresh in my mind as I continue along with this project.