# Functions

## Exercises

### Week 4

Prior to attempting these exercises ensure you have read the lecture notes and/or viewed the video, and followed the practical. You may wish to use the Python interpreter in interactive mode to help work out the solutions to some of the questions.

Download and store this document within your own filespace, so the contents can be edited. You will be able to refer to it during the test in Week 6.

Enter your answers directly into the highlighted boxes.

For more information about the module delivery, assessment and feedback please refer to the module within the MyBeckett portal.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## ©2021 Mark Dixon / Tony Jenkins

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What must be done before a function that is not *built-in* to Python can be used in a program?

*Answer:*

Functions which are not built-in must be imported before they can be used in a program.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sin() function be made?

import math

*Answer:*

import math

result = math.sin(0.45)

print(result)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Given the following import statement, how would a call to the sqrt() function be made?

from math import sqrt

*Answer:*

from math import sqrt

result = sqrt(25)

print(result)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What is the name of the common library that is available with all Python distributions?

*Answer:*

The name of the common library that is available with all Python distributions is Python Standard Library.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What keyword is used in Python to define a new function?

*Answer:*

The keyword that is used in Python to define a new function is def.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Write some Python code that defines a function called print\_header(msg). This should output the value provided by the ‘msg’ parameter to the screen (prefixed by five asterisk ‘\*\*\*\*\*’) characters.

*Answer:*

def print\_header(msg):

print("\*\*\*\*\*", msg, "\*\*\*\*\*")

message\_to\_print = "Hello, this is a header"

print\_header(message\_to\_print)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

In the answer box below give an example of what the **docstring** may look like for the print\_header(msg) function.

*Answer:*

def print\_header(msg):

"""

Prints a header

with the

provided message.

"""

print("\*\*\*\*\*", msg, "\*\*\*\*\*")

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Where within a function definition should a **docstring** appear?

*Answer:*

Docstring appear as the first statement in a function body.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What statement should appear within a function’s code block to cause a specific value to be passed back to the caller of the function?

*Answer:*

‘Return’ statement should appear within a function’s code block to cause a specific value to be passed back to the caller of the function.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Write some Python code that defines a function called find\_min(a,b) that returns the smallest of the two given parameter values.

*Answer:*

def find\_min(a, b):

minimum\_value = min(a, b)

return minimum\_value

result = find\_min(10, 5)

print("The minimum value is:", result)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Given the following function definition, which of the *formal parameters* could be described as being a **default argument**?

def shouldContinue(prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:*

The formal parameters is ‘answer’ could be described as being a default argument.

Provide two example calls to the above function, one which provides a value for the *default argument*, and one that does not.

*Answer:*

# Calling the function with a value for the default argument

prompt\_message = "Do you want to continue? "

user\_response = shouldContinue(prompt\_message, True)

print("User response:", user\_response)

# Calling the function without providing a value for the default argument

prompt\_message = "Do you want to continue? "

user\_response = shouldContinue(prompt\_message)

print("User response:", user\_response)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

State why following function definition would **not** be allowed.

def do\_something(prefix="Message", prompt, answer=False):

# function body...

*Answer:*

The parameter without a default value (prompt) comes first, followed by the parameters with default values (prefix and answer).

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What single character is placed directly before the name of a *formal parameter*, to indicate that a variable number of actual parameters can be passed when the function is called?

*Answer:*

The single character that is placed directly before the name of a formal parameter to indicate that a variable number of actual parameters can be passed when the function is called is the asterisk (**\***).

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What commonly used built-in function, which displays output on the screen, can take a **variable number** of arguments?

*Answer:*

The commonly used built-in function which displays output on the screen that can take a variable number of arguments is the print() function.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Is it valid for a function’s parameter name to be prefixed by two asterisk characters ‘\*\*’ as shown below?

def send\_output(\*\*details):

# function body...

*Answer:*

Yes, it is valid for a function’s parameter name to be prefixed by two asterisk characters ‘\*\*’ as shown above.

If present, what does this prefix indicate?

*Answer:*

This prefix indicate ‘\*\*’ that the parameter is designed to collect an arbitrary number of keyword arguments.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

What is the name given to a small ‘anonymous’ function that must be defined using a single expression?

*Answer:*

The name given to a small ‘anonymous’ function that must be defined using a single expression is lambda function.

Give an example of such a function that calculates the *cube* of a given number (i.e. the value of the number raised to the power of three) -

*Answer:*

def calculate\_cube(number):

    cube = number \*\* 3

    return cube

result = calculate\_cube(4)

print("The cube of 4 is:", result)

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

## **Exercises are complete**

Save this logbook with your answers. Then ask your tutor to check your responses to each question.