PEP 8 Conventions

Some Important PEP 8 Rules

We will show you some important PEP 8 traditional rules that you can follow.

* Limit all lines to a maximum of **79 characters**. For flowing long blocks of text with fewer structural restrictions (docstrings or comments), the line length should be limited to **72 characters**. During this course, we will learn some ways of reducing the length of lines.
* **Spaces**are the preferred indentation method. **Tabs** should be used solely to remain consistent with code that is already indented with tabs. Python 3 disallows mixing the use of tabs and spaces for indentation.
* Avoid extraneous **whitespaces** in the following situations:

Immediately inside parentheses, brackets or braces :

**YES** : spam(meat[1], {milk: 2}) , **NO** : spam( meat[ 1 ], { milk: 2 } )

Between a trailing comma and a following close parenthesis :

**YES** : df[0,] or foo = (2,) , **NO** : df[0, ] or foo = (2, )

Immediately before a comma, semicolon, or colon :

**YES** : if y == 3: print x, y; x, y = y, x , **NO** : if y == 3 : print x , y ; x , y = y , x

Immediately before the open parenthesis that starts the argument list of a function call:

**YES** : print('peace') , **NO** : print ('peace')

More than one space around an assignment (or other) operator to align it with another:

| **YES** | **NO** |
| --- | --- |
| x = 3 | x =mmmmm3 |
| y = 4 | y =mmmmm4 |
| long\_vars = 5 | long\_vars = 5 |

Avoid trailing whitespace anywhere. Because it's usually invisible, it can be confusing: e.g. a backslash followed by a space and a newline does not count as a line continuation marker.

Always surround these binary operators with a single space on either side: assignment (=), augmented assignment (+=, -=, etc.), comparisons (==, <, >, !=, <>, <=, >=, in, not in, is, is not), Booleans (and, or, not).

Failure to follow the basic rules of PEP 8 does not make your program wrong or unable to work. In the near future, you will learn a lot about Python and become a more skilled programmer, but it will always be important to follow the code style.

There's nothing to worry about following PEP 8. You don't need to learn the traditional PEP 8 rules all at once right away. When you need it, you can open and read it now and then. We will also show you some PEP 8 conventions throughout this course.