**Zac:** Hey Mitchell, I’ve been diving into coding lately, but I’m kinda stuck on understanding functions. Any chance you could explain them?

**Mitchell:** Of course! Functions are basically reusable blocks of code that perform specific tasks. Instead of writing the same code multiple times, you can just call a function. What language are you working with?

**Zac:** Python, mostly. I get that functions make the code cleaner, but I’m struggling with parameters.

**Mitchell:** Ah, got it! Parameters let you pass values into a function. Think of it like ordering a pizza—you tell the restaurant what toppings you want. In Python, a function might look like this:

python

def greet(name):  
 print(f"Hello, {name}!")

**Zac:** So when I call greet("Zac"), it’ll print "Hello, Zac!"?

**Mitchell:** Exactly! You’re passing "Zac" as the argument, and the function uses it in the output.

**Zac:** That makes way more sense now. What about return statements?

**Mitchell:** A return statement lets the function give back a value instead of just printing something. Here’s an example:

python

def add\_numbers(a, b):  
 return a + b

Then, calling result = add\_numbers(3, 5) will store 8 in result.

**Zac:** That’s pretty cool. So instead of printing, I can use that returned value elsewhere?

**Mitchell:** Exactly! It makes functions much more powerful. Want me to show you how to use functions within a larger program?

**Zac:** Definitely. I feel like this is starting to click now!