

python - Day - 10 (Beginner)

Big picture of Day 10
Till Day 9:

- you used functions
- you passed inputs
- you printed outputs

Day 10 changes mindset:

function should RETURN values, not just print them

(1)

why print() is NOT enough
problem with print()

- when you use print() inside a function
- The value is shown on screen
- BUT you cannot reuse it

Example

```
def add(a, b):  
    print(a+b)
```

// This looks fine, but:

```
result = add(2, 3)  
print(result)
```

Output

5

None

why None!

Because `print()` does not give anything back to the caller

(2) what return actually does (VERY IMPORTANT)
what return means

return:

- Sends a value back to where the func is called
- Ends the function immediately

Example:

```
def add(a,b):  
    return a+b
```

result = add(3,2)

`print(result)`

Output

return = "Hey, take this value and use it outside"

(3) Difference Between `print` and `return`

`print()`

- Shows output
- Cannot be reused

- for debugging
- User sees it

`return`

- Sends output back
- Can be stored & reused

- for logic
- Program uses it

{ Use `print()` for humans }
{ Use `return` for programs }

(4)

Storing Returned values

Returned values can be:

- Stored in variables
- passed into other functions
- Used in conditions

Example:

```
def Square(n):  
    return n * n
```

```
x = Square(4)  
y = Square(x)  
print(y)
```

Output

256

(5) Multiple return Statements

A function can have more than one

return, but only one returns

Example:

```
def check_number(n):  
    if n > 0:  
        return "positive"  
    elif n < 0:  
        return "Negative"  
    else:  
        return "zero"
```

Once a return runs:

- function stops

- code below it is ignored

Anything after return is dead code

(*) Mini project - Calculator project (*) (*)

At the end of Day 10 you will build a text based calculator that:

- Asks the user for two numbers
- lets them choose an operation (+, -, *, /)
- Uses function return values to compute results
- Offers the option to continue calculations with the result or start fresh

Key takeaways from Day 10

- Referencing values makes your functions much more useful
- Mapping symbols to functions shows the power of python dictionaries.
- You now know how to build a small interactive program that keeps running until the user chooses to quit.