[Functions in Python](http://www.pythonforbeginners.com/basics/python-functions/" \o "Functions in Python)

1 Oct 2012   | [Basics](http://www.pythonforbeginners.com/category/basics/)

Tags: [Functions](http://www.pythonforbeginners.com/tag/functions/)

Functions

Please see the Functions Cheat Sheet for the most updated version:

<http://www.pythonforbeginners.com/python-functions-cheat-sheet/>

Why functions?

Reduce code tasks into simples tasks

Can easier split up the code between developers

Elimination of duplicate code

Reuse code

Get a good structure of the code

Easier debugging.

How do I create a function?

Must be defined before it's used.

The function blocks begin with the keyword def followed by the function name and

parentheses.

The function has to be named plus specify what parameter it has.

A function can use a number of arguments. Every argument is responding to a

parameter in the function.

The function often ends by returning a value using return.

Small Example

Let's demonstrate how this works.

Here we create a function by using the keyword "def" followed by the functions

name "name" and the parentheses ().

We indent the code and write what we want to accomplish in the function.

This function will just ask for the users name using the raw\_input function

and then return the value.

The script is "called" by simple typing the name of the function >> name()

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8 | def name():      # Get the user's name.      name = raw\_input('Enter your name: ')        # Return the name.      return name    name() |

More Reading

<http://python.org/>