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dir, __dict__ and help method in Python | Python Tutorial - Day #71



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Day 71 - dir(), __dict__ and help() methods in python

We must look into `dir()`, `__dict__()` and `help()` attribute/methods in python. They make it easy for us to understand how classes resolve various functions and executes code. In Python, there are three built-in functions that are commonly used to get information about objects: `dir()`, **dict**, and `help()`. Let's take a look at each of them:

The `dir()` method

`dir()`: The `dir()` function returns a list of all the attributes and methods (including dunder methods) available for an object. It is a useful tool for discovering what you can do with an object. Example:

```
>>> x = [1, 2, 3]
>>> dir(x)
['__add__', '__class__', '__contains__', '__delattr__', '__delitem__', '__dir__', '__doc__', '__eq__', ' '
```

The __dict__ attribute

`__dict__`: The `__dict__` attribute returns a dictionary representation of an object's attributes. It is a useful tool for introspection. Example:

```
>>> class Person:
...     def __init__(self, name, age):
...         self.name = name
...         self.age = age
...
>>> p = Person("John", 30)
>>> p.__dict__
```

Output

```
{'name': 'John', 'age': 30}
```

The help() method

`help()`: The `help()` function is used to get help documentation for an object, including a description of its attributes and methods. Example:

```
>>> help(str)
Help on class str in module builtins:

class str(object)
|   str(object='') -> str
|   str(bytes_or_buffer[, encoding[, errors]]) -> str
|
|   Create a new string object from the given object. If encoding or
|   errors is specified, then the object must expose a data buffer
|   that will be decoded using the given encoding and error handler.
|   Otherwise, returns the result of object.__str__() (if defined)
|   or repr(object).
|   encoding defaults to sys.getdefaultencoding().
|   ...
```

In conclusion, `dir()`, `dict`, and `help()` are useful built-in functions in Python that can be used to get information about objects. They are valuable tools for introspection and discovery.

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