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Summary

Python's built-in [unittest module](#) is a testing framework for creating unit and integration tests.

Tests are created inside of test cases. Test cases are created by subclassing the `unittest.TestCase` class. `TestCase` includes methods for performing setup and teardown, making assertions, among others.

Tests are defined by methods which start with the word **test**. Tests are located and run by the test runner.

The test runner can be started using the `unittest.main` callable. `unittest.main` can be configured with keyword arguments and or command line flags. The test runner can also be started by invoking the `unittest` module on the command line.

The `unittest` module is worth knowing because it's built into Python's standard library. Which makes it accessible without adding third-party dependencies.

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Point of Interest

The `unittest` module was based on a popular Java testing framework called `jUnit`. `unittest` ignores many of Python's idioms in favor of mirroring `jUnit`, which followed Java's idioms. There are third-party Pythonic testing libraries such as [Pytest](#). `Pytest` uses Python's `assert` keyword to make assertions rather than specific assertion methods. It also locates tests based on naming conventions which removes the need to subclass `unittest.TestCase`.

Example:

```
# content of test_sample.py
def inc(x):
    return x + 1
```

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Point of Interest

The unittest module was based on a popular Java testing framework called JUnit. Unittest ignores many of Python's idioms in favor of mirroring JUnit, which followed Java's idioms. There are third-party Pythonic testing libraries such as [Pytest](#). Pytest uses Python's assert keyword to make assertions rather than specific assertion methods. It also locates tests based on naming conventions which removes the need to subclass unittest.TestCase.

Example:

```
# content of test_sample.py
def inc(x):
    return x + 1

def test_answer():
    assert inc(3) == 5
```

To execute it:

```
$ pytest
===== test session starts =====
platform linux -- Python 3.x.y, pytest-7.x.y, pluggy-1.x.y
rootdir: /home/sweet/project
collected 1 item

test_sample.py F [100%]

===== FAILURES =====
test_answer
def test_answer():
> assert inc(3) == 5
E       assert 4 == 5
E       + where 4 = inc(3)

test_sample.py:6: AssertionError
===== short test summary info =====
FAILED test_sample.py::test_answer - assert 4 == 5
===== 1 failed in 0.12s =====
```

— [docs.pytest.org](#)

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