

- ◆ In Python, `def` is the keyword used to **define a function**. A function is a reusable block of code that performs a specific task.

Here is the basic syntax and examples.

Basic Syntax

This is the template for creating any function in Python:

Python

```
def function_name(parameter1, parameter2):
    """
        This is the docstring. It explains what the function does.
    """
    # Code block: The indented body of the function
    # ...
    return some_value # Optional: sends a value back
```

Key Parts Explained

- `def`: The keyword that tells Python you are about to **define a function**.
- `function_name`: The name you give to your function. It should be descriptive and follow Python's `snake_case` naming convention (all lowercase with underscores).
- `()`: Parentheses. This is where you list any **parameters** (inputs) the function needs. If the function takes no inputs, the parentheses are still required, but they will be empty.
- `:` (colon): Marks the end of the function's header.
- Indented Block**: The lines of code *inside* the function must be indented (usually by 4 spaces). This is the function's "body."
- `"""Docstring"""` (Optional but recommended): A string literal that explains the function's purpose, what its parameters are, and what it returns.
- `return` (Optional): The keyword used to send a value back from the function. If you don't include a `return` statement, the function automatically returns a special value called `None`.

Examples

Here are three common types of functions:

1. Simple Function (No inputs, no return value)

This function just performs an action (like printing to the screen).

Python

```
# --- Definition ---
def greet():
    """Prints a simple greeting."""
    print("Hello, world!")

# --- How to use (call) it ---
greet()
```

Output:

Hello, world!

2. Function with Parameters (Takes inputs)

This function takes an input (`a name`) and uses it.

Python

```
# --- Definition ---
def greet_person(name):
    """Prints a personalized greeting."""
    print(f"Hello, {name}! Welcome.")

# --- How to use (call) it ---
greet_person("Alice")
greet_person("Bob")
```

Output:

Hello, Alice! Welcome.
Hello, Bob! Welcome.

3. Function with Parameters and a Return Value

This function takes inputs, processes them, and **returns** a result that you can store in a variable.

Python

```
# --- Definition ---
def add_numbers(num1, num2):
    """Adds two numbers together and returns the sum."""
    total = num1 + num2
    return total
```

--- How to use (call) it ---
sum_result = add_numbers(5, 10)

```
print(f"The result is: {sum_result}")
print(f"10 + 15 is: {add_numbers(10, 15)}")
```

what is no parameter no return etc

- ◆ You're asking about the four basic types of functions, based on whether they **take inputs** (parameters) or **give back outputs** (return values).

Think of a function like a machine:

- Parameters** are the raw materials you put *into* the machine.
- Return Values** are the finished products that come *out* of the machine.

Here are the four combinations.

1. No Parameters, No Return Value

This type of function is like a simple button. You call it, and it just *does something* (an action). It doesn't need any input from you, and it doesn't hand anything back.

- Analogy:** Pressing a button on a coffee machine that's pre-programmed to make one specific drink. You give it no new info, and it just makes the drink (it doesn't hand you a *value*, it just performs the *action*).

- Purpose:** To run the exact same block of code every time.

Python

```
def show_menu():
    """Prints a fixed menu to the screen."""
    print("--- MENU ---")
    print("1. File")
    print("2. Edit")
    print("3. View")

# --- How to use it ---
show_menu()
```

Output:

The result is: 15
10 + 15 is: 25

Would you like to know about more advanced function features, like default parameter values or `*args` and `**kwargs`?

2. With Parameters, No Return Value

This function *takes input* (parameters) and uses that input to *do something*. It doesn't hand a value back to your program.

- Analogy:** A printer. You give it a document (a parameter), and it performs an action (prints the document). It doesn't give you anything *back* (except the physical paper, but it doesn't return *data* to your program).

- Purpose:** To perform an action that can be customized based on the input.

Python

```
def greet_person(name):
    """Takes a name and prints a custom greeting."""
    print(f"Hello, {name}. Welcome to the team.")

# --- How to use it ---
greet_person("Maria")
greet_person("David")
```

Output:

Hello, Maria. Welcome to the team!
Hello, David. Welcome to the team!

3. No Parameters, With Return Value

This function doesn't need any input from you. It runs, does some work (like getting data from a sensor, checking the time, or rolling a die), and then *hands a value back* to your code.

- Analogy:** A digital thermometer on the wall. You don't give it any input, you just *ask* it for the temperature, and it *returns* a value (like "22°C").

- Purpose:** To get a value that might change, like the current time, a random number, or user input.

Python

```
import random

def get_random_dice_roll():
    """Returns a random number between 1 and 6."""
    roll = random.randint(1, 6)
    return roll
```

```
# --- How to use it ---
# The 'return' value is assigned to the variable
my_roll = get_random_dice_roll()
print(f"You rolled a: {my_roll}")

if get_random_dice_roll() == 6:
    print("You rolled a 6!")
```

Output (will be random):

You rolled a: 4

4. With Parameters, With Return Value

This is the most common type of function. It *takes input* (parameters), *processes* that input, and *returns a new value* as a result.

- Analogy:** A calculator. You give it numbers and an operation (parameters, like `5` and `10`), and it *returns* a result (like `15`).

- Purpose:** To transform data and give you the result.

Python

```
def add(num1, num2):
    """Adds two numbers together and returns the sum."""
    total = num1 + num2
    return total
```

```
# --- How to use it ---
sum_result = add(5, 10)
print(f"The result is: {sum_result}")
```

Output:

The result is: 15

Summary Table

Function Type	Takes Input? (Parameters)	Gives Output? (Return Value)
Type 1	✗ No	✗ No
Type 2	✓ Yes	✗ No
Type 3	✗ No	✓ Yes
Type 4	✓ Yes	✓ Yes