

Python Turtle Guide

A quick reference for properties and commands, grouped by function

1. Appearance & Style

What it does	Command	Notes
Set turtle shape	<code>t.shape("turtle")</code>	Options: "arrow", "turtle", "circle", "square", "triangle", "classic"
Change turtle color	<code>t.color("blue")</code>	Sets both pen and fill color
Set pen and fill separately	<code>t.color("blue", "red")</code>	"pen color", "fill color"
Set fill color only	<code>t.fillcolor("orange")</code>	Used with <code>.begin_fill()</code> and <code>.end_fill()</code>
Change pen size	<code>t.pensize(5)</code>	In pixels
Change drawing speed	<code>t.speed(1)</code>	0 = instant, 1 (slowest) to 10 (fastest)
Stamp turtle shape	<code>t.stamp()</code>	Leaves a turtle-shaped stamp

2. Drawing & Pen Control

What it does	Command	Notes
Start filling a shape	<code>t.begin_fill()</code>	Use before drawing the shape
End filling a shape	<code>t.end_fill()</code>	Use after drawing the shape
Lift the pen (no drawing)	<code>t.penup()</code>	Turtle moves without drawing
Put the pen down (draw)	<code>t.pendown()</code>	Resumes drawing
Set pen color	<code>t.pencolor("green")</code>	Just pen line, not fill
Hide turtle icon	<code>t.hideturtle()</code>	Turtle still draws
Show turtle icon	<code>t.showturtle()</code>	Makes it visible again
Clear drawing (not position)	<code>t.clear()</code>	Clears the canvas
Reset turtle (full reset)	<code>t.reset()</code>	Clears and resets position and style

3. Motion & Direction

What it does	Command	Notes
Move forward	<code>t.forward(100)</code>	Moves in the current heading
Move backward	<code>t.backward(50)</code>	Moves opposite to heading
Turn right (clockwise)	<code>t.right(90)</code>	Angle in degrees
Turn left (counter-clockwise)	<code>t.left(45)</code>	Angle in degrees
Move to coordinates	<code>t.goto(x, y)</code>	Absolute position
Set direction (heading)	<code>t.setheading(90)</code>	0 = East, 90 = North, etc.
Face towards position	<code>t.towards(x, y)</code>	Returns angle to a point
Move to home (0, 0)	<code>t.home()</code>	Center of the screen
Circle drawing	<code>t.circle(radius)</code>	Positive = left, Negative = right

4. Positioning & Coordinates

What it does	Command	Notes
Get current position	<code>t.pos()</code>	Returns (x, y)
Get current heading angle	<code>t.heading()</code>	0–360 degrees
Check if pen is down	<code>t.isdown()</code>	Returns True or False
Distance to a point	<code>t.distance(x, y)</code>	Returns float

5. Screen Control

What it does	Command	Notes
Create screen	<code>screen = turtle.Screen()</code>	Needed for background settings
Set background color	<code>screen.bgcolor("skyblue")</code>	Nice for contrast
Set screen title	<code>screen.title("My Drawing")</code>	Window tab title
Close on click	<code>screen.exitonclick()</code>	Keeps window open until click