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Python

Lists

Centre for Environmental Data Analysis
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FACILITIES COUNCIL
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

software carpentry

National Centre for Atmospheric Science
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Loops let us do things many times

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Collections let us store many values together

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Collections let us store many values together

Most popular collection is a *list*

Create using `[value, value, ...]`

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Get/set values using `var[index]`

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Get/set values using `var[index]`

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Create using `[value, value, ...]`

Get/set values using `var[index]`

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']

print(gases[1])
Ne
```

Index from 0, not 1

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Reasons made sense for C in 1970...

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It's an error to try to access out of range

Index from 0, not 1

Reasons made sense for C in 1970...

It's an error to try to access out of range

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases[4])
```

```
IndexError: list index out of range
```

Use `len(list)` to get length of list

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```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
```

```
4
```

Use `len(list)` to get length of list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
```

```
4
```

Returns 0 for the *empty list*

```
etheric = []
print(len(etheric))
```

```
0
```

Some negative indices work

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`values[-1]` is last element, `values[-2]` next-to-last, ...

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`values[-1]` is last element, `values[-2]` next-to-last, ...

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Some negative indices work

`values[-1]` is last element, `values[-2]` next-to-last, ...

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases[-1], gases[-4])
```

```
Kr He
```

Some negative indices work

`values[-1]` is last element, `values[-2]` next-to-last, ...

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases[-1], gases[-4])
Kr He
```

`values[-1]` is much nicer than `values[len(values)-1]`

Some negative indices work

`values[-1]` is last element, `values[-2]` next-to-last, ...

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases[-1], gases[-4])
Kr He
```

`values[-1]` is much ~~nicer than~~ `values[len(values)-1]`

less error prone

Mutable : can change it after it is created

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```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
```

Mutable : can change it after it is created

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
gases[3] = 'Kr'
```

Mutable : can change it after it is created

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
gases[3] = 'Kr'
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Mutable : can change it after it is created

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
gases[3] = 'Kr'
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Location must exist before assignment

Mutable : can change it after it is created

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
gases[3] = 'Kr'
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Location must exist before assignment

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Mutable : can change it after it is created

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'K']  # last entry misspelled
gases[3] = 'Kr'
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Location must exist before assignment

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
gases[4] = 'Xe'
IndexError: list assignment index out of range
```

Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

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```
helium = ['He', 2]
neon = ['Ne', 8]
```

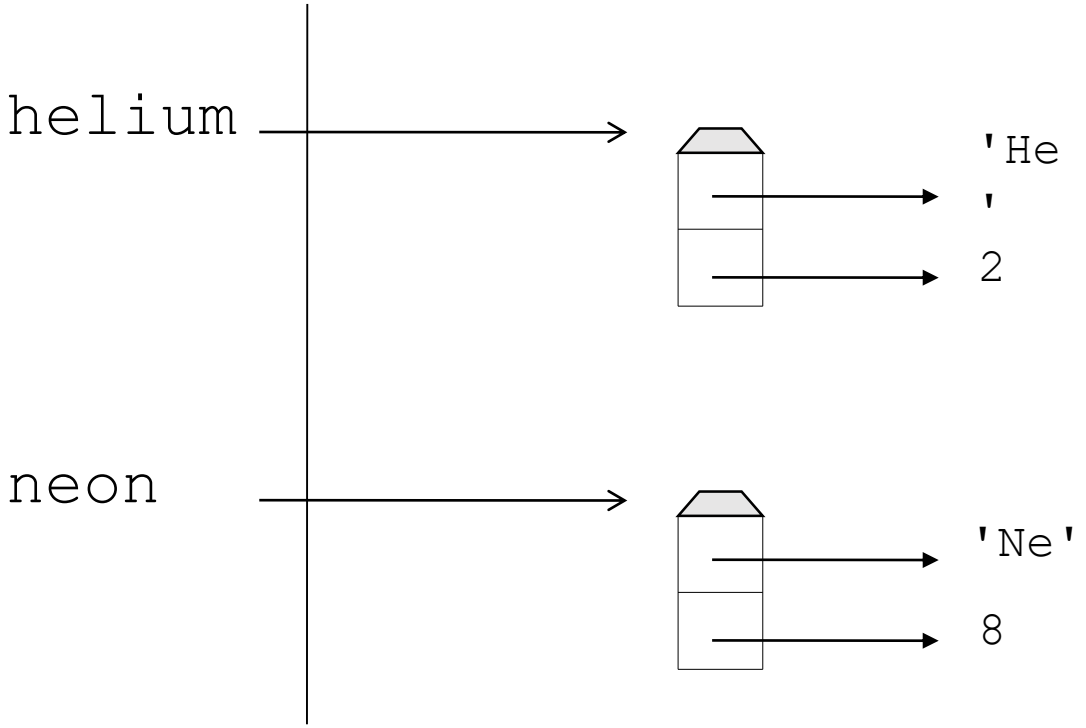
Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

```
helium = ['He', 2]
neon = ['Ne', 8]
```

[string, int]

Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

```
helium = ['He', 2]
neon = ['Ne', 8]
```



Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

```
helium = ['He', 2]
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gases = [helium, neon]
```

Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

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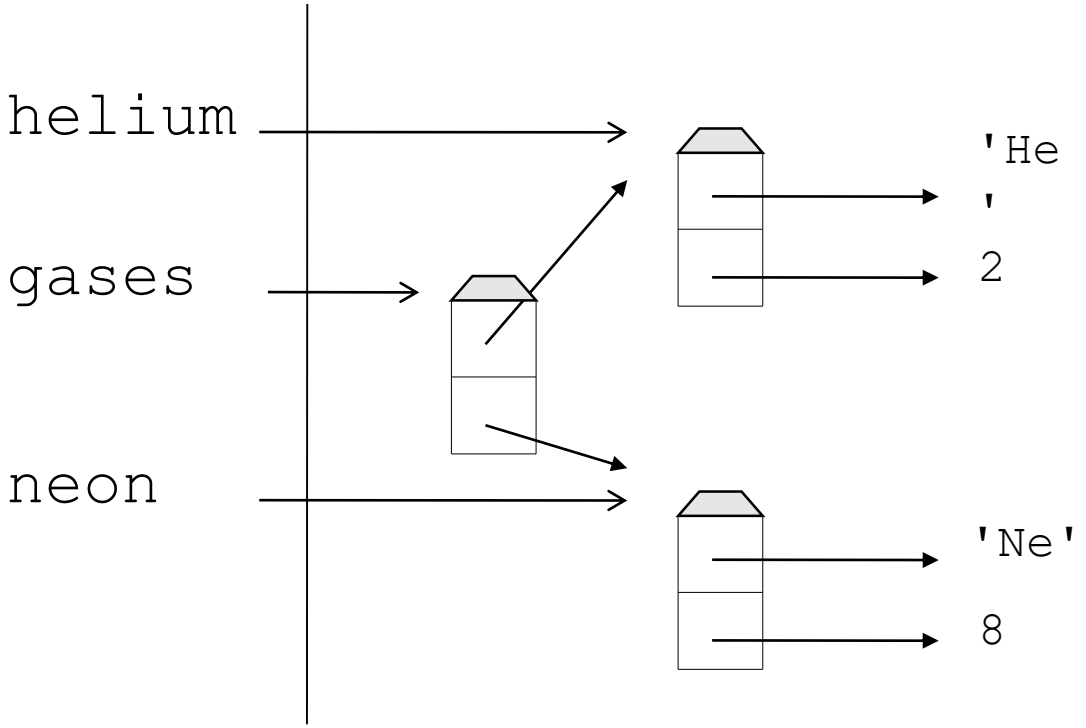
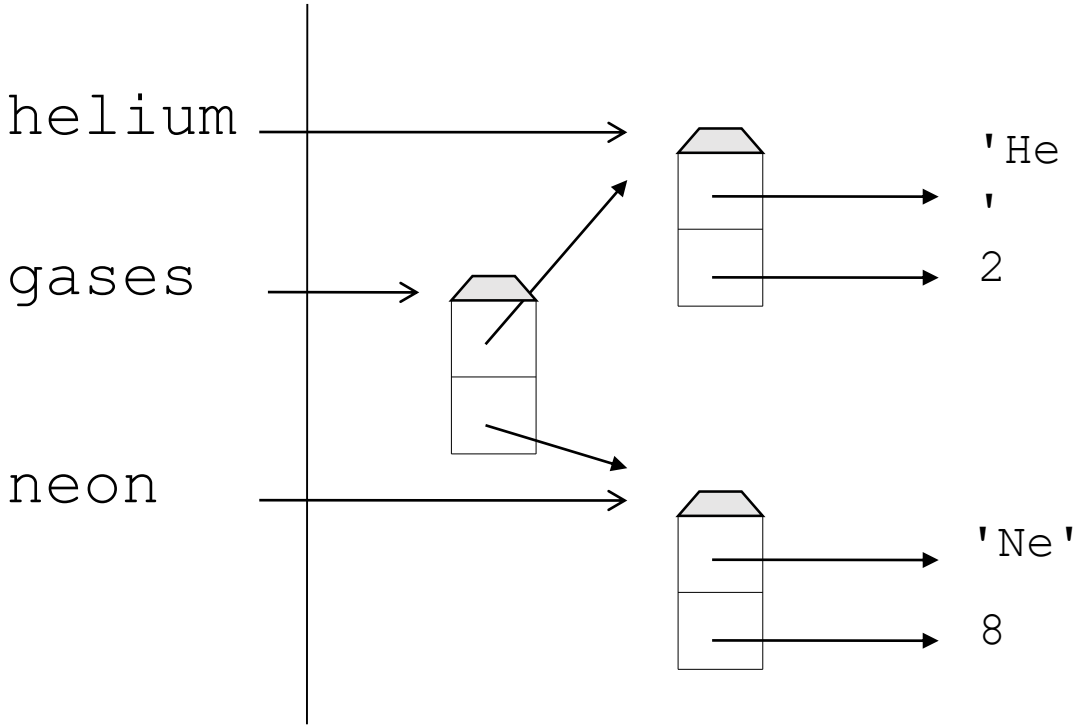


Heterogeneous : can store values of many kinds

```
helium = ['He', 2]
neon = ['Ne', 8]
gases = [helium, neon]
```



Devote a whole episode to this

Loop over elements to "do all"

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Use `while` to step through all possible indices

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Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

First legal index

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

Next index

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

Defines set of legal indices

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Tedious to type in over and over again

Loop over elements to "do all"

Use `while` to step through all possible indices

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
i = 0
while i < len(gases):
    print(gases[i])
    i += 1
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Tedious to type in over and over again

And it's easy to forget the "+= 1" at the end

Use a `for` loop to access each value in turn

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```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
for gas in gases:
    print(gas)
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Use a `for` loop to access each value in turn

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
for gas in gases:
    print(gas)
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Loop variable assigned each *value* in turn

Use a `for` loop to access each value in turn

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
for gas in gases:
    print(gas)
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Loop variable assigned each *value* in turn

Not each index

Use a `for` loop to access each value in turn

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
for gas in gases:
    print(gas)
```

```
He
Ne
Ar
Kr
```

Loop variable assigned each *value* in turn

Not each index

Because that's the most common case

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

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```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[0]
```

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[0]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[0]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[2]
```

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[0]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[2]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar']
```

Can delete entries entirely (shortens the list)

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[0]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
del gases[2]
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Ar']
```

Yes, deleting an index that doesn't exist is an error

Appending values to a list lengthens it

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
```

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
```

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
```

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
gases.append('Ar')
```

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
gases.append('Ar')
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar']
```

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
gases.append('Ar')
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar']
```

Most operations on lists are *methods*

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
gases.append('Ar')
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar']
```

Most operations on lists are *methods*

A function that belongs to (and usually operates on)

specific data

Appending values to a list lengthens it

```
gases = []
gases.append('He')
gases.append('Ne')
gases.append('Ar')
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar']
```

Most operations on lists are *methods*

A function that belongs to (and usually operates on)

specific data

```
thing . method (args)
```

Some useful list methods

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```
gases = ['He', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr'] # 'He' is duplicated
```

Some useful list methods

```
gases = ['He', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr'] # 'He' is duplicated
print(gases.count('He'))
2
```

Some useful list methods

```
gases = ['He', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr'] # 'He' is duplicated
print(gases.count('He'))
2
print(gases.index('Ar'))
2
```

Some useful list methods

```
gases = ['He', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr'] # 'He' is duplicated
print(gases.count('He'))
2
print(gases.index('Ar'))
2
gases.insert(1, 'Ne')
```

Some useful list methods

```
gases = ['He', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr'] # 'He' is duplicated
print(gases.count('He'))
2
print(gases.index('Ar'))
2
gases.insert(1, 'Ne')
print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'He', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

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```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
print(gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
print(gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']
print(gases.reverse())
None
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
print(gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']
print(gases.reverse())
None
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Kr', 'He', 'Ar']
```

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
print(gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']
print(gases.reverse())
None
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Kr', 'He', 'Ar']
```

A common bug

Two that are often used incorrectly

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(gases.sort())
None
print(gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']
print(gases.reverse())
None
print(gases)
['Ne', 'Kr', 'He', 'Ar']
```

A common bug

`gases = gases.sort()` assigns `None` to `gases`

There is an alternative built-in function for sorting:

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
s_gases = sorted(gases)
r_gases = sorted(gases, reverse=True)

print(gases)
['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']

print(s_gases)
['Ar', 'He', 'Kr', 'Ne']

print(r_gases)
['Ne', 'Kr', 'He', 'Ar']
```

Use `in` to test for membership

Use **`in`** to test for membership

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

Use **`in`** to test for membership

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print('He' in gases)
True
```

Use **in** to test for membership

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print('He' in gases)
True
if 'Pu' in gases:
    print('But plutonium is not a gas!')
else:
    print('The universe is well ordered.')
```

Use **in** to test for membership

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print('He' in gases)
True
if 'Pu' in gases:
    print('But plutonium is not a gas!')
else:
    print('The universe is well ordered.')
The universe is well ordered.
```

Use `range` to construct a range of numbers

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```
print(range(5))
```

```
range(0, 5)
```

Use `list(range)` to construct lists of numbers

Use `list(range)` to construct lists of numbers

```
print(list(range(5)))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
```

Use `list(range)` to construct lists of numbers

```
print(list(range(5)))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
print(list(range(2, 6)))
[2, 3, 4, 5]
```

Use `list(range)` to construct lists of numbers

```
print(list(range(5)))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
print(list(range(2, 6)))
[2, 3, 4, 5]
print(list(range(0, 10, 3)))
[0, 3, 6, 9]
```

Use `list(range)` to construct lists of numbers

```
print(list(range(5)))
[0, 1, 2, 3, 4]
print(list(range(2, 6)))
[2, 3, 4, 5]
print(list(range(0, 10, 3)))
[0, 3, 6, 9]
print(list(range(10, 0)))
[]
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
```

```
4
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
4
print(list(range(len(gases))))
[0, 1, 2, 3]
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
4
print(list(range(len(gases))))
[0, 1, 2, 3]
for i in range(len(gases)):
    print(i, gases[i])
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
4
print(list(range(len(gases))))
[0, 1, 2, 3]
for i in range(len(gases)):
    print(i, gases[i])
0 He
1 Ne
2 Ar
3 Kr
```

So `list(range(len(list)))` is all indices for the list

```
gases = ['He', 'Ne', 'Ar', 'Kr']
print(len(gases))
4
print(list(range(len(gases))))
[0, 1, 2, 3]
for i in range(len(gases)):
    print(i, gases[i])
0 He
1 Ne
2 Ar
3 Kr
```

A very common *idiom* in Python