



≡ Item Navigation

Formatting Strings Cheat Sheet

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Python offers different ways to format strings. In the video, we explained the `format()` method. In this reading, we'll highlight three different ways of formatting strings. For this course you only need to know the `format()` method. But on the internet, you might find any of the three, so it's a good idea to know that the others exist.

Using the `format()` method

The `format` method returns a copy of the string where the `{}` placeholders have been replaced with the values of the variables. These variables are converted to strings if they weren't strings already. Empty placeholders are replaced by the variables passed to `format` in the same order.

```
1  # "base string with {} placeholders".format(variables)
2
3  example = "format() method"
4
5  formatted_string = "this is an example of using the {} on a string".format(example)
6
7  print(formatted_string)
8
9  """Outputs:
10 this is an example of using the format() method on a string
11 """
```

If the placeholders indicate a number, they're replaced by the variable corresponding to that order (starting at zero).

```
1  # "{0} {1}".format(first, second)
2
3  first = "apple"
4  second = "banana"
5  third = "carrot"
6
7  formatted_string = "{0} {2} {1}".format(first, second, third)
```