

Text

The `str` class is the most obvious text processing tool available to Python programmers, but there are plenty of other tools in the standard library to make advanced text manipulation simple.

Programs may use `string.Template` as a simple way to parameterize strings beyond the features of `str` objects. While not as feature-rich as templates defined by many of the web frameworks or extension modules available from the Python Package Index, `string.Template` is a good middle ground for user-modifiable templates in which dynamic values need to be inserted into otherwise static text.

The [`textwrap`](#) module includes tools for formatting text from paragraphs by limiting the width of output, adding indentation, and inserting line breaks to wrap lines consistently.

The standard library includes two modules for comparing text values that go beyond the built-in equality and sort comparison supported by string objects. [`re`](#) provides a complete regular expression library, implemented in C for speed. Regular expressions are well suited for finding substrings within a larger data set, comparing strings against a pattern more complex than another fixed string, and mild parsing.

[`difflib`](#), in contrast, computes the actual differences between sequences of text in terms of the parts added, removed, or changed. The output of the comparison functions in [`difflib`](#) can be used to provide more detailed feedback to the user about where changes occur in two inputs, how a document has changed over time, and so on.

- [string — Text Constants and Templates](#)
- [textwrap — Formatting Text Paragraphs](#)
- [re — Regular Expressions](#)
- [difflib — Compare Sequences](#)

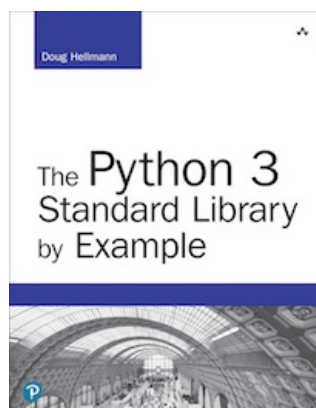
[Python 3 Module of the Week](#)

[string — Text Constants and Templates](#)

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Navigation

- [Python 3 Module of the Week](#)
- [string — Text Constants and Templates](#)



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The output from all the example programs from PyMOTW-3 has been generated with Python 3.7.1, unless otherwise noted. Some of the features described here may not be available in earlier versions of Python.

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This Site

- [Module Index](#)
- [Index](#)



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