

CAREER*FOUNDRY*

Python for Web Developers Learning Journal

Objective

We find that the students who do particularly well in our courses are those who practice metacognition. Metacognition is the art of thinking about thinking; developing a deeper understanding of your own thought processes. With the help of this Learning Journal, you'll broaden your metacognitive knowledge and skills by reflecting on what you learn in this course.

Thanks to this Learning Journal, when you finish the course you'll have a complete and detailed record of your learning journey and progress over time. We really recommend that you take the time to complete this Journal; students do better in CF courses and in the working world as a result!

Directions

First, complete the pre-work section before you start your course. Then, once you've begun learning, take time after each Exercise to return to this Journal and respond to the prompts.

There will be 3 to 5 prompts per Exercise, and we recommend spending about 10 to 15 minutes in total answering them. Don't overthink it—just write whatever comes to mind!

Also make sure that, once you've started filling this document in, you upload it as a deliverable on the platform. This is so that your mentor can also see your Journal and how you're progressing over time. Don't worry though—what you write here won't affect how you're graded for the Exercise tasks. The learning journal is mostly for you and your self-evaluation!

Pre-Work: Before You Start the Course

Reflection questions (to complete before your first mentor call)

1. What experiences have you had with coding and/or programming so far? What other experiences (programming-related or not) have you had that may help you as you progress through this course?

I completed the front end and full stack immersion courses for careerfoundry. I have taken some coding classes in high school, where I learned some C++.

2. What do you know about Python already? What do you want to know?

I know almost nothing about Python, except that many people love using the language because it's "simple" and "easy to read".

3. What challenges do you think may come up while you take this course? What will help you face them? Think of specific spaces, people, and times of day of week that might be favorable to your facing challenges and growing. Plan for how to solve challenges that arise.

I think I will have technical difficulty, during the full-stack immersion course specifically, there were many points where the reading didn't match what I had to do exactly and it made for very frustrating experiences. I was eventually able to get through it, but I hope there are not as many differences in this python course. I am hoping my mentor is encouraging and active so I am able to come to them with the problems.

Exercise 1.1: Getting Started with Python

Learning Goals

- Summarize the uses and benefits of Python for web development
- Prepare your developer environment for programming with Python

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, what is the difference between frontend and backend web development? If you were hired to work on backend programming for a web application, what kinds of operations would you be working on?

Frontend is what the user sees, it is more about the design of a website and users can see what a frontend developer is doing to the website. Backend makes me think of people who work on the servers and it feels like the structure of the site. Backend is

also harder for a user to see because it's a lot of communicating with things unseen. If I was hired for backend programming I would be working on things like SQL and MongoDB to work on servers and databases.

2. Imagine you're working as a full-stack developer in the near future. Your team is asking for your advice on whether to use JavaScript or Python for a project, and you think Python would be the better choice. How would you explain the similarities and differences between the two languages to your team? Drawing from what you learned in this Exercise, what reasons would you give to convince your team that Python is the better option?

There are many reasons to choose both options, but my pitch for Python would start at how readable it is, which is good especially if not everybody knows JavaScript or Python. It would be easier for everybody to learn Python than JavaScript. Python also comes with many packages and it has a very simple packaging system. Like the Node Package Manager, Python has virtual environments that can be used on individual parts of an app so the app can run faster.

3. Now that you've had an introduction to Python, write down 3 goals you have for yourself and your learning during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps you. What do you want to learn about Python? What do you want to get out of this Achievement? Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

I want to become proficient enough in Python to use it for my own projects. I want to be able to put it on a resume and work in the field with Python because I do enjoy backend, so having a well-known and simple language to start working with sounds very appealing. I hope to start helping people make their own websites soon and eventually move on to bigger things like making games with it, if possible!

Exercise 1.2: Data Types in Python

Learning Goals

- Explain variables and data types in Python
- Summarize the use of objects in Python
- Create a data structure for your Recipe app

Reflection Questions

1. Imagine you're having a conversation with a future colleague about whether to use the iPython Shell instead of Python's default shell. What reasons would you give to explain the benefits of using the iPython Shell over the default one?

The iPython shell is much more readable for coders and even non-coders. The iPython shell can also let you test out snippets of code. The default shell is viewed like how you would read a book, but the iPython shell numbers each line, spaces them out, shows what you typed with **In** and what the output is with **Out**. The iPython shell also automatically indents. Basically, it's legible and simple to use, compared to the default shell which becomes a chunk of text fast with no spacing or simplicity.

2. Python has a host of different data types that allow you to store and organize information. List 4 examples of data types that Python recognizes, briefly define them, and indicate whether they are scalar or non-scalar.

Data type	Definition	Scalar or Non-Scalar?
Float	A number with decimal points. Can be extremely small or extremely large, positive or negative	Scaler
String	A string is used for a character or characters. Can be letters, numbers, special characters, spaces, in quotes	NS
List	A list is showing a collection of items. Can be anything in the list including other lists	NS
Dictionary	A dictionary is similar to a list, except this shows key-value pairs so each item is matched with a key	NS

3. A frequent question at job interviews for Python developers is: what is the difference between lists and tuples in Python? Write down how you would respond.

Lists are mutable and Tuples are immutable. So lists can be changed easily, while a Tuple you can never change (you can copy the information into a new tuple, but you don't change the original). Lists are more practical, even if you aren't sure whether you will be changing anything, if there is a chance you should always use a list. A tuple is best for a collection of things that you don't want being changed by anyone.

4. In the task for this Exercise, you decided what you thought was the most suitable data structure for storing all the information for a recipe. Now, imagine you're creating a language-learning app that helps users memorize vocabulary through flashcards. Users can input vocabulary words, definitions, and their category (noun, verb, etc.) into the flashcards. They can then quiz themselves by flipping through the flashcards. Think about the necessary data types and what would be the most suitable data structure for this language-learning app. Between tuples, lists, and dictionaries, which would you choose? Think about their respective advantages and limitations, and where flexibility might be useful if you were to continue developing the language-learning app beyond vocabulary memorization.]

The most obvious solution is just using a Dictionary, since key-value pairs make the most sense. For example, the key will be the word and the item will be the definition. If not a dictionary, I would do a list since the list will need to keep growing for the new flashcards being created. You could create two lists, one for words and one for definitions. Then you just go through the list of definitions and try to match it with the list of words. I would least likely use a tuple since it is immutable, but I could see some use cases for it. For instance, if it was an app created for the user where all the words were in many tuples for different levels and everything was already created for the student, nothing needs to be added.

Exercise 1.3: Functions and Other Operations in Python

Learning Goals

- Implement conditional statements in Python to determine program flow
- Use loops to reduce time and effort in Python programming
- Write functions to organize Python code

Reflection Questions

1. In this Exercise, you learned how to use **if-elif-else** statements to run different tasks based on conditions that you define. Now practice that skill by writing a script for a simple travel app using an **if-elif-else** statement for the following situation:
 - The script should ask the user where they want to travel.
 - The user's input should be checked for 3 different travel destinations that you define.

- If the user's input is one of those 3 destinations, the following statement should be printed: "Enjoy your stay in ____!"
- If the user's input is something other than the defined destinations, the following statement should be printed: "Oops, that destination is not currently available."

Write your script here. (Hint: remember what you learned about indents!)

```
place = input('Where are you traveling?')
if place == "Berlin":
    print('Enjoy your stay in Berlin!')
elif place == "Canada":
    print('Enjoy your stay in Canada!')
elif place == "Antarctica":
    print('Enjoy your stay in Antarctica!')
else:
    print('Oops, that destination is not currently available.')
```

2. Imagine you're at a job interview for a Python developer role. The interviewer says "Explain logical operators in Python". Draft how you would respond.

Logical Operators in python are "and", "or" and "not", which in some other languages are "&&", "||" and "!" which I'm more familiar with and are mostly used in conditional statements. Use "and" to describe ALL things that need to pass in a conditional, like $x > 8$ and $y < 2$. BOTH statements have to be true, x has to be less than 10 and y has to be greater than 2. Use "or" to describe at least ONE thing that needs to pass, like $a < 100$ or $b > 10$. Here, if a is less than 100 then the statement passes before even checking if b is greater than 10 because only 1 of the statements needs to be true (both could be true). Use "not" to describe something that cannot be true for the statement to continue, like if $a \neq b$. This means that if a does NOT equal b then the if statement is true and will continue.

3. What are functions in Python? When and why are they useful?

Functions are EXTREMELY helpful in Python. A function is used to create a simpler way of doing a task. For example, if you have to add the prices of all the ingredients you buy, you can create a function where you enter in all the prices and the function

adds them all up. It feels like a machine that you create the directions for and then you put something in it that will follow the directions you set the function to follow, usually returning something back to you. They are great for efficiency when doing the same thing over and over again, but they are also good just for legibility. A function like “monthlySpending” could have many strings, lists, ints, and all sorts of things within it, but the name itself lets you know it will be looking for how much you spent in the month.

4. In the section for Exercise 1 in this Learning Journal, you were asked in question 3 to set some goals for yourself while you complete this course. In preparation for your next mentor call, make some notes on how you’ve progressed towards your goals so far.

I already feel comfortable with Python, in the sense that I could start a project and look up more tutorials to complete them. I don’t think I could start creating websites with it yet, but I do feel like I will be able to soon. It’s a very intuitive language and I will be able to put it onto my resume soon I’m sure. Also, I’ve been enjoying it so much I have been looking at more backend jobs because of it. Very excited for the logical thinking that comes with backend!

Exercise 1.4: File Handling in Python

Learning Goals

- Use files to store and retrieve data in Python

Reflection Questions

1. Why is file storage important when you’re using Python? What would happen if you didn’t store local files?

You need files to be saved in storage for you to read and write with. You need to get files, you need to add to files, you need to create new ones, all of this is necessary to do anything online. Python storage is important also for testing, since when you create an app and test it, if you don’t store it all that data is lost so when trying to work on data produced after you close and reopen the app, it’s not possible.

2. In this Exercise you learned about the pickling process with the `pickle.dump()` method. What are pickles? In which situations would you choose to use pickles and why?

Pickling is used when you need to use data over multiple sessions. For instance, I created a recipes list in an exercise I've already completed, but when I want to reference the recipes I made in that last I cannot because I am not still in that session. Pickling lets you turn files into binary and lets you read binary so you are able to save/store data and read/write in it as well.

3. In Python, what function do you use to find out which directory you're currently in? What if you wanted to change your current working directory?

You'll have to import `os`, but after doing that you can use `os.getcwd()` to see where you are and `os.chdir()` to change the current working directory.

4. Imagine you're working on a Python script and are worried there may be an error in a block of code. How would you approach the situation to prevent the entire script from terminating due to an error?

You can use try-except blocks to prevent the entire script from terminating. So you put the code that could cause the error into the try block and if no error occurs, it will skip the except block/s. However, if an error does occur it will lead into the except block linked to that error or linked to all errors. It will then complete the except block, which is usually just printing what the error is, and then continue with the rest of the code.

5. You're now more than halfway through Achievement 1! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What's something you're proud of so far? Is there something you're struggling with? What do you need more practice with? Feel free to use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

I definitely need more help with "for loop" practice and I need to start getting more comfortable using repetitive lines of code. For instance, the except block with `except Exception as e:` and other things that are common, but not common to me yet. I am proud that I even made it to python and I will be excited when I feel myself getting more used to this coding using logical thinking, compared to the front-end creative thinking.

Exercise 1.5: Object-Oriented Programming in Python

Learning Goals

- Apply object-oriented programming concepts to your Recipe app

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, what is object-oriented programming? What are the benefits of OOP?

Object-oriented programming creates a much more organized way of coding. You create a class holding all of the variables and methods you create, then you can call on them to do whatever tasks you need to do, all within that class. You can have subclasses inherit things from the parent class, but besides that most classes are separate so it feels like you're typing an entire file of code into these smaller classes. Compare this to how I created the recipes in ex 1.4, all the code was put in a specific order on 1 file and now it's all within a class that you can just call on and reuse constantly.

2. What are objects and classes in Python? Come up with a real-world example to illustrate how objects and classes work.

Classes are what you use to create objects. You create the class to hold on the information and create the methods and/or variables that the object will be able to use. Then you create an object that can use those limits that the methods and variables describe. An example would be like a Book class where you can create an object called 1984. Book could have methods like `get_author()` and `get_title()`. It will also have an `__init__` section where you can have all the information about the book when you enter it in.

3. In your own words, write brief explanations of the following OOP concepts; 100 to 200 words per method is fine.

Method	Description
Inheritance	A subclass can inherit things from the parent class. This helps decrease redundancy in code. So an animal class can give its subclass the name and age, but the animal itself can have its own method to speak.
Polymorphism	Going along with the animals speaking, you can have the same method mean different things for different classes, this is polymorphism. So 2 different subclasses could both have speak, but lets say it's 2 different people who speak different languages then Matt.speak() could say "hello" while Sam.speak() could say "hola"
Operator Overloading	Operator overloading is when you want to use an operator with two different objects so you make it a method inside the class. For instance, you can't just add two different objects even if they are only made up of numbers, you would have to create an __add__() method so you could add height1 + height2.

Exercise 1.6: Connecting to Databases in Python

Learning Goals

- Create a MySQL database for your Recipe app

Reflection Questions

1. What are databases and what are the advantages of using them?

Databases store lots of information for users and can keep all that information secure. Databases will often still let you read, update, add, and delete things you have stored in your database.

2. List 3 data types that can be used in MySQL and describe them briefly:

Data type	Definition
VARCHAR(n)	String of a variable length where n is the max amount of characters allowed. May contain numbers/letters/specials characters
FLOAT	A “floating-point” decimal number. Basically like any number with a decimal place.
BOOLEAN	Stores True or False values, nothing else. Not True or False strings, but if something is True or False like 1 == 1 is True.

3. In what situations would SQLite be a better choice than MySQL?

SQLite is better for smaller jobs and it is more efficient since it is portable. It is also very user-friendly so it is easier for anybody to learn, especially easier than MySQL.

4. Think back to what you learned in the Immersion course. What do you think about the differences between JavaScript and Python as programming languages?

Python seemed much easier to read at first because a lot of it felt like I was just typing in English. “For this in that.” However, when using it with a database it becomes more difficult again, using very specific language and a LOT of repetition I would assume they would want to avoid. For instance, in part 1.5 you had to type “self” a lot even for obvious things and in this part it is a lot of `conn.execute()`. It seems like there could be simpler ways, like if you label a file at the top or in the name so you don’t have to type `conn.execute()` every time and instead can just type `INSERT INTO` or `SELECT`. JavaScript had some repetitiveness as well, but I just did not notice it as much and JavaScript feels like parts were typed out more in-depth which could make things more confusing, but once you got used to it actually made things more readable than python sometimes.

5. Now that you’re nearly at the end of Achievement 1, consider what you know about Python so far. What would you say are the limitations of Python as a programming language?

As I mentioned before, lots of repetition in the language. Having to follow the order it is seen in the file can also be frustrating, but luckily, an easy fix. Since indentation is so important it causes lots of errors, but this is also kind of a good thing since everybody has to have the same indentation for their code to work so it is more legible.

Exercise 1.7: Finalizing Your Python Program

Learning Goals

- Interact with a database using an object-relational mapper
- Build your final command-line Recipe application

Reflection Questions

1. What is an Object Relational Mapper and what are the advantages of using one?

Everything is much more efficient with an Object Relational Mapper. Everything in the table is mapped to an object that you can just refer to, like how we did it before. So all the calls can be made on an object and not everything has to use querying or other techniques only available to SQL.

2. By this point, you've finished creating your Recipe app. How did it go? What's something in the app that you did well with? If you were to start over, what's something about your app that you would change or improve?

I was able to add some more creative flair to the project which I like. I think I did really well with noticing the patterns in things and that helped me build the newest one faster. If I was going to start over I would definitely improve the error handling. I still don't have the best grasp on handling errors when things go wrong, so most of the code just has if statements that follow if the correct thing was input. I definitely need to add more if-else statements.

3. Imagine you're at a job interview. You're asked what experience you have creating an app using Python. Taking your work for this Achievement as an example, draft how you would respond to this question.

I've worked in python creating recipe apps. I've created them using OOP, using MySQL, and then putting them together with Object-Relational Mapping. I have experience in using Databases like MySQL. Along with this I have allowed users to create new entries. I've also allowed them to read, edit, and remove other entries. All

of this being done using the MySQL language AND using Object-Relational Mapping as well.

4. You've finished Achievement 1! Before moving on to Achievement 2, take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far:
 - a. What went well during this Achievement?
 - b. What's something you're proud of?
 - c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
 - d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Python skills?
 - e. What's something you want to keep in mind to help you do your best in Achievement 2?

A-C. The best part of this achievement was making the final project and not having to look up as much information as other parts. I had a lot of small typos or things, but I never got stuck to the point where I felt like I needed to relearn parts of the achievement on my own. The most challenging part of this achievement is definitely how tedious python is when using it with MySQL especially. I feel like there is a lot of repetition in the code and lots of random things I had to memorize because I was using many different things constantly. For instance, how each query was written, if it had filter, like, or both. It was a lot of memorizing at the end, in the last two exercises it felt like I just relearned the same thing, but in a different way so it was new memorization. Also, everything needs to be written perfectly, including the error handling, which I am not the best at so I struggled to keep my app working if the user input was invalid.

D. I had a feeling that Python would be easy, which it was at points. Especially, when learning the key features, but it got much harder when adding other things like databases. I have more confidence to start working in python, I still feel very much like a beginner, but I'd be happy to try again. Maybe not with MySQL though.

E. Map out what the task entails. First read everything and understand the best way to go about it. The final task including that chart helped a lot. Also, work on try-except boxes while coding. Don't leave them for after it's all done because it gets confusing once it's all finished. Also, maybe try adding more loops, specifically while loops in your code so that way tasks can be performed multiple times if the user input is invalid.

Well done—you’ve now completed the Learning Journal for Achievement 1. As you’ll have seen, a little metacognition can go a long way!

Pre-Work: Before You Start Achievement 2

In the final part of the learning journal for Achievement 1, you were asked if there’s anything—on reflection—that you’d keep in mind and do similarly or differently during Achievement 2. Think about these questions again:

- Was your study routine effective during Achievement 1? If not, what will you do differently during Achievement 2?
- Reflect on your learning and project work for Achievement 1. What were you most proud of? How will you repeat or build on this in Achievement 2?
- What difficulties did you encounter in the last Achievement? How did you deal with them? How could this experience prepare you for difficulties in Achievement 2?

Note down your answers and discuss them with your mentor in a call if you like.

Remember that you can always refer to [Exercise 1.4](#) of the Orientation course if you’re not sure whom to reach out to for help and support.

Exercise 2.1: Getting Started with Django

Learning Goals

- Explain MVT architecture and compare it with MVC
- Summarize Django’s benefits and drawbacks
- Install and get started with Django

Reflection Questions

1. Suppose you’re a web developer in a company and need to decide if you’ll use vanilla (plain) Python for a project, or a framework like Django instead. What are the advantages and drawbacks of each?

Django is useful if you are working on the front and backend of a project and it makes projects more efficient. It has a very specific style though so if not everybody

understands it or is willing to understand then it may not be the best fit. Also, if the projects are smaller, you may not need to use a framework since it may be too much unnecessary downloading. Besides that it's very scalable, so big projects work very well with it. And it is an open-source project so there is a lot of support if you are trying to do something you're not familiar with.

2. In your own words, what is the most significant advantage of Model View Template (MVT) architecture over Model View Controller (MVC) architecture?

MVT is more efficient than MVC. MVT will handle the low-level operations and control the flow of the work. MVC you have to code everything by hand. MVT is much better since you will be using a framework like Django to handle parts of the work for you. There are some advantages to MVC as well like working on smaller projects, you can use the Flask framework.

3. Now that you've had an introduction to the Django framework, write down three goals you have for yourself and your learning process during this Achievement. You can reflect on the following questions if it helps:
 - What do you want to learn about Django?
 - What do you want to get out of this Achievement?
 - Where or what do you see yourself working on after you complete this Achievement?

I would like to learn more about Django to make my python coding much faster. I think a lot of my time is spent more on typing the same things over and over again and less on the logic parts of code. I'm also excited to understand how to connect python to the front end. I really enjoy python so hopefully I will be able to become more proficient in this language and I would be happy to get a job in Python because it feels easy for me to understand and anything I don't understand so far, I've been able to look up more tutorials online to better my understanding.

Exercise 2.2: Django Project Set Up

Learning Goals

- Describe the basic structure of a Django project
- Summarize the difference between projects and apps
- Create a Django project and run it locally
- Create a superuser for a Django web application

Reflection Questions

1. Suppose you're in an interview. The interviewer gives you their company's website as an example, asking you to convert the website and its different parts into Django terms. How would you proceed? For this question, you can think about your dream company and look at their website for reference.

(Hint: In the Exercise, you saw the example of the CareerFoundry website in the Project and Apps section.)

The whole youtube website can be seen as a project. In the youtube project there are apps like: Login, Videos, Profile, YoutubeLive, and Youtube Shorts. All of these Apps can be used with the configuration files and database. Some can be used for multiple purposes. For instance the Login and Profile can be used with the Google Login and Profile, since the processes are interchangeable. Except, you may want your profile page to look different so you would then choose to keep those separate. However, the login can be the same, which will be even easier since they are owned by the same company.

2. In your own words, describe the steps you would take to deploy a basic Django application locally on your system.

I actually wrote down the steps in my notes as I went along, so I will just paste them here, directly from my own notes!

How to set up a site in Django:

1. Make a new virtual environment with "**mkvirtualenv** App-Name"

2. Open that new virtual environment, for now it's all in the same folder so it's this command:

C:\Users\smart\Envs**App-Name**\Scripts\Activate.ps1

3. Install Django after you activate the new virtual environment:

```
'pip install django'
```

4. cd into where you want the project to go and then start the project with:

```
"django-admin.exe startproject project_name"
```

This will create the project folder and another of the same name inside. Change the OUTERMOST folder of the same name to "**src**"

5. Then cd into the renamed "**src**" folder and migrate (create/update the database):

```
"py manage.py migrate"
```

6. Still in "src" folder, which is where most of the commands should be written on the command line, you will create a super user to read/update/etc.:

```
python manage.py createsuperuser
```

7. You can check to make sure it is created with:

```
py manage.py runserver
```

After running the site you can do this: <http://127.0.0.1:8000/admin/>

8. When adding more apps to your project, you will run:

```
py manage.py startapp small-app-name
```

This will create a new folder in src called "small-app-name" and it will come with its own migrations, init.py, admin.py, apps.py, models.py, tests.py, and views.py. This is how all the parts of the project will be created. Through the **startapp** command the login and other parts will be made.

3. Do some research about the Django admin site and write down how you'd use it during your web application development.

You can use all the CRUD applications from the Django admin site: Create, Read, Update, Delete. You can also have multiple super users, but integrate the authentication into the admin site so only certain users have specific access to the site. The admin site lets you do a lot of the simple coding with just some clicks on the website. It's very useful for efficiency.

Exercise 2.3: Django Models

Learning Goals

- Discuss Django models, the "M" part of Django's MVT architecture
- Create apps and models representing different parts of your web application
- Write and run automated tests

Reflection Questions

1. Do some research on Django models. In your own words, write down how Django models work and what their benefits are.

When you create a Django model, you are creating a class that stores all the information about an object. You can store the string identity of the object, you can store all kinds of functions. Then, once migrating the modules over to the database you can work with them and see all of them.

2. In your own words, explain why it is crucial to write test cases from the beginning of a project. You can take an example project to explain your answer.

As explained in the exercise the VT of MVT, the view and template, both come after the model. Without test cases, you could go through all of your project and not realize until much later that something is wrong in the model. If this happens, then you will need to change the model, the view, and the template. Compared to if you just caught it early.

Tests are a good preventative measure to make sure that specific thing you're testing for never fails, or if it does, you will know at which moment you broke something.

Exercise 2.4: Django Views and Templates

Learning Goals

- Summarize the process of creating views, templates, and URLs
- Explain how the "V" and "T" parts of MVT architecture work
- Create a frontend page for your web application

Reflection Questions

1. Do some research on Django views. In your own words, use an example to explain how Django views work.

Django views are like the CRUD of python. The views are what interprets the data given by the user and responds to it. An example would be, if you wanted to get a list of movies, the view would run so it can figure out which link to send you to for the answer.

2. Imagine you're working on a Django web development project, and you anticipate that you'll have to reuse lots of code in various parts of the project. In this scenario, will you use Django function-based views or class-based views, and why?

Class-based views are best in this scenario because similar to making classes in python normally, they are easily reusable. They can be quite difficult to make at first since they are all encompassing, but once the one is made you can use it throughout the project easily.

3. Read Django's documentation on the Django template language and make some notes on its basics.

Variables are surrounded by double brackets `{{ variable }}` when using them in strings. Comments are made like this: `{# comment #}` or for multiple lines `{%multi-line%`

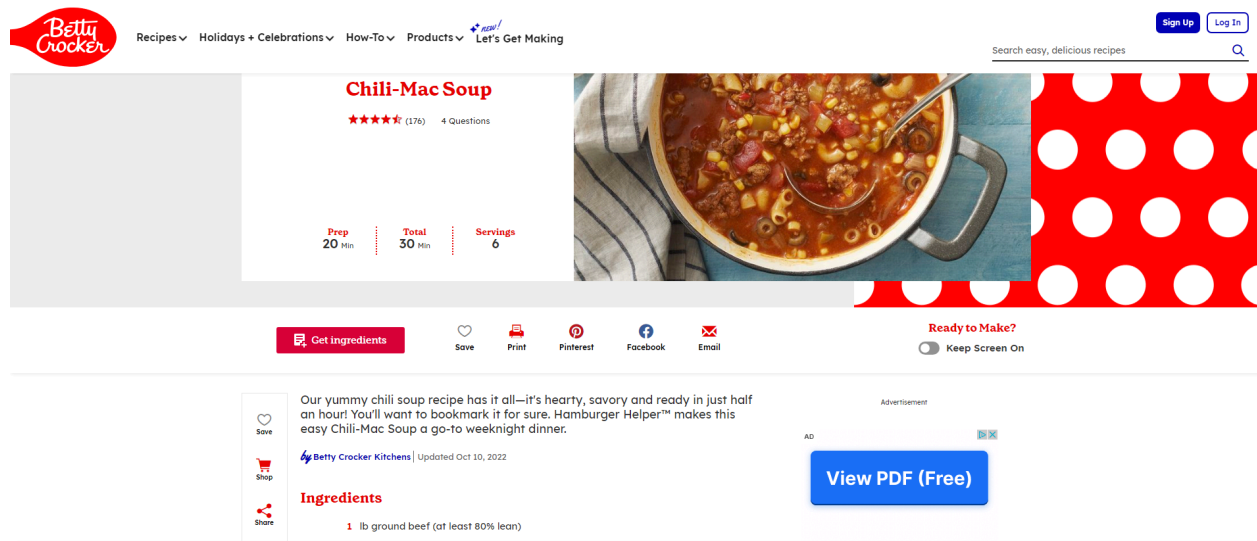
Django supports template inheritance, allowing you to create a base template with common elements and extend it in child templates. Good for code reuse and makes it easy to maintain consistent layouts across multiple pages.

Exercise 2.5: Django MVT Revisited

Learning Goals

- Add images to the model and display them on the frontend of your application
- Create complex views with access to the model
- Display records with views and templates



Frontend Inspirations



1. Betty Crocker

Meatless Chili Mac

★★★★★ 18 reviews  Test Kitchen Approved

 **Total Time** Prep: 15 min. Cook: 25 min.  **Makes** 8 servings

 Updated: Jun. 30, 2022

“I came across this recipe in a newspaper years ago and it's been a hit at our house ever since. It's fast and flavorful, and it appeals to all ages. — Cindy Ragan, North Huntingdon, Pennsylvania



Meatless Chili Mac Recipe photo by Taste of Home

 Rate

 Reviews

 Save

 Print

Next Recipe 

Ingredients

1 large onion, chopped	1 can (15-1/2 ounces) great northern beans, rinsed and drained
1 medium green pepper, chopped	1 can (14-1/2 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
1 tablespoon olive oil	1 can (8 ounces) tomato sauce
1 garlic clove, minced	
2 cups water	

2. Taste of Home

Easy 5-Ingredient Chili

★★★★★ 4.8 (11) | 9 REVIEWS | 3 PHOTOS

My father and I created this easy 5-ingredient chili recipe and everyone we have made it for loved it. It is fast, simple, and delicious.

By [tenastic66](#) | Updated on December 11, 2023

[Save](#)[Rate](#)[Print](#)[Share](#)**Prep Time:**

5 mins

Cook Time:

20 mins

Total Time:

25 mins

Servings:

6

[Jump to Nutrition Facts](#)

Ingredients

- 1 pound lean ground beef

3. All Recipes

Betty Crocker is an amazing site because it has many layers of design and useful information. My takeaway from this site is to show the recipes themselves in different sections and have a cool, colorful background. Both the Taste of Home and All Recipes show a quick note before the image and then continue on with the recipe so I will try to recreate something like that. I also like the box above ingredients in the All Recipes, sectioning off some important details for the user.

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, explain Django static files and how Django handles them.

Static files are typically files that are added during production of the website. For example, in the bookstore application, images are added as static files to books and to the homepage. Some are added via the models in each app, by adding a “Pic” to the class and some are added via the template html file with an `` tag. In the html, when added you need a `{%...%}` special tag that django will read and understand it must do this before rendering the page fully.

2. Look up the following two Django packages on Django’s official documentation and/or other trusted sources. Write a brief description of each.

Package	Description
ListView	Used to view a lot of data in a list, giving some information about everything.
DetailView	Used to view one thing individually and in-depth. Giving all the information about one specific thing.

3. You’re now more than halfway through Achievement 2! Take a moment to reflect on your learning in the course so far. How is it going? What’s something you’re proud of so far? Is there something you’re struggling with? What do you need more practice with? You can use these notes to guide your next mentor call.

I’m proud that I am somewhat able to navigate python. I am excited to see some understanding in how to use CSS with my HTML files so I don’t have to write “styles=” on every tag in HTML. I still don’t think I’ll actually remember a lot of the smaller parts of what I’ve done in Python. Like there are many steps with all similar names. Go to `books/urls.py` after `bookstore/urls.py` after creating a `templates/books/media/home.html....` etc.

Exercise 2.6: User Authentication in Django

Learning Goals

- Create authentication for your web application
- Use GET and POST methods
- Password protect your web application's views

Reflection Questions

1. In your own words, write down the importance of incorporating authentication into an application. You can take an example application to explain your answer.

Authentication is so important because it allows for users to customize their own experience. They can create their own profile to show off something they are doing for others to see. Or they could customize what they are seeing so they don't have to filter through tons of content they would rather not see. All of this can be done with authentication so everybody has their own separate, private account, which can make whatever the individual wants to be public.

2. In your own words, explain the steps you should take to create a login for your Django web application.

Create a `views.py` file in your project directory. In this you will setup the login request. After, you need to create a `templates` folder in the `src` folder, so even further back then your project directory. Inside that create an `auth` folder, then a `login.html` file. Then go back into your project folder's `urls.py` file and put in this import:

```
from .views import login_view
```

Then this line into the `urlpatterns`:

```
path('login/', login_view, name='login'),
```

Lastly, add to the `settings.py` file: `"DIRS": [BASE_DIR / 'templates']`

This part is in the `templates` section and will just be `"DIRS": []`

3. Look up the following three Django functions on Django's official documentation and/or other trusted sources and write a brief description of each.

Function	Description
authenticate()	verifies a set of credentials and returns a user object if the credentials are valid
redirect()	used to redirect the user to a specified URL
include()	used in URL configurations to include other URL patterns from a separate Python module

Exercise 2.7: Data Analysis and Visualization in Django

Learning Goals

- Work on elements of two-way communication like creating forms and buttons
- Implement search and visualization (reports/charts) features
- Use QuerySet API, DataFrames (with pandas), and plotting libraries (with matplotlib)

Reflection Questions

1. Consider your favorite website/application (you can also take CareerFoundry). Think about the various data that your favorite website/application collects. Write down how analyzing the collected data could help the website/application.

If you look at careerfoundry, it could be useful to see what people who are not a part of the program click on first. You can also watch to see how far people get. Like it could be beneficial to see if people stop on the page right before signing up, maybe the signup key isn't noticeable enough, or maybe there is something else on that specific page that doesn't grab the user. You can also create data of how far the users in the program usually get at different speeds. Since time is measured by days on

careerfoundry, you can figure out how long things usually take for users to submit something or the point at which most users take a break in their work.

2. Read the Django [official documentation on QuerySet API](#). Note down the different ways in which you can evaluate a QuerySet.

You can iterate through querysets with loops. You can slice through them `queryset[start:end]`. You can pickle them. A queryset is evaluated when `repr()`, `len()`, `list()`, or `bool()` is called on it.

3. In the Exercise, you converted your QuerySet to DataFrame. Now do some research on the advantages and disadvantages of QuerySet and DataFrame, and explain the ways in which DataFrame is better for data processing.

QuerySets are great for Django ORM for database queries. They don't touch the actual database until it absolutely has to, so it is very efficient. Dataframes allow for flexible data structure and manipulation. Dataframes may consume more memory compared to QS and Dataframes are much more confusing than QS. Querysets are so compatible with Django that it's also a disadvantage since it makes QS only useful for Django and if using something other than Django then other things similar to QS are more useful. This makes DataFrames better for data processing because they are more flexible to work with all kinds of code and not just Django.

Exercise 2.8: Deploying a Django Project

Learning Goals

- Enhance user experience and look and feel of your web application using CSS and JS
- Deploy your Django web application on a web server
- Curate project deliverables for your portfolio

Reflection Questions

1. Explain how you can use CSS and JavaScript in your Django web application.

To use CSS and JS in Django, it's very similar to using it within a normal HTML document. You put it in through the Head with `<link>` tags. They are both Static, so you must put them within the static folder, and give them `{%static%}` markers in the HTML. Since they are static you need to use Django's `collectstatic` to store the CSS and JS documents when uploading to a webpage.

2. In your own words, explain the steps you'd need to take to deploy your Django web application.

Find a host website like PythonAnywhere.

1. Clone the repository with `git clone` [insert HTML link of the repository].
 2. Then create a virtual environment with `mkvirtualenv (--python=/usr/bin/python3.9 venv)` this is for the pythonanywhere specific bash terminal. You can use `workon venv` to continue working on it.
 3. Go to the main directory to use `pip install -r requirements.txt` file. This is made with `pip freeze > requirements.txt` in the local files
 4. You should also make an `.env` file and place the `"SECRET_KEY=secret"` so you can start using a placeholder in your `settings.py` file, along with changing the `debug=False`. AND by adding the website's name in the `ALLOWED_HOSTS`
 5. You also may need to do some `python manage.py migrate/makemigrations`, `createsuperuser`, and `collectstatic`.
-
3. You've now finished Achievement 2 and, with it, the whole course! Take a moment to reflect on your learning:
 - a. What went well during this Achievement?
 - b. What's something you're proud of?
 - c. What was the most challenging aspect of this Achievement?
 - d. Did this Achievement meet your expectations? Did it give you the confidence to start working with your new Django skills?

I think the introduction to Python and Django were extremely helpful to expand my knowledge of backend programming and other languages in general. I'm proud of how far I've come, I finally finished it and even though it may not be the most stable website, I made it myself and I feel confident in trying to use python in other applications and for

a future career. The most challenging part of this Achievement was definitely the graph. The graph and the other sections in that exercise I struggled with intensely. I think I just got confused with the writing in the section and I was still so focused on the bookstore that when it came to my actual project I was lost, but I figured it out! I am semi-confident in Django, but more so confident in Python and hopefully I'm able to get a job in Python because I like the language a lot!

Well done—you've now completed the Learning Journal for the whole course.