Alumni Python Class
Definitions

high-level language:

A programming language like Python that is designed to be easy for humans to read and write.

low-level language:

A programming language that is designed to be easy for a computer to run; also called “machine language” or “assembly language”.

prompt:

Characters displayed by the interpreter to indicate that it is ready to take input from the user.

Operator:

A special symbol that represents a simple computation like addition, multiplication, or string concatenation.

variable:

A name that refers to a value.

Assignment:

A statement that assigns a value to a variable.

keyword:

A reserved word that is used to parse a program; you cannot use keywords like *if, else, print* as variable names.

statement:

A section of code that represents a command or action. So far, the statements we have seen are assignments and print statements.

execute:

To run a statement and do what it says.

Function:

A named sequence of statements that performs some useful operation. Functions may or may not take arguments and may or may not produce a result.

function definition:

A statement that creates a new function, specifying its name, parameters, and the statements it contains.

parameter:

A name used inside a function to refer to the value passed as an argument.

function call:

A statement that runs a function. It consists of the function name followed by an argument list in parentheses.

argument:

A value provided to a function when the function is called. This value is assigned to the corresponding parameter in the function.

local variable:

A variable defined inside a function. A local variable can only be used inside its function.

return value:

The result of a function.

return statement:

A statement that causes a function to end immediately and return to the caller.

Method:

A function that is associated with an object and called using dot notation.

loop:

A part of a program that can run repeatedly.

boolean expression:

An expression whose value is either True or False

logical operator:

One of the operators that combines boolean expressions: *and, or, not*.

conditional statement: A statement that controls the flow of execution depending on some condition.

reassignment:

Assigning a new value to a variable that already exists.

increment:

An update that increases the value of a variable (often by one).

Decrement:

An update that decreases the value of a variable.

iteration: Repeated execution of a set of statements using either a recursive function call or a loop.

infinite loop:

A loop in which the terminating condition is never satisfied.

Algorithm:

A general process for solving a category of problems.

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