Working with Files Cheat Sheet

Working with Files in Python

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# Open a file named a.txt and return a file object called f
# a.txt it's in the same directory with the python script
f = open('a.txt', 'r')    # it opens the file in read-only mode

content = f.read()    # reads the entire file as a string
print(content)

f.closed       # => False, file is not closed

# Close the file
f.close()

## Open the file in read-only mode and reads its contents as a list
## the file object will be automatically closed
with open('a.txt', 'r') as my_file:
   content = my_file.readlines()    # content is a list

my_file.closed    # => True, my_file has been closed automatically

# file object is an iterable object
with open('a.txt', 'r') as my_file:
   for line in my_file:    #iterating over the lines within the file
      print(line, end='')

# Open the file in write-only mode.
# Create the file if it doesn't exist or overwrite the file if it already exists
with open('my_file.txt', 'w') as file:
   file.write('This file will be overwritten!')

# Open the file in append-mode.
# Create the file if it doesn't exist or append to it if it exists
```

```
with open('another_file.txt', 'a') as file:
    file.write('Appending to the end!')

# Open the file for both read and write
# Do not create the file if it doesn't exist
with open('my_file.txt', 'r+') as file:
    file.seek(0)    # the cursor is positioned at the beginning of the file
    file.write('Writing at the beginning')    # writing at the beginning

    file.seek(5)    # moving the cursor at position 5
    content = file.read(10)    # reading 10 characters starting from position 5
    print(content)
```