

python_basics

September 3, 2020

1 Intro to Python Basics

1.0.1 We're going to start with some Python basics before we get into the “financial/data science Python basics”.

<https://learnxinyminutes.com/docs/python/> <https://www.w3schools.com/python/default.asp>

These links can be helpful resources when beginning to learn Python.

```
[1]: import sys
      print(sys.version)
```

3.8.5 (tags/v3.8.5:580fbb0, Jul 20 2020, 15:57:54) [MSC v.1924 64 bit (AMD64)]

I'm using Python version 3.8.5. I recommend having Python 3.6+ installed.

1.0.2 Comments

```
[8]: # This is a single line comment. Comments allow you to write information within
      ↪ your code that won't affect the behavior of your code.
```

```
[9]: # Here's an example:

x = 1
# This comment won't break anything.
print(x)
x += 1
# Neither will this
print(x)
```

1
2

1.0.3 Datatypes and Operators

Python has a few primitive datatypes which are important to know.

```
[76]: # Integers
1
      print(type(1))
```

```

# Floats
5.5
print(type(5.5))

# Booleans
True
False
print(type(True))

# Strings
"Hello World"
'Python Club'
print(type("Hello World"))

# Lists
[1, 2, 3]
print(type([1, 2, 3]))

# Tuples
(1, 2, 3)
print(type((1, 2, 3)))

# Dictionary
{'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2'}
print(type({'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2'}))

```

```

<class 'int'>
<class 'float'>
<class 'bool'>
<class 'str'>
<class 'list'>
<class 'tuple'>
<class 'dict'>

```

```

[26]: # You can do math as expected
      # Addition
      1 + 1

```

[26]: 2

```

[28]: # Subtraction
      1 - 2

```

[28]: -1

```
[27]: # Multiplication
      2 * 2
```

[27]: 4

```
[31]: # Division
      10 / 5
```

[31]: 2.0

```
[36]: # Notice the output type of this division
      type(10 / 5)
      # Even though both numbers are integers, division will always return a float
```

[36]: float

```
[33]: # To get an integer type back you have to use integer division, this will
      ↪ always round the quotient down
      10 // 5
```

[33]: 2

```
[35]: type(10//5)
```

[35]: int

```
[37]: print(24/5)
      print(24//5)
```

4.8

4

```
[41]: # However, if either of the numbers are a float, integer division will return a
      ↪ float
      24 // 5.0
      # The result of / division is always a float
```

[41]: 4.0

```
[42]: # Exponentiation
      # Denoted as **
      2**3
```

[42]: 8

```
[45]: # PEMDAS
      1 + 3 * 2
```

[45]: 7

```
[46]: (1 + 3) * 2
```

[46]: 8

```
[47]: # Booleans are written as True and False, but are actually 1 and 0  
True + True
```

[47]: 2

```
[48]: True - False
```

[48]: 1

```
[49]: # Negation  
not True
```

[49]: False

```
[50]: # Boolean operators  
True and True
```

[50]: True

```
[51]: True and False
```

[51]: False

```
[52]: True or False
```

[52]: True

```
[53]: False or False
```

[53]: False

```
[54]: # Equalities and Comparisons  
1 == 1
```

[54]: True

```
[55]: 1 != 2
```

[55]: True

```
[56]: 1 < 2
```

[56]: True

```
[57]: 1 > 2
```

[57]: False

```
[3]: # Modulo gets the remainder
     10 % 5
```

[3]: 0

```
[4]: 10 % 4
```

[4]: 2

1.0.4 Printing

Printing allows you to output information to a console to see.

```
[11]: print("Hello world")
      print(1)
      print(5.5)
```

Hello world
1
5.5

```
[21]: # You can also print multiple things in one print statement
      print("Hello", 2, "the", "World")
```

Hello 2 the World

```
[23]: # When doing something like above, you can also specify how to separate the
      ↪ items being printed with the 'sep' parameter
      print("Hello", 2, "the", "World", sep="*")
```

Hello*2*the*World

1.0.5 Variables

Python uses dynamic typing, meaning any variable can be any datatype without being specified. This is different from other languages like Java or C++ which require the datatype to be defined at assignment.

```
[59]: # Assign a variable using the equals sign
      x = 1
      print(x)
```

1

```
[62]: x = 1
      print(x)
      x = "Hello"
      print(x)
      x = 5.5
      print(x)
      x = True
      print(x)
      x = []
      print(x)
      x = {}
      print(x)
```

```
1
Hello
5.5
True
[]
{}
```

```
[61]: # Python naming convention says to use underscores
      my_var = 10
      print(my_var)
```

```
10
```

```
[64]: # Assigning multiple variables to multiple values
      x, y, z = 1, 2, "Hello"
      print(x)
      print(y)
      print(z)
```

```
1
2
Hello
```

```
[65]: # Assigning multiple variables to one value
      x = y = z = "Hello World"
      print(x)
      print(y)
      print(z)
```

```
Hello World
Hello World
Hello World
```

1.0.6 Lists, Tuples, and Dictionaries

```
[68]: # Lists are defined with []  
      # Creates an empty list  
      x = []  
      print(x)
```

```
[]
```

```
[82]: # Lists can contain data of any type, including other lists, called nested  
      ↪ lists. Values in a list are typically referred to as elements.  
      x = [1, 2.5, "Hello", ["World", "!"]]  
      print(x)
```

```
[1, 2.5, 'Hello', ['World', '!']]
```

```
[74]: # Lists are subscriptable and start at index 0.  
      x = [1, 2.5, "Hello", ["World", "!"]]  
      print(x[0])  
      print(x[1])  
      print(x[2])  
      print(x[3])  
      print(x[3][0], x[3][1])
```

```
1  
2.5  
Hello  
['World', '!']  
World !
```

```
[75]: # Lists can also be indexed backwards, starting from -1  
      x = [1, 2.5, "Hello", ["World", "!"]]  
      print(x[-1])  
      print(x[-2])  
      print(x[-3])  
      print(x[-4])
```

```
['World', '!']  
Hello  
2.5  
1
```

```
[80]: # You can get sub sets of lists by using subscripting and :  
      x = [1, 2.5, "Hello", ["World", "!"]]  
      print(x)  
  
      # The first number is the starting index, the second number is the ending index,  
      ↪ which is not included in the subset.
```

```

# This subscript is saying get all the elements from 0 up to but not including 1
↳ [0,1)
print(x[0:1])

# This is starting from index 2 to the end of the list
print(x[2:])

# From 2 to the end, but skip by 2 indices
print(x[::2])

# From 2 down to but not including 0, skip by -1, meaning go backwards by 1
↳ index
print(x[2:0:-1])

```

```

[1, 2.5, 'Hello', ['World', '!']]
[1]
['Hello', ['World', '!']]
[1, 'Hello']
['Hello', 2.5]

```

```

[81]: # You can reassign values in a list by index. This is because lists are what
↳ are described as mutable, meaning they can be changed.
x = [1, 2, 3]
print(x)
x[1] = 5
print(x)

```

```

[1, 2, 3]
[1, 5, 3]

```

```

[88]: # Lists can also be manipulated through other built in functions
x = [1, 2, 3, 3]
print(x)

# Appends 4 to the back of the list
x.append(4)
print(x)

# Inserts a value into the list at a given index. In this case the index is 1
↳ and the value is 5.
x.insert(1, 5)
print(x)

# Removes the first instance of the matching value from the list. The list has
↳ two elements with the number 3, after using remove there is only one.
x.remove(3)
print(x)

```



```
# Remove an element at a specified index or from the back if no index is given.␣  
↪The element removed is also returned.
```

```
y = x.pop(1)  
print(y)  
print(x)  
  
x.pop()  
print(x)
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 3]  
[1, 2, 3, 3, 4]  
[1, 5, 2, 3, 3, 4]  
[1, 5, 2, 3, 4]  
5  
[1, 2, 3, 4]  
[1, 2, 3]
```

```
[90]: # Lists can be joined together.
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3]  
y = [4, 5, 6]  
z = x + y  
print(z)  
  
a = [1, 2, 3]  
b = [4, 5, 6]  
a.extend(b)  
print(a)
```

```
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]  
[1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
```

```
[91]: # Test if an element is in the list
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3]  
print(1 in x)  
print(4 in x)
```

```
True  
False
```

```
[95]: # You can find the length of the list, or how many elements are in it using len
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3]  
y = len(x)  
print(y)
```

```
3
```

```
[92]: # Tuples are like lists but they are immutable, meaning they can't be changed
      ↪and edited like a list.
      x = (1, 2, 3)
      print(x[1])
```

2

```
[93]: # Running this code will cause an error
      x = (1, 2, 3)
      x[1] = 4
      print(x)
```

↪-----

TypeError Traceback (most recent call
↪last)

```
<ipython-input-93-a0f59b6bfc4b> in <module>
      1 # Running this code will cause an error
      2 x = (1, 2, 3)
----> 3 x[1] = 4
      4 print(x)
```

TypeError: 'tuple' object does not support item assignment

```
[94]: # You can cast the list type onto a tuple to convert it into a list
      x = (1, 2, 3)
      print(type(x))

      y = list(x)
      print(type(y))
```

```
<class 'tuple'>
<class 'list'>
```

```
[96]: # Most of the list operations are still able to be used on a tuple
      x = (1, 2, 3)
      y = (4, 5, 6)
      z = x + y
      print(z)

      print(z[3:])
```

```
print(len(z))

print(2 in z)
```

```
(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
(4, 5, 6)
6
True
```

```
[98]: # Dictionaries store key to value pairs. You can use keys to access the
      ↪ information in a dictionary
x = {'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2', 'key3': [1, 2, 3], 'key4': {}, 'key5': 10}
print(x)
print(x['key1'])
print(x['key4'])
```

```
{'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2', 'key3': [1, 2, 3], 'key4': {}, 'key5': 10}
value1
{}
```

```
[99]: # You can get all the keys in a dictionary using the keys function
x = {'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2', 'key3': [1, 2, 3], 'key4': {}, 'key5': 10}
y = x.keys()
print(y)
```

```
dict_keys(['key1', 'key2', 'key3', 'key4', 'key5'])
```

```
[100]: # Similarly, you can get just the values
x = {'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2', 'key3': [1, 2, 3], 'key4': {}, 'key5': 10}
y = x.values()
print(y)
```

```
dict_values(['value1', 'value2', [1, 2, 3], {}, 10])
```

```
[102]: # You can also get both at once using the items function
x = {'key1': 'value1', 'key2': 'value2', 'key3': [1, 2, 3], 'key4': {}, 'key5': 10}
y = x.items()
print(y)
```

```
dict_items([('key1', 'value1'), ('key2', 'value2'), ('key3', [1, 2, 3]),
('key4', {}), ('key5', 10)])
```

1.0.7 String Manipulation

```
[66]: # Strings can be written with "" or ''
x = "Hello"
y = 'World'
print(x, y)
```

Hello World

```
[103]: # You can almost think of strings as a list of characters.  
# For example: "Hey" is similar to ['H', 'e', 'y']  
# That means strings can be manipulated similar to lists  
x = "Hey"  
print(x[0])  
print(x[:2])
```

H

He

```
[104]: # Like lists, strings can be added together, called concatenation  
x = "Hello"  
y = 'World'  
z = x + " " + y  
print(z)
```

Hello World

```
[105]: # A very useful function is the split function, which separates a string into a  
#       ↪ list by a separator character  
x = "1,3,6,7"  
y = x.split(',')  
print(y)
```

['1', '3', '6', '7']

```
[108]: # You can also use string formatting to manipulate strings  
a = 10  
  
x = "There are " + str(a) + " bananas!"  
print(x)  
  
y = "There are {} apples!".format(a)  
print(y)  
  
z = f"There are {a} oranges!"  
print(z)
```

There are 10 bananas!

There are 10 apples!

There are 10 oranges!

```
[109]: # Strings can be multiplied, too  
x = "***"  
y = x * 10  
print(y)
```

1.0.8 Functions

It is important to note the syntax moving forward. Python syntax is based on indentations. Anything indented is considered to be part of a block that begins with an indentation above it.

```
[110]: # Functions are defined by the def keyword, followed by the function name and
      ↪ any parameters
      # Note: the return statement is 1 indentation in meaning it is part of the
      ↪ function definition.
def square(x):
    return x * x

y = square(10)
print(y)
```

100

```
[111]: def mult(x, y):
      ↪ return x * y

z = mult(5, 10)
print(z)
```

50

```
[112]: # Functions don't always have to return a value

def my_func(x):
    print(f"It is {x} degrees today!")

my_func(75)
```

It is 75 degrees today!

1.0.9 Flow Control

```
[113]: # If statements allow you to execute specific blocks of code if certain
      ↪ conditions exist

x = 10

if x > 0:
    print("x is positive")
elif x < 0:
    print("x is negative")
else:
```

```
print("x is 0")
```

x is positive

```
[114]: # The above code can also be put into a function
```

```
def pos_neg(x):  
    # Again with indentation, anything even with this comment is part of the  
    ↪function definition.  
    if x > 0:  
        # Anything even with this comment is considered part of it above if  
        ↪statement block  
        print("x is positive")  
    elif x < 0:  
        print("x is negative")  
    else:  
        print("x is 0")  
  
pos_neg(-2)  
pos_neg(0)  
pos_neg(5)
```

x is negative

x is 0

x is positive

```
[116]: # For loops allow you to go one item at a time through an iterable. Example of  
    ↪iterables are lists, tuples, strings.
```

```
for i in [1, 2, 3]:  
    print(i)
```

1

2

3

```
[117]: x = "Hello world"
```

```
for i in x:  
    print(i)
```

H

e

l

l

o

w

o

r

1
d

```
[119]: # The range function is useful for creating an iterable that isn't equal to the
        ↳ value in a typical iterable.
        # The range function works as follows: range(start, stop, step). The default
        ↳ step is 1
        x = range(0, 10)
        for i in x:
            print(i)
```

0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

```
[120]: x = range(0, 10, 2)
        for i in x:
            print(i)
```

0
2
4
6
8

```
[122]: x = range(10, 0, -2)
        for i in x:
            print(i)
```

10
8
6
4
2

```
[123]: # A popular use of range is to use it with the length of list, string, tuple,
        ↳ or another type that has subscripting
        x = [10, 5, 4]
        for i in range(len(x)):
            print(i)
```

0
1
2

```
[1]: # While loops allow a block of code to run until a condition is met. While
      ↳ loops will test the condition first, meaning the loop may never run.
x = 1
while x < 10:
    print(x)
    x += 1
```

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

```
[1]: # Continue and Break keywords allow you to stop or skip an iteration inside a
      ↳ for or while loop

for i in range(10):
    # if i is even, go to the next iteration
    if i % 2 == 0:
        continue
    else:
        print(i)
```

1
3
5
7
9

```
[2]: # This while loop will run forever until you provide the input with a valid
      ↳ response. In this case the valid response is anything.
while True:
    x = input("What is your name?")
    if x != "":
        print("Hello " + x)
        break
```

What is your name?
What is your name?
What is your name?

What is your name? Scott

Hello Scott

[]: