

* CHAPTER-8 : FUNCTIONS & RECURSIONS

- A function is a group of statements performing a specific task.
- When a program gets bigger in size and its complexity grows, it gets difficult for a programmer to keep track on which piece of code is doing what!
- A function can be reused by the programmer in a given program any number of.

→ Example and Syntax of a function

The syntax of a function looks as follows:

```
def func 1():  
    print ("Hello")
```

This function can be called ~~only~~ any number of times, anywhere in the program.

→ Function call

Whenever we want to call a function, we put that name of the function followed by parenthesis as follows:

func 1() → This is called function call.

→ function definition

The part containing the exact set of instructions which are executed during the function call.

→ Types of functions in Python

1. Built in functions → Already present in Python
2. User defined functions → Defined by the user.

Examples of built in function includes `len()`, `print()`, `range()` etc.

~~The function~~ we The `func1()` function we defined is an example of user defined function.

→ Functions with arguments

A function can accept some values it can work with. We can put these values in the parentheses. A function can also return values as shown below.

```
def greet (name):
```

```
    gr = "Hello" + name
```

```
    return gr
```

→ shayan is passed to greet in name

```
a = greet ("shayan")
```

→ a will now contain "Hello shayan"

→ Default Parameter Value

We can have a value as default argument in a function.

If we specify `name = "stranger"` in the line containing `def`, this value is used when no argument is passed.

For Example :

```
def greet(name = "Stranger")
```

```
    # function body
```

```
greet()
```

→ Name will be "Stranger" in function body (default)

```
greet("Harvey")
```

→ Name will be "Harvey" in function body (passed)

→ Recursion

Recursion is a function which calls itself. It is used to directly use a mathematical formula as a function. For Example :

$$\text{factorial}(n) = n \times (n-1)!$$

This function can be defined as follows :

```
def factorial(n):
```

```
    if n == 0 or n == 1: → Base Condition which doesn't
        return 1         all the function any further.
```

```
    else:
```

```
        return n * (n-1)! → Function calling itself.
```

This works as follows: factorial(3)

↳ [function called]

[3 × factorial(2)]

3 × [2 × factorial(1)]

3 × 2 × [1] [Function returned]

- Programmer need to be extremely careful while working with recursion to ensure that the function doesn't infinitely keep calling itself. Recursion is sometimes most direct way to code an algorithm.