Introduction to Python:

**Python** is a general-purpose interpreted, interactive, object-oriented, and high-level programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum during 1985- 1990. Like Perl, Python source code is also available under the GNU General Public License (GPL). This **tutorial** gives enough understanding on **Python programming** language.

Why to Learn Python?

**Python** is a high-level, interpreted, interactive and object-oriented scripting language. Python is designed to be highly readable. It uses English keywords frequently where as other languages use punctuation, and it has fewer syntactical constructions than other languages.

**Python** is a MUST for students and working professionals to become a great Software Engineer specially when they are working in Web Development Domain. I will list down some of the key advantages of learning Python:

* **Python is Interpreted** − Python is processed at runtime by the interpreter. You do not need to compile your program before executing it. This is similar to PERL and PHP.
* **Python is Interactive** − You can actually sit at a Python prompt and interact with the interpreter directly to write your programs.
* **Python is Object-Oriented** − Python supports Object-Oriented style or technique of programming that encapsulates code within objects.
* **Python is a Beginner's Language** − Python is a great language for the beginner-level programmers and supports the development of a wide range of applications from simple text processing to WWW browsers to games.

Characteristics of Python

Following are important characteristics of **Python Programming** −

* It supports functional and structured programming methods as well as OOP.
* It can be used as a scripting language or can be compiled to byte-code for building large applications.
* It provides very high-level dynamic data types and supports dynamic type checking.
* It supports automatic garbage collection.
* It can be easily integrated with C, C++, COM, ActiveX, CORBA, and Java.

Hello World using Python.

Just to give you a little excitement about Python, I'm going to give you a small conventional Python Hello World program

print ("Hello, Python!");

Applications of Python

As mentioned before, Python is one of the most widely used language over the web. I'm going to list few of them here:

* **Easy-to-learn** − Python has few keywords, simple structure, and a clearly defined syntax. This allows the student to pick up the language quickly.
* **Easy-to-read** − Python code is more clearly defined and visible to the eyes.
* **Easy-to-maintain** − Python's source code is fairly easy-to-maintain.
* **A broad standard library** − Python's bulk of the library is very portable and cross-platform compatible on UNIX, Windows, and Macintosh.
* **Interactive Mode** − Python has support for an interactive mode which allows interactive testing and debugging of snippets of code.
* **Portable** − Python can run on a wide variety of hardware platforms and has the same interface on all platforms.
* **Extendable** − You can add low-level modules to the Python interpreter. These modules enable programmers to add to or customize their tools to be more efficient.
* **Databases** − Python provides interfaces to all major commercial databases.
* **GUI Programming** − Python supports GUI applications that can be created and ported to many system calls, libraries and windows systems, such as Windows MFC, Macintosh, and the X Window system of Unix.
* **Scalable** − Python provides a better structure and support for large programs than shell scripting.

**Variables in python:**

Variables are nothing but reserved memory locations to store values. This means that when you create a variable you reserve some space in memory.

Based on the data type of a variable, the interpreter allocates memory and decides what can be stored in the reserved memory. Therefore, by assigning different data types to variables, you can store integers, decimals or characters in these variables.

## Assigning Values to Variables

Python variables do not need explicit declaration to reserve memory space. The declaration happens automatically when you assign a value to a variable. The equal sign (=) is used to assign values to variables.

The operand to the left of the = operator is the name of the variable and the operand to the right of the = operator is the value stored in the variable. For example −

#!/usr/bin/python

counter = 100 # An integer assignment

miles = 1000.0 # A floating point

name = "John" # A string

print counter

print miles

print name

Here, 100, 1000.0 and "John" are the values assigned to *counter*, *miles*, and *name* variables, respectively. This produces the following result −

100

1000.0

John

## Multiple Assignment

Python allows you to assign a single value to several variables simultaneously. For example −

a = b = c = 1

Here, an integer object is created with the value 1, and all three variables are assigned to the same memory location. You can also assign multiple objects to multiple variables. For example −

a,b,c = 1,2,"john"

Here, two integer objects with values 1 and 2 are assigned to variables a and b respectively, and one string object with the value "john" is assigned to the variable c.

## Standard Data Types

The data stored in memory can be of many types. For example, a person's age is stored as a numeric value and his or her address is stored as alphanumeric characters. Python has various standard data types that are used to define the operations possible on them and the storage method for each of them.

Python has five standard data types −

* Numbers
* String
* List
* Tuple
* Dictionary

## Python Numbers

Number data types store numeric values. Number objects are created when you assign a value to them. For example −

var1 = 1

var2 = 10

You can also delete the reference to a number object by using the del statement. The syntax of the del statement is −

del var1[,var2[,var3[....,varN]]]]

You can delete a single object or multiple objects by using the del statement. For example −

del var

del var\_a, var\_b

Python supports four different numerical types −

* int (signed integers)
* long (long integers, they can also be represented in octal and hexadecimal)
* float (floating point real values)
* complex (complex numbers)

### **Examples**

Here are some examples of numbers −

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **int** | **long** | **float** | **complex** |
| 10 | 51924361L | 0.0 | 3.14j |
| 100 | -0x19323L | 15.20 | 45.j |
| -786 | 0122L | -21.9 | 9.322e-36j |
| 080 | 0xDEFABCECBDAECBFBAEl | 32.3+e18 | .876j |
| -0490 | 535633629843L | -90. | -.6545+0J |
| -0x260 | -052318172735L | -32.54e100 | 3e+26J |
| 0x69 | -4721885298529L | 70.2-E12 | 4.53e-7j |

* Python allows you to use a lowercase l with long, but it is recommended that you use only an uppercase L to avoid confusion with the number 1. Python displays long integers with an uppercase L.
* A complex number consists of an ordered pair of real floating-point numbers denoted by x + yj, where x and y are the real numbers and j is the imaginary unit.

## Python Strings

Strings in Python are identified as a contiguous set of characters represented in the quotation marks. Python allows for either pairs of single or double quotes. Subsets of strings can be taken using the slice operator ([ ] and [:] ) with indexes starting at 0 in the beginning of the string and working their way from -1 at the end.

The plus (+) sign is the string concatenation operator and the asterisk (\*) is the repetition operator. For example −

#!/usr/bin/python

str = 'Hello World!'

print str # Prints complete string

print str[0] # Prints first character of the string

print str[2:5] # Prints characters starting from 3rd to 5th

print str[2:] # Prints string starting from 3rd character

print str \* 2 # Prints string two times

print str + "TEST" # Prints concatenated string

This will produce the following result −

Hello World!

H

llo

llo World!

Hello World!Hello World!

Hello World!TEST

## Python Lists

Lists are the most versatile of Python's compound data types. A list contains items separated by commas and enclosed within square brackets ([]). To some extent, lists are similar to arrays in C. One difference between them is that all the items belonging to a list can be of different data type.

The values stored in a list can be accessed using the slice operator ([ ] and [:]) with indexes starting at 0 in the beginning of the list and working their way to end -1. The plus (+) sign is the list concatenation operator, and the asterisk (\*) is the repetition operator. For example −

#!/usr/bin/python

list = [ 'abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2 ]

tinylist = [123, 'john']

print list # Prints complete list

print list[0] # Prints first element of the list

print list[1:3] # Prints elements starting from 2nd till 3rd

print list[2:] # Prints elements starting from 3rd element

print tinylist \* 2 # Prints list two times

print list + tinylist # Prints concatenated lists

This produce the following result −

['abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2]

abcd

[786, 2.23]

[2.23, 'john', 70.2]

[123, 'john', 123, 'john']

['abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2, 123, 'john']

## Python Tuples

A tuple is another sequence data type that is similar to the list. A tuple consists of a number of values separated by commas. Unlike lists, however, tuples are enclosed within parentheses.

The main differences between lists and tuples are: Lists are enclosed in brackets ( [ ] ) and their elements and size can be changed, while tuples are enclosed in parentheses ( ( ) ) and cannot be updated. Tuples can be thought of as **read-only** lists. For example −

#!/usr/bin/python

tuple = ( 'abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2 )

tinytuple = (123, 'john')

print tuple # Prints the complete tuple

print tuple[0] # Prints first element of the tuple

print tuple[1:3] # Prints elements of the tuple starting from 2nd till 3rd

print tuple[2:] # Prints elements of the tuple starting from 3rd element

print tinytuple \* 2 # Prints the contents of the tuple twice

print tuple + tinytuple # Prints concatenated tuples

This produce the following result −

('abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2)

abcd

(786, 2.23)

(2.23, 'john', 70.2)

(123, 'john', 123, 'john')

('abcd', 786, 2.23, 'john', 70.2, 123, 'john')

The following code is invalid with tuple, because we attempted to update a tuple, which is not allowed. Similar case is possible with lists −

#!/usr/bin/python

tuple = ( 'abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2 )

list = [ 'abcd', 786 , 2.23, 'john', 70.2 ]

tuple[2] = 1000 # Invalid syntax with tuple

list[2] = 1000 # Valid syntax with list

## Python Dictionary

Python's dictionaries are kind of hash table type. They work like associative arrays or hashes found in Perl and consist of key-value pairs. A dictionary key can be almost any Python type, but are usually numbers or strings. Values, on the other hand, can be any arbitrary Python object.

Dictionaries are enclosed by curly braces ({ }) and values can be assigned and accessed using square braces ([]). For example −

#!/usr/bin/python

dict = {}

dict['one'] = "This is one"

dict[2] = "This is two"

tinydict = {'name': 'john','code':6734, 'dept': 'sales'}

print dict['one'] # Prints value for 'one' key

print dict[2] # Prints value for 2 key

print tinydict # Prints complete dictionary

print tinydict.keys() # Prints all the keys

print tinydict.values() # Prints all the values

This produce the following result −

This is one

This is two

{'dept': 'sales', 'code': 6734, 'name': 'john'}

['dept', 'code', 'name']

['sales', 6734, 'john']

Dictionaries have no concept of order among elements. It is incorrect to say that the elements are "out of order"; they are simply unordered.

## Data Type Conversion

Sometimes, you may need to perform conversions between the built-in types. To convert between types, you simply use the type name as a function.

There are several built-in functions to perform conversion from one data type to another. These functions return a new object representing the converted value.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sr.No.** | **Function & Description** |
| 1 | **int(x [,base])**  Converts x to an integer. base specifies the base if x is a string. |
| 2 | **long(x [,base] )**  Converts x to a long integer. base specifies the base if x is a string. |
| 3 | **float(x)**  Converts x to a floating-point number. |
| 4 | **complex(real [,imag])**  Creates a complex number. |
| 5 | **str(x)**  Converts object x to a string representation. |
| 6 | **repr(x)**  Converts object x to an expression string. |
| 7 | **eval(str)**  Evaluates a string and returns an object. |
| 8 | **tuple(s)**  Converts s to a tuple. |
| 9 | **list(s)**  Converts s to a list. |
| 10 | **set(s)**  Converts s to a set. |
| 11 | **dict(d)**  Creates a dictionary. d must be a sequence of (key,value) tuples. |
| 12 | **frozenset(s)**  Converts s to a frozen set. |
| 13 | **chr(x)**  Converts an integer to a character. |
| 14 | **unichr(x)**  Converts an integer to a Unicode character. |
| 15 | **ord(x)**  Converts a single character to its integer value. |
| 16 | **hex(x)**  Converts an integer to a hexadecimal string. |
| 17 | **oct(x)**  Converts an integer to an octal string. |

Operators:

Operators are the constructs which can manipulate the value of operands.

Consider the expression 4 + 5 = 9. Here, 4 and 5 are called operands and + is called operator.

Types of Operator

Python language supports the following types of operators.

* Arithmetic Operators
* Comparison (Relational) Operators
* Assignment Operators
* Logical Operators
* Bitwise Operators
* Membership Operators
* Identity Operators

Let us have a look on all operators one by one.

Python Arithmetic Operators

Assume variable a holds 10 and variable b holds 20, then −

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| + Addition | Adds values on either side of the operator. | a + b = 30 |
| - Subtraction | Subtracts right hand operand from left hand operand. | a – b = -10 |
| \* Multiplication | Multiplies values on either side of the operator | a \* b = 200 |
| / Division | Divides left hand operand by right hand operand | b / a = 2 |
| % Modulus | Divides left hand operand by right hand operand and returns remainder | b % a = 0 |
| \*\* Exponent | Performs exponential (power) calculation on operators | a\*\*b =10 to the power 20 |
| // | Floor Division - The division of operands where the result is the quotient in which the digits after the decimal point are removed. But if one of the operands is negative, the result is floored, i.e., rounded away from zero (towards negative infinity) − | 9//2 = 4 and 9.0//2.0 = 4.0, -11//3 = -4, -11.0//3 = -4.0 |
|  |  |  |

Example program:

Assume variable a holds 21 and variable b holds 10, then −

#!/usr/bin/python

a = 21

b = 10

c = 0

c = a + b

print "Line 1 - Value of c is ", c

c = a - b

print "Line 2 - Value of c is ", c

c = a \* b

print "Line 3 - Value of c is ", c

c = a / b

print "Line 4 - Value of c is ", c

c = a % b

print "Line 5 - Value of c is ", c

a = 2

b = 3

c = a\*\*b

print "Line 6 - Value of c is ", c

a = 10

b = 5

c = a//b

print "Line 7 - Value of c is ", c

When you execute the above program, it produces the following result −

Line 1 - Value of c is 31

Line 2 - Value of c is 11

Line 3 - Value of c is 210

Line 4 - Value of c is 2

Line 5 - Value of c is 1

Line 6 - Value of c is 8

Line 7 - Value of c is 2

Python Comparison Operators

These operators compare the values on either sides of them and decide the relation among them. They are also called Relational operators.

Example:

Assume variable a holds 10 and variable b holds 20, then −

#!/usr/bin/python

a = 21

b = 10

c = 0

if ( a == b ):

print "Line 1 - a is equal to b"

else:

print "Line 1 - a is not equal to b"

if ( a != b ):

print "Line 2 - a is not equal to b"

else:

print "Line 2 - a is equal to b"

if ( a <> b ):

print "Line 3 - a is not equal to b"

else:

print "Line 3 - a is equal to b"

if ( a < b ):

print "Line 4 - a is less than b"

else:

print "Line 4 - a is not less than b"

if ( a > b ):

print "Line 5 - a is greater than b"

else:

print "Line 5 - a is not greater than b"

a = 5;

b = 20;

if ( a <= b ):

print "Line 6 - a is either less than or equal to b"

else:

print "Line 6 - a is neither less than nor equal to b"

if ( b >= a ):

print "Line 7 - b is either greater than or equal to b"

else:

print "Line 7 - b is neither greater than nor equal to b"

When you execute the above program it produces the following result −

Line 1 - a is not equal to b

Line 2 - a is not equal to b

Line 3 - a is not equal to b

Line 4 - a is not less than b

Line 5 - a is greater than b

Line 6 - a is either less than or equal to b

Line 7 - b is either greater than or equal to b

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| == | If the values of two operands are equal, then the condition becomes true. | (a == b) is not true. |
| != | If values of two operands are not equal, then condition becomes true. | (a != b) is true. |
| <> | If values of two operands are not equal, then condition becomes true. | (a <> b) is true. This is similar to != operator. |
| > | If the value of left operand is greater than the value of right operand, then condition becomes true. | (a > b) is not true. |
| < | If the value of left operand is less than the value of right operand, then condition becomes true. | (a < b) is true. |
| >= | If the value of left operand is greater than or equal to the value of right operand, then condition becomes true. | (a >= b) is not true. |
| <= | If the value of left operand is less than or equal to the value of right operand, then condition becomes true. | (a <= b) is true. |

Python Assignment Operators

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| = | Assigns values from right side operands to left side operand | c = a + b assigns value of a + b into c |
| += Add AND | It adds right operand to the left operand and assign the result to left operand | c += a is equivalent to c = c + a |
| -= Subtract AND | It subtracts right operand from the left operand and assign the result to left operand | c -= a is equivalent to c = c - a |
| \*= Multiply AND | It multiplies right operand with the left operand and assign the result to left operand | c \*= a is equivalent to c = c \* a |
| /= Divide AND | It divides left operand with the right operand and assign the result to left operand | c /= a is equivalent to c = c / a |
| %= Modulus AND | It takes modulus using two operands and assign the result to left operand | c %= a is equivalent to c = c % a |
| \*\*= Exponent AND | Performs exponential (power) calculation on operators and assign value to the left operand | c \*\*= a is equivalent to c = c \*\* a |
| //= Floor Division | It performs floor division on operators and assign value to the left operand | c //= a is equivalent to c = c // a |

Example:

a = 21

b = 10

c = 0

c = a + b

print "Line 1 - Value of c is ", c

c += a

print "Line 2 - Value of c is ", c

c \*= a

print "Line 3 - Value of c is ", c

c /= a

print "Line 4 - Value of c is ", c

c = 2

c %= a

print "Line 5 - Value of c is ", c

c \*\*= a

print "Line 6 - Value of c is ", c

c //= a

print "Line 7 - Value of c is ", c

When you execute the above program, it produces the following result −

Line 1 - Value of c is 31

Line 2 - Value of c is 52

Line 3 - Value of c is 1092

Line 4 - Value of c is 52

Line 5 - Value of c is 2

Line 6 - Value of c is 2097152

Line 7 - Value of c is 99864

Python Bitwise Operators

Bitwise operator works on bits and performs bit by bit operation. Assume if a = 60; and b = 13; Now in the binary format their values will be 0011 1100 and 0000 1101 respectively. Following table lists out the bitwise operators supported by Python language with an example each in those, we use the above two variables (a and b) as operands −

a = 0011 1100

b = 0000 1101

-----------------

a&b = 0000 1100

a|b = 0011 1101

a^b = 0011 0001

~a  = 1100 0011

There are following Bitwise operators supported by Python language

Example:

a = 60 # 60 = 0011 1100

b = 13 # 13 = 0000 1101

c = 0

c = a & b; # 12 = 0000 1100

print "Line 1 - Value of c is ", c

c = a | b; # 61 = 0011 1101

print "Line 2 - Value of c is ", c

c = a ^ b; # 49 = 0011 0001

print "Line 3 - Value of c is ", c

c = ~a; # -61 = 1100 0011

print "Line 4 - Value of c is ", c

c = a << 2; # 240 = 1111 0000

print "Line 5 - Value of c is ", c

c = a >> 2; # 15 = 0000 1111

print "Line 6 - Value of c is ", c

When you execute the above program it produces the following result −

Line 1 - Value of c is 12

Line 2 - Value of c is 61

Line 3 - Value of c is 49

Line 4 - Value of c is -61

Line 5 - Value of c is 240

Line 6 - Value of c is 15

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| & Binary AND | Operator copies a bit to the result if it exists in both operands | (a & b) (means 0000 1100) |
| | Binary OR | It copies a bit if it exists in either operand. | (a | b) = 61 (means 0011 1101) |
| ^ Binary XOR | It copies the bit if it is set in one operand but not both. | (a ^ b) = 49 (means 0011 0001) |
| ~ Binary Ones Complement | It is unary and has the effect of 'flipping' bits. | (~a ) = -61 (means 1100 0011 in 2's complement form due to a signed binary number. |
| << Binary Left Shift | The left operands value is moved left by the number of bits specified by the right operand. | a << 2 = 240 (means 1111 0000) |
| >> Binary Right Shift | The left operands value is moved right by the number of bits specified by the right operand. | a >> 2 = 15 (means 0000 1111) |

Python Logical Operators

There are following logical operators supported by Python language. Assume variable a holds 10 and variable b holds 20 then

Example:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| and Logical AND | If both the operands are true then condition becomes true. | (a and b) is true. |
| or Logical OR | If any of the two operands are non-zero then condition becomes true. | (a or b) is true. |
| not Logical NOT | Used to reverse the logical state of its operand. | Not(a and b) is false. |

Python Membership Operators

Python’s membership operators test for membership in a sequence, such as strings, lists, or tuples. There are two membership operators as explained below −

Example:

a = 10

b = 20

list = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5 ];

if ( a in list ):

print "Line 1 - a is available in the given list"

else:

print "Line 1 - a is not available in the given list"

if ( b not in list ):

print "Line 2 - b is not available in the given list"

else:

print "Line 2 - b is available in the given list"

a = 2

if ( a in list ):

print "Line 3 - a is available in the given list"

else:

print "Line 3 - a is not available in the given list"

When you execute the above program it produces the following result −

Line 1 - a is not available in the given list

Line 2 - b is not available in the given list

Line 3 - a is available in the given list

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| in | Evaluates to true if it finds a variable in the specified sequence and false otherwise. | x in y, here in results in a 1 if x is a member of sequence y. |
| not in | Evaluates to true if it does not finds a variable in the specified sequence and false otherwise. | x not in y, here not in results in a 1 if x is not a member of sequence y. |

Python Identity Operators

Identity operators compare the memory locations of two objects. There are two Identity operators explained below –

Example:

a = 20

b = 20

if ( a is b ):

print "Line 1 - a and b have same identity"

else:

print "Line 1 - a and b do not have same identity"

if ( id(a) == id(b) ):

print "Line 2 - a and b have same identity"

else:

print "Line 2 - a and b do not have same identity"

b = 30

if ( a is b ):

print "Line 3 - a and b have same identity"

else:

print "Line 3 - a and b do not have same identity"

if ( a is not b ):

print "Line 4 - a and b do not have same identity"

else:

print "Line 4 - a and b have same identity"

When you execute the above program it produces the following result −

Line 1 - a and b have same identity

Line 2 - a and b have same identity

Line 3 - a and b do not have same identity

Line 4 - a and b do not have same identity

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Operator** | **Description** | **Example** |
| is | Evaluates to true if the variables on either side of the operator point to the same object and false otherwise. | x is y, here **is** results in 1 if id(x) equals id(y). |
| is not | Evaluates to false if the variables on either side of the operator point to the same object and true otherwise. | x is not y, here **is not** results in 1 if id(x) is not equal to id(y). |

Python Operators Precedence

The following table lists all operators from highest precedence to lowest.

[ [Show Example](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/operators_precedence_example.htm) ]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sr.No.** | **Operator & Description** |
| 1 | **\*\***  Exponentiation (raise to the power) |
| 2 | **~ + -**  Complement, unary plus and minus (method names for the last two are +@ and -@) |
| 3 | **\* / % //**  Multiply, divide, modulo and floor division |
| 4 | **+ -**  Addition and subtraction |
| 5 | **>> <<**  Right and left bitwise shift |
| 6 | **&**  Bitwise 'AND' |
| 7 | **^ |**  Bitwise exclusive `OR' and regular `OR' |
| 8 | **<= < > >=**  Comparison operators |
| 9 | **<> == !=**  Equality operators |
| 10 | **= %= /= //= -= += \*= \*\*=**  Assignment operators |
| 11 | **is is not**  Identity operators |
| 12 | **in not in**  Membership operators |
| 13 | **not or and**  Logical operators |

Example:

a = 20

b = 10

c = 15

d = 5

e = 0

e = (a + b) \* c / d #( 30 \* 15 ) / 5

print "Value of (a + b) \* c / d is ", e

e = ((a + b) \* c) / d # (30 \* 15 ) / 5

print "Value of ((a + b) \* c) / d is ", e

e = (a + b) \* (c / d); # (30) \* (15/5)

print "Value of (a + b) \* (c / d) is ", e

e = a + (b \* c) / d; # 20 + (150/5)

print "Value of a + (b \* c) / d is ", e

When you execute the above program, it produces the following result −

Value of (a + b) \* c / d is 90

Value of ((a + b) \* c) / d is 90

Value of (a + b) \* (c / d) is 90

Value of a + (b \* c) / d is 50