```
#!/usr/bin/env python
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PEP 20 (The Zen of Python) by example
Usage: %prog
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:Date: 2011-02-08 for PhillyPUG/philly.rb, revised 2011-02-10
Sources:
    - http://artifex.org/~hblanks/talks/2011/pep20_by_example.pdf
    - http://artifex.org/~hblanks/talks/2011/pep20_by_example.html
    - http://artifex.org/~hblanks/talks/2011/pep20_by_example.py.txt
Dependencies for PDF output:
    - Pygments 1.4
    - pdflatex & the usual mess of latex packages
HHHH
from __future__ import with_statement
import sys
```

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"In his wisdom and in his Molisan poverty, Officer Ingravallo, who seemed to live on silence..., in his wisdom, he sometimes interrupted this silence and this sleep to enunciate some theoretical idea (a general idea, that is) on the affairs of men, and of women. At first sight, or rather, on first hearing, these seemed banalities. They weren't banalities. And so, those rapid declarations, which crackled on his lips like the sudden illumination of a sulphur match, were revived in the ears of people at a distance of hours, or of months, from their enunciation: as if after a mysterious period of incubation. 'That's right!' the person in question admitted, 'That's exactly what Ingravallo said to me.'"

- Carlo Emilio Gadda, \*That Awful Mess on the Via Merulana\*

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The Zen of Python, by Tim Peters

Beautiful is better than ugly.

Explicit is better than implicit.

Simple is better than complex.

Complex is better than complicated.

Flat is better than nested.

Sparse is better than dense.

Readability counts.

Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.

Although practicality beats purity.

Errors should never pass silently.

Unless explicitly silenced.

In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.

There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious way to do it.

Although that way may not be obvious at first unless you're Dutch.

Now is better than never.

Although never is often better than \*right\* now.

If the implementation is hard to explain, it's a bad idea.

If the implementation is easy to explain, it may be a good idea.

Namespaces are one honking great idea -- let's do more of those!

" " "

```
Can you write out these measurements to disk?
measurements = [
   {'weight': 392.3, 'color': 'purple', 'temperature': 33.4},
   {'weight': 34.0, 'color': 'green', 'temperature': -3.1},
    _____
def store(measurements):
   import sqlalchemy
   import sqlalchemy.types as sqltypes
   db = sqlalchemy.create_engine('sqlite:///measurements.db')
   db.echo = False
   metadata = sqlalchemy.MetaData(db)
   table = sqlalchemy.Table('measurements', metadata,
       sqlalchemy.Column('id', sqltypes.Integer, primary_key=True),
       sqlalchemy.Column('weight', sqltypes.Float),
       sqlalchemy.Column('temperature', sqltypes.Float),
       sqlalchemy.Column('color', sqltypes.String(32)),
   table.create(checkfirst=True)
   for measurement in measurements:
       i = table.insert()
       i.execute(**measurement)
def store(measurements):
   import json
   with open('measurements.json', 'w') as f:
       f.write(json.dumps(measurements))
```

print 'Simple is better than complex.'

```
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Can you write out those same measurements to a MySQL DB? I think we're
gonna have some measurements with multiple colors next week, by the way.
def store(measurements):
   import sqlalchemy
   import sqlalchemy.types as sqltypes
   db = create_engine(
       'mysql://user:password@localhost/db?charset=utf8&use_unicode=1')
   db.echo = False
   metadata = sqlalchemy.MetaData(db)
   table = sqlalchemy.Table('measurements', metadata,
       sqlalchemy.Column('id', sqltypes.Integer, primary_key=True),
       sqlalchemy.Column('weight', sqltypes.Float),
       sqlalchemy.Column('temperature', sqltypes.Float),
       sqlalchemy.Column('color', sqltypes.String(32)),
   table.create(checkfirst=True)
   for measurement in measurements:
       i = table.insert()
       i.execute(**measurement)
def store(measurements):
   import MySQLdb
   db = MySQLdb.connect(user='user', passwd="password", host='localhost', db="db")
   c = db.cursor()
   c.execute("""
       CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS measurements
         id int(11) NOT NULL auto_increment,
         weight float,
         temperature float,
```

```
"""Identify this animal. """
   _____
def identify(animal):
   if animal.is_vertebrate():
      noise = animal.poke()
      if noise == 'moo':
          return 'cow'
      elif noise == 'woof':
          return 'dog'
   else:
      if animal.is_multicellular():
          return 'Bug!'
      else:
          if animal.is_fungus():
             return 'Yeast'
          else:
             return 'Amoeba'
         _____
def identify(animal):
   if animal.is_vertebrate():
      return identify_vertebrate()
   else:
      return identify_invertebrate()
def identify_vertebrate(animal):
   noise = animal.poke()
   if noise == 'moo':
      return 'cow'
   elif noise == 'woof':
      return 'dog'
def identify_invertebrate(animal):
   if animal.is_multicellular():
      return 'Bug!'
   else:
```

```
""" Parse an HTTP response object, yielding back new requests or data. """
#-----
def process(response):
   selector = lxml.cssselect.CSSSelector('#main > div.text')
   lx = lxml.html.fromstring(response.body)
   title = lx.find('./head/title').text
   links = [a.attrib['href'] for a in lx.find('./a') if 'href' in a.attrib]
   for link in links:
      yield Request(url=link)
   divs = selector(lx)
   if divs: yield Item(utils.lx_to_text(divs[0]))
   _____
def process(response):
   lx = lxml.html.fromstring(response.body)
   title = lx.find('./head/title').text
   links = [a.attrib['href'] for a in lx.find('./a') if 'href' in a.attrib]
   for link in links:
      yield Request(url=link)
   selector = lxml.cssselect.CSSSelector('#main > div.text')
   divs = selector(lx)
   if divs:
      bodytext = utils.lx_to_text(divs[0])
      yield Item(bodytext)
#-----
print 'Sparse is better than dense.'
```

```
""" Write out the tests for a factorial function. """
def factorial(n):
    11 11 11
    Return the factorial of n, an exact integer \geq 0.
    >>> [factorial(n) for n in range(6)]
    [1, 1, 2, 6, 24, 120]
    >>> factorial(30)
    265252859812191058636308480000000L
    >>> factorial(-1)
    Traceback (most recent call last):
    ValueError: n must be >= 0
    pass
if __name__ == '__main__' and '--test' in sys.argv:
    import doctest
    doctest.testmod()
import unittest
def factorial(n):
    pass
class FactorialTests(unittest.TestCase):
    def test_ints(self):
        self.assertEqual(
            [factorial(n) for n in range(6)], [1, 1, 2, 6, 24, 120])
    def test_long(self):
        self.assertEqual(
```

```
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Write a function that returns another functions. Also, test floating point.
#-----
def make_counter():
   i = 0
   def count():
      """ Increments a count and returns it. """
      i += 1
      return i
   return count
count = make_counter()
assert hasattr(count, '__name__') # No anonymous functions!
assert hasattr(count, '__doc__')
assert float('0.20000000000000000') == 1.1 - 0.9 # (this is platform dependent)
assert 0.2 != 1.1 - 0.9 # Not special enough to break the rules of floating pt.
assert float(repr(1.1 - 0.9)) == 1.1 - 0.9
#-----
def make_adder(addend):
   return lambda i: i + addend # But lambdas, once in a while, are practical.
assert str(1.1 - 0.9) == '0.2' # as may be rounding off floating point errors
assert round(0.2, 15) == round(1.1 - 0.9, 15)
#-----
print "Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules."
print 'Although practicality beats purity.'
```

```
# Example 1
assert hasattr(__builtins__, 'map') # ('map' in __builtins__) raises TypeError
assert not hasattr(__builtins__, 'collect')
# Example 2
def fibonacci_generator():
   prior, current = 0, 1
    while current < 100:
       yield prior + current
       prior, current = current, current + prior
sequences = [
   range(20),
   {'foo': 1, 'fie': 2},
    fibonacci_generator(),
    (5, 3, 3)
for sequence in sequences:
    for item in sequence: # all sequences iterate the same way
        pass
print 'There should be one, and preferably only one way to do it.'
print "Although that way may not be obvious at first unless you're Dutch."
```

```
def hard():
   # Example 1
   try:
       import twisted
       help(twisted) # (this may not be as hard as I think, though)
    except:
       pass
   # Example 2
   import xml.dom.minidom
   document = xml.dom.minidom.parseString(
       ''', '<menagerie > <cat > Fluffers < /cat > <cat > Cisco < /cat > </menagerie > ''')
   menagerie = document.childNodes[0]
   for node in menagerie.childNodes:
       if node.childNodes[0].nodeValue== 'Cisco' and node.tagName == 'cat':
           return node
def easy(maybe):
   # Example 1
    try:
       import gevent
       help(gevent)
    except:
       pass
   # Example 2
   import lxml
   menagerie = lxml.etree.fromstring(
        ''', <menagerie > <cat > Fluffers < /cat > <cat > Cisco < /cat > </menagerie > ''', )
   for pet in menagerie.find('./cat'):
       if pet.text == 'Cisco':
           return pet
```

print "If the implementation is hard to explain, it's a bad idea."

print 'If the implementation is easy to explain, it may be a good idea.'

```
def chase():
    import menagerie.models.cat as cat
    import menagerie.models.dog as dog

    dog.chase(cat)
    cat.chase(mouse)

print "Namespaces are one honking great idea -- let's do more of those!"
```

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- Peters, Tim. PEP 20, "The Zen of Python".
- Raymond, Eric. \*The Art of Unix Programming\*. (http://www.catb.org/~esr/writings/taoup/)
- Alchin, Marty. \*Pro Python\*.
- Ramblings on http://stackoverflow.com/questions/228181/the-zen-of-python

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```
from optparse import OptionParser
import os
import re
import subprocess
import sys
parser = OptionParser(usage=__doc__.strip())
parser.add_option('-v', dest='verbose', action='store_true',
   help='Verbose output')
header_pat = re.compile(r'^\PY\{c\}\{' + (r'\PYZsh\{\}' * 8)})
def yield_altered_lines(latex):
    Adds page breaks and page layout to our pygments file. Blah.
    for line in latex.splitlines():
        if line == r'\documentclass{article}':
            yield line
            yield r'\usepackage{geometry}'
            yield r'\geometry{letterpaper,landscape,margin=0.25in}'
        elif line == r'\begin{document}':
            yield line
            vield r'\large'
        elif header_pat.search(line):
            yield r'\end{Verbatim}'
            yield r'\pagebreak'
            yield r'\begin{Verbatim}[commandchars=\\\{\}]'
            yield line
        else:
            yield line
if __name__ == '__main__':
    print
    options, args = parser.parse_args()
    if options.verbose:
        errout = sys.stderr
    else:
```

```
errout = open('/tmp/pep20.log', 'w')
try:
    # TODO: pygmentize in Python instead of farming it out
   p = subprocess.Popen(
        ('pygmentize', '-f', 'latex', '-l', 'python',
            '-0', 'full', sys.argv[0]),
        stdout=subprocess.PIPE, stderr=errout)
    output, err = p.communicate()
    assert p.returncode == 0, 'pygmentize exited with %d' % p.returncode
   p2 = subprocess.Popen(
        ('pygmentize', '-f', 'html', '-l', 'python',
            '-0', 'full', '-o', 'pep20_by_example.html', sys.argv[0]),
        stdout=errout, stderr=errout)
   p2.communicate()
    assert p2.returncode == 0, 'pygmentize exited with %d' % p2.returncode
except OSError, e:
   print >> sys.stderr, 'Failed to run pygmentize: %s' % str(e)
except AssertionError, e:
    print e
altered_output = '\n'.join(1 for 1 in yield_altered_lines(output))
try:
   p = subprocess.Popen(('pdflatex',),
        stdin=subprocess.PIPE, stdout=errout, stderr=errout)
   p.communicate(altered_output)
    assert p.returncode == 0, 'pdflatex exited with %d' % p.returncode
except OSError, e:
   print >> sys.stderr, 'Failed to run pygmentize: %s' % str(e)
except AssertionError, e:
    print e
os.rename('texput.pdf', 'pep20_by_example.pdf')
errout.close()
```