

TOPS Technology

Python Fundamentals

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Programming Style:

1. Understanding Python's PEP 8 guidelines.

- PEP 8 (Python Enhancement Proposal 8) is the style guide for Python code that provides conventions and best practices for writing clean, readable, and consistent code.
- **1. Code Layout**
- **Indentation:** Use **4 spaces per indentation level**, not tabs.
- **Maximum Line Length:** Limit all lines to **79 characters** (72 characters for docstrings).
- **Blank Lines:**
 - 1 blank line between functions and class definitions.
 - 2 blank lines between top-level functions and class definitions.
- **Imports:** Imports should be on separate lines, and in this order:
 - Standard library imports.
 - Third-party library imports.
 - Local application/library imports.

➤ **Naming Conventions**

- **Variables/Functions:** Use lowercase with underscores (e.g., `my_variable`, `my_function`).
- **Classes:** Use Capitalized Words (e.g., `MyClass`, `MyDerivedClass`).
- **Constants:** Use uppercase with underscores (e.g., `MAX_VALUE`, `PI`).
- **Modules and Packages:** Use short, all-lowercase names (e.g., `my_module`, `mypackage`).

➤ **Whitespace in Expressions and Statements**

- Avoid unnecessary spaces:

- Correct:

- `If x == 4:`

- `print(x)`

- Incorrect:

- `if x == 4 :`

- `print(x)`

➤ **Docstrings**

➤ Use docstrings to describe all public classes and methods.

➤ Docstrings should be enclosed in triple quotes ("""Docstring""").

➤ **One-liner docstrings:** Place the docstring on one line (if simple).

➤ Example:

➤ `def square(x):`

➤ `"""Return the square of x."""`

➤ `return x * x`

➤ **Multi-line docstrings:** Use triple quotes for multi-line docstrings, with the description and explanation formatted clearly.

➤ Example:

➤ `def my_function(x, y):`

➤ `"""`

➤ `This function adds x and y.`

➤ `Parameters:`

➤ `x (int)`: The first number.

➤ `y (int)`: The second number.

➤ Returns:

➤ `int`: The sum of `x` and `y`.

➤ `"""`

➤ `return x + y`

➤ **Programming Recommendations**

➤ **Avoid using global variables**: Instead, pass variables to functions where possible.

➤ **Use exception handling properly**: Use `try`, `except`, `finally` blocks as needed to handle errors gracefully.

➤ **Use comprehensions**: Prefer list, dictionary, and set comprehensions over loops when appropriate for readability and efficiency.

- **Versioning**

- When writing Python 2/3 compatible code, always be explicit with the versions and use `six` or `future` libraries to bridge the compatibility gaps.

5.Indentation, comments, and naming conventions in Python.

➤ **Indentation in Python**

- **Use 4 spaces** per indentation level. Do not use tabs.
- Indentation is important in Python because it indicates blocks of code. For example, in control structures (if, for, etc.), indentation shows the scope of the block.
- Example:
- `if x > 10:`
- `print("x is greater than 10")`
- `x -= 1 # Decrease x by 1`
- `else:`
- `print("x is less than or equal to 10")`

➤ **Comments in Python**

- **Inline comments:** Start with # and are placed on the same line as code.
- `x = 5 # This is an inline comment.`

- **Naming Conventions in Python**
- **Variables/Functions:** Use **lowercase letters** with **underscores** to separate words (my_variable, my_function).
- my_variable = 10
- def calculate_sum(a, b):
- return a + b
- **Modules and Packages:** Use **short, lowercase names** (e.g., my_module, utils).
- import math

3. Writing readable and maintainable code.

- **Use Meaningful and Consistent Naming**
- **Variables, Functions, and Classes:** Use clear and descriptive names that convey purpose. For example:
- int numOfItems; // Instead of "n"
- double calculateTax(double amount); // Instead of "calcT"

➤ **Comment Smartly**

➤ Explain *why* a piece of code exists, not *what* it does (if the code is self-explanatory).

➤ `// Calculate the total cost, including a 10% service charge.`

➤ `double totalCost = baseCost * 1.1;`

➤ **Structure Your Code**

➤ **Indentation:** Use consistent indentation (e.g., 4 spaces or a tab).

➤ **Logical Grouping:** Group related pieces of code together, such as declarations, loops, or helper functions.

➤ `// Declare variables`

➤ `int a = 10, b = 20;`

➤ `// Perform calculations`

➤ `int sum = a + b;`

➤ `// Output the result`

➤ `printf("Sum: %d\n", sum);`