

Python Syntax, Whitespace, and Indentation

1. Using Print Statements

- A simple `print()` statement generates text in the terminal.

Example:

```
print("Hello")
```

Output:

```
Hello
```

- **Common Error:** Placing two `print()` statements on the same line causes a syntax error.

Example:

```
print("Hello") print("World") # SyntaxError: invalid syntax
```

- **Solutions:**

- Move the second `print()` statement to a new line.
- Separate the two statements with a semicolon (;).

Example:

```
print("Hello"); print("World")
```

Output:

```
Hello  
World
```

2. Whitespace in Python

- Extra whitespace around operators like `+` is ignored by the interpreter.

Example:

```
x = 1      +      2 # No error  
print(x) # Output: 3
```

- **Issues with Multiline Expressions:**

- Adding an operator on a new line without a continuation indicator causes errors.

Example:

```
x = 1 + 2
```

```
+ 3 # Only the first line is executed; output is 3
```

- **Solution:** Use a backslash (\) to indicate a continuation.

Example:

```
x = 1 + 2 \
    + 3
print(x) # Output: 6
```

3. Indentation in Python

- Indentation is crucial for defining code blocks (e.g., in `if` statements).

Example:

```
name = "John"
if name == "John":
    print(name) # Correctly indented; Output: John
```

- **Common Error:** Missing or incorrect indentation.

Example:

```
name = "John"
if name == "John":
print(name) # IndentationError: expected an indented block
```

- **Error Handling:**
 - Python's error messages indicate the exact line where the issue occurred.
 - Correct the indentation to resolve the error.

Key Takeaways

- **Print Statements:** Avoid placing multiple statements on the same line without proper separation.
- **Whitespace:** While excessive whitespace is ignored within a single line, multiline expressions require continuation indicators.
- **Indentation:** Proper indentation is mandatory in Python to define code blocks. Errors like `IndentationError` help identify where the issue is.
- **Debugging:** Reading Python's error messages often provides specific details about what went wrong and where to fix it.