

Overview: Python Style Guide (PEP8)

① Naming Conventions

“Explicit is better than implicit.”

- in general don't write not x, but „names“
- avoid [o], [O], [l]
- Function → function, my_function
- Variable → x, var, my_variable
- Class → Model, MyClass
- Method → class_method, method
- Constant → CONSTANT, MY_CONSTANT, MY_LONG_CONSTANT
- Module → module.py, my_module.py
- Package → package, mypackage

② Code Layout

“Beautiful is better than ugly.”

- 79 character line limit
- Surround top-level functions and classes with two blank lines
- Surround method definitions inside classes with a single blank line
- Use blank lines sparingly inside functions to show clear steps

③ Indentation

“There should be one—and preferably only one—obvious way to do it.”

- Use 4 consecutive spaces to indicate indentation.
- **Prefer spaces over tabs.**
- Indent block comments to the same level as the code they describe.

④ Comments

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

- Limit the line length of comments and docstrings to 72 characters.
- Use complete sentences, starting with a capital letter.
- Make sure to update comments if you change your code.
- Block comments
- Start each line with a # followed by a single space.
- Separate paragraphs by a line containing a single #. Use inline comments sparingly.
- Write inline comments on the same line as the statement they refer to.
- Separate inline comments by two or more spaces from the statement.
- Start inline comments with a # and a single space, like block comments.
- Don't use them to explain the obvious.

⑤ Whitespace in Expressions and Statements

„Sparse is better than dense.”

- Surround the following binary operators with a single space on either side Assignment operators (=, +=, -=, and so forth)
- Comparisons (==, !=, >, <, >=, <=) and (is, is not, in, not in)
- Booleans (and, not, or)
- When = is used to assign a default value to a function argument, do not surround it with spaces.

⑥ Programming Recommendations

“Simple is better than complex.”

- Don't compare boolean values to True or False using the equivalence operator.
- Use the fact that empty sequences are falsy in if statements.
- Use is not rather than not ... is in if statements.

Explicitness is key

Beauty is key

Consistency is key

Thriftiness is key

Simplicity is key