

**Lecture**

# **Name Mangling**





## Name Mangling

\_\_<attribute>



Name Mangling



## Name Mangling

```
class Car:  
  
    def __init__(self, engine_serial_num):  
        self.__engine_serial_num = engine_serial_num
```



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## Name Mangling

### Method Names and Instance Variables

Use the function naming rules: lowercase with words separated by underscores as necessary to improve readability.

Use one leading underscore only for non-public methods and instance variables.

To avoid name clashes with subclasses, use two leading underscores to invoke Python's name mangling rules.

Python mangles these names with the class name: if class `Foo` has an attribute named `__a`, it cannot be accessed by `Foo.__a`. (An insistent user could still gain access by calling `Foo._Foo__a`.) Generally, double leading underscores should be used only to avoid name conflicts with attributes in classes designed to be subclassed.

Note: there is some controversy about the use of `__names` (see below).



PEP 8



## Name Mangling

\_\_engine\_serial\_num



## Name Mangling

engine\_serial\_num



**Name Mangling**





## Name Mangling

**engine\_serial\_num**



**Name Mangling**



**Carengine\_serial\_num**



## Name Mangling

```
>>> class Car:

    def __init__(self, engine_serial_num):
        self.__engine_serial_num = engine_serial_num

>>> my_car = Car("53094982")
>>> my_car.__engine_serial_num
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<pyshell#10>", line 1, in <module>
    my_car.__engine_serial_num
AttributeError: 'Car' object has no attribute '__engine_serial_num'
```





## Name Mangling

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    def __init__(self, engine_serial_num):
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>>> class Car:
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>>> my_car = Car("53094982")
>>> my_car._Car__engine_serial_num
'53094982'
```



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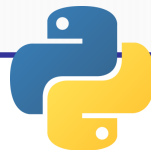
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To avoid name clashes with subclasses, use two leading underscores to invoke Python's name mangling rules.

Python mangles these names with the class name: if class `Foo` has an attribute named `a`, it cannot be accessed by `Foo.a`.

(An insistent user could still gain access by calling `Foo._Foo__a`. Generally, double leading underscores should be used only to avoid name conflicts with attributes in classes designed to be subclassed.

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PEP 8



## Name Mangling



\_\_<attribute>





## Name Mangling



<attribute>



<attribute>\_



## Name Mangling



<attribute>

Continue name with  
multiple words



<attribute>\_



## Name Mangling



<attribute>



<attribute>\_



<attribute>\_\_



## Name Mangling



<attribute>



<attribute>\_



<attribute>\_

Magic  
Method  
s



## Name Mangling

\_\_<attribute>



Name Mangling



\_<Class> \_\_<attribute>



# Time to Practice

