

# String and repr: A lightning talk

By Tibs / Tony Ibbs, for CamPUG Dec 2017

Sources at <https://github.com/tibs/lightning-talks>

Written using reStructuredText. Originally presented using hovercraft. Converted to PDF slides using pandoc and beamer.

Don't do:

```
logger.error('Key %s has value \'%s\'', key, value)
```

or even:

```
logger.error("Key %s has value '%s'", key, value)
```

Do:

```
logger.error("Key %s has value %r", key, value)
```

Why? Because it's useful to distinguish:

Key Fred has value 1

from:

Key Fred has value '1'

Similarly, don't do:

```
print("Key {} has value '{}'.format(key, value))
```

but do:

```
print("Key {} has value {!r}".format(key, value))
```

Note

Remember there's a whole little language that can be used after that ! character.

And actually, strongly consider:

```
print(f'Key {key} has value {value!r}')
```

(f strings turn out to be really nice - they remove a lot of repetition, and even allow simple expressions inside the curly braces. But their killer use is just as above, for very simple strings.)

And, by the way, don't forget:

```
logger.exception('The mouse appears to be spinning')
```

which takes care of logging all the exception details for you, as an error.

# Fin

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