



6.9. Splitting and Joining Strings

Two of the most useful methods on strings involve lists of strings. The `split` method breaks a string into a list of words. By default, any number of whitespace characters is considered a word boundary.

```
"leaders |and| best".split()  
["leaders", "and", "best"]
```

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```
1 song = "The rain in Spain..."  
2 wds = song.split()  
3 print(wds)  
4
```

['The', 'rain', 'in', 'Spain...']

Activity: 1 -- ActiveCode (ac5_9_1)

An optional argument called a **delimiter** can be used to specify which characters to use as word boundaries.

```
'leaders and best'.split("e")  
['l', 'ad', 'rs and b', 'st']
```

The following example uses the string `ai` as the delimiter:

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```
1 song = "The rain in Spain..."  
2 wds = song.split('ai')  
3 print(wds)  
4
```

['The r', 'n in Sp', 'n...']

Activity: 2 -- ActiveCode (ac5_9_2)

Notice that the delimiter doesn't appear in the result.

The inverse of the `split` method is `join`. You choose a desired **separator** string, (often called the *glue*) and join the list with the glue between each of the elements.

```
"/".join(["leaders", "and", "best"])  
"leaders/and/best"
```

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```
1 wds = ["red", "blue", "green"]  
2 glue = ':'
```

```

3 s = glue.join(wds)
4 print(s)
5 print(wds)
6
7 print("".join(wds))
8 print("".join(wds))
9

```

```

red;blue;green
['red', 'blue', 'green']
red**blue**green
redbluegreen

```

Activity: 3 -- ActiveCode (ac5_9_3)

The list that you glue together (`wds` in this example) is not modified. Also, you can use empty glue or multi-character strings as glue.

Check your understanding

Create a new list of the 6th through 13th elements of `lst` (eight items in all) and assign it to the variable `output`.

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```

1 lst = ["swimming", 2, "water bottle", 44, "lollipop", "shine", "marsh", "winter", '
2 output = lst[5:13]
3

```

Activity: 4 -- ActiveCode (ac5_9_4)

Result	Actual Value	Expected Value	Notes
Pass	['shi...old']	['shi...old']	Testing that output value is assigned to correct value.

Expand Differences

You passed: 100.0% of the tests

Create a variable `output` and assign it to a list whose elements are the words in the string `str1`.

Save & Run

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Show in CodeLens

```

1 str1 = "OH THE PLACES YOU'LL GO"
2 output = str1.split()
3

```

Activity: 5 -- ActiveCode (ac5_9_5)

Result	Actual Value	Expected Value	Notes
Pass	['OH'...'GO']	['OH'...'GO']	Testing that output value is assigned to correct value.

Expand Differences

You passed: 100.0% of the tests

You have attempted 6 of 5 activities on this page

