

# **Exercise 14: Prompting and Passing**



Let's do one exercise that uses <a href="argv">[argv</a> and <a href="raw\_input">[raw\_input</a>) together to ask the user something specific. You will need this for the next exercise where we learn to read and write files. In this exercise we'll use <a href="raw\_input">[raw\_input]</a> slightly differently by having it print a simple <a href="pipped">[prompt</a>. This is similar to a game like Zork or Adventure.





```
1
     from sys import argv
                                                                          2
                                                                          NEXT
 3
     script, user_name = argv
 4
     prompt = '>
                                                                          41
 5
     print "Hi %s, I'm the %s script." % (user_name, script)
                                                                          HELP
     print "I'd like to ask you a few questions."
 7
 8
     print "Do you like me %s?" % user name
                                                                          Follow
 9
     likes = raw_input(prompt)
10
11
     print "Where do you live %s?" % user name
12
     lives = raw input(prompt)
13
14
     print "What kind of computer do you have?"
15
     computer = raw_input(prompt)
16
17
     print """
18
     Alright, so you said %r about liking me.
19
     You live in %r. Not sure where that is.
20
     And you have a %r computer. Nice.
     """ % (likes, lives, computer)
21
```

We make a variable prompt that is set to the prompt we want, and we give that to raw\_input instead of typing it over and over. Now if we want to make the prompt something else, we just change it in this one spot and rerun the script.

Very handy.

### What You Should See

When you run this, remember that you have to give the script your name for the [argv] arguments.

```
$ python ex14.py zed
Hi zed, I'm the ex14.py script.
I'd like to ask you a few questions.
Do you like me zed?
> Yes
Where do you live zed?
> San Francisco
What kind of computer do you have?
> Tandy 1000

Alright, so you said 'Yes' about liking me.
You live in 'San Francisco'. Not sure where that is.
And you have a 'Tandy 1000' computer. Nice.
```

## **Study Drills**

- 1. Find out what Zork and Adventure were. Try to find a copy and play it.
- 2. Change the prompt variable to something else entirely.
- Add another argument and use it in your script, the same way you did in the previous exercise with first, second = ARGV.
- 4. Make sure you understand how I combined a style multiline string with the s

#### **Common Student Questions**



I get SyntaxError: invalid syntax when I run this script.

Again, you have to run it right on the command line, not inside Python. If you type python, and then try to type python ex14.py zed it will fail because you are running Python inside Python. Close your window and then just type python ex14.py zed.



I don't understand what you mean by changing the prompt?

See the variable prompt = '> '. Change that to have a different value. You know this, it's just a string and you've done 13 exercises making them, so take the time to figure it out.



Q: I get the error valueError: need more than 1 value to unpack.

Remember when I said you need to look at the What You Should See (wyss) section and replicate what I did? You need to do the same thing here and focus on how I type the command in, and why I have a command line argument.

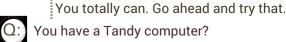


How can I run this from IDLE?



Don't use IDLE.

2: Can I use double-quotes for the (prompt) variable?



I did when I was little.



I get NameError: name 'prompt' is not defined when I run it.

You either spelled the name of the prompt variable wrong or forgot that line. Go back and compare each line of code to mine, from at the bottom of the script to the top. Any time you see this error, it means you spelled something wrong, or forgot to create the variable.

#### Video

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