



Exercise 12: Prompting People

When you typed `raw_input()` you were typing the `(` and `)` characters, which are `parenthesis` characters. This is similar to when you used them to do a format with extra variables, as in `"%s %s" % (x, y)`. For `raw_input` you can also put in a prompt to show to a person so he knows what to type. Put a string that you want for the prompt inside the `()` so that it looks like this:

```
y = raw_input("Name? ")
```

This prompts the user with "Name?" and puts the result into the variable `y`. This is how you ask someone a question and get the answer.

This means we can completely rewrite our previous exercise using just `raw_input` to do all the prompting.

```
1 age = raw_input("How old are you? ")
2 height = raw_input("How tall are you? ")
3 weight = raw_input("How much do you weigh? ")
4
5 print "So, you're %r old, %r tall and %r heavy." % (
6     age, height, weight)
```

1
2
3
4
MAIN



Follow

What You Should See

```
$ python ex12.py
How old are you? 38
How tall are you? 6'2"
How much do you weigh? 180lbs
So, you're '38' old, '6'2"' tall and '180lbs' heavy.
```

Study Drills

1. In Terminal where you normally run `python` to run your scripts, type `pydoc raw_input`. Read what it says. If you're on Windows try `python -m pydoc raw_input` instead.
2. Get out of pydoc by typing `q` to quit.
3. Look online for what the `pydoc` command does.
4. Use pydoc to also read about `open`, `file`, `os`, and `sys`. It's alright if you do not understand those; just read through and take notes about interesting things.

Common Student Questions



How come I get `SyntaxError: invalid syntax` whenever I run `pydoc`?

You aren't running `pydoc` from the command line; you're probably running it from inside `python`. Exit out of `python` first.



Why does my `pydoc` not pause like yours does?

Sometimes if the help document is short enough to fit on one screen then `pydoc` will just print it.

Q: When I run `pydoc` I get `more is not recognized as an internal`.

Some versions of Windows do not have that command, which means `pydoc` is broken for you. You can skip this Study Drill and just search online for Python documentation when you need it.

Q: Why would I use `%r` over `%s`?

Remember `%r` is for debugging and is "raw representation" while `%s` is for display. I will not answer this question again so you *must* memorize this fact. This is the #1 thing people ask repeatedly, and asking the same question over and over means you aren't taking the time to memorize what you should. Stop now, and finally memorize this fact.

Q: Why can't I do `print "How old are you?", raw_input()`?

You'd think that'd work, but Python doesn't recognize that as valid. The only answer I can really give is, you just can't.

Video

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