

# TEC222 Introduction to Programming with Python

## Lecture 1

### Variables and I/O

# [ Starting IDLE ]

- Windows:  
Invoke with double click of
- MAC:  
Open Finder, select Applications, select the Utilities folder, select Terminal, and then enter IDLE at the prompt
- LINUX and UNIX: usually be found at /usr/bin/idle3



FIGURE 1.15 IDLE tile from Windows.

# [ Starting IDLE

]

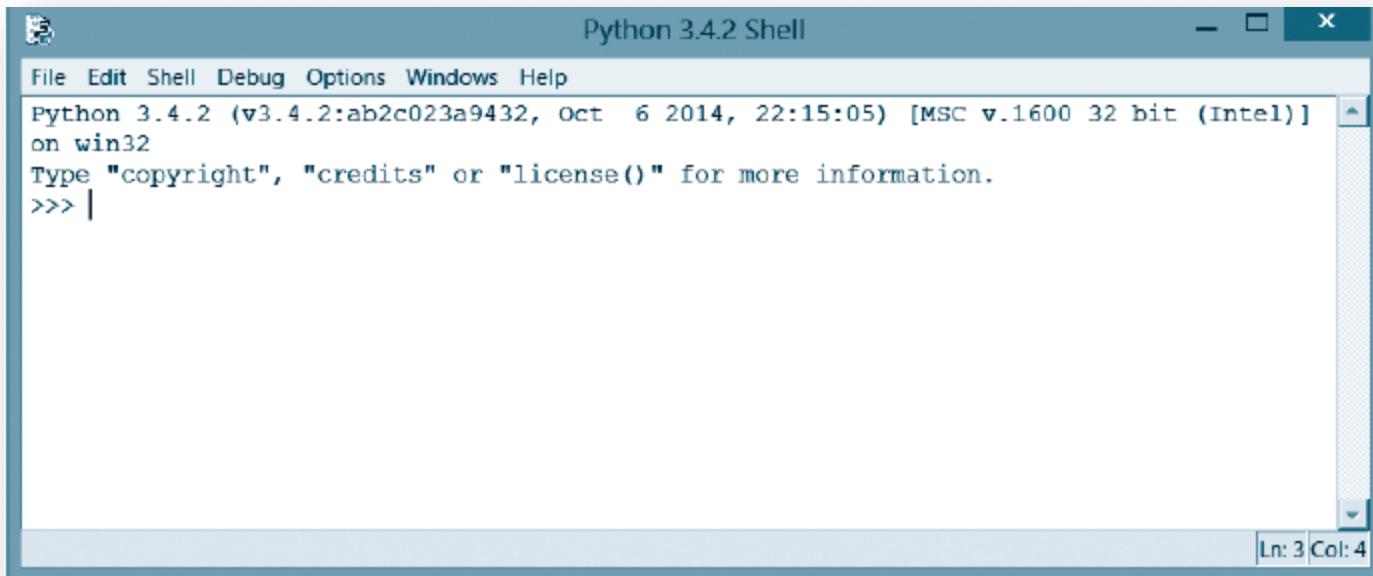


FIGURE 1.16 The Python shell.

# Starting IDLE

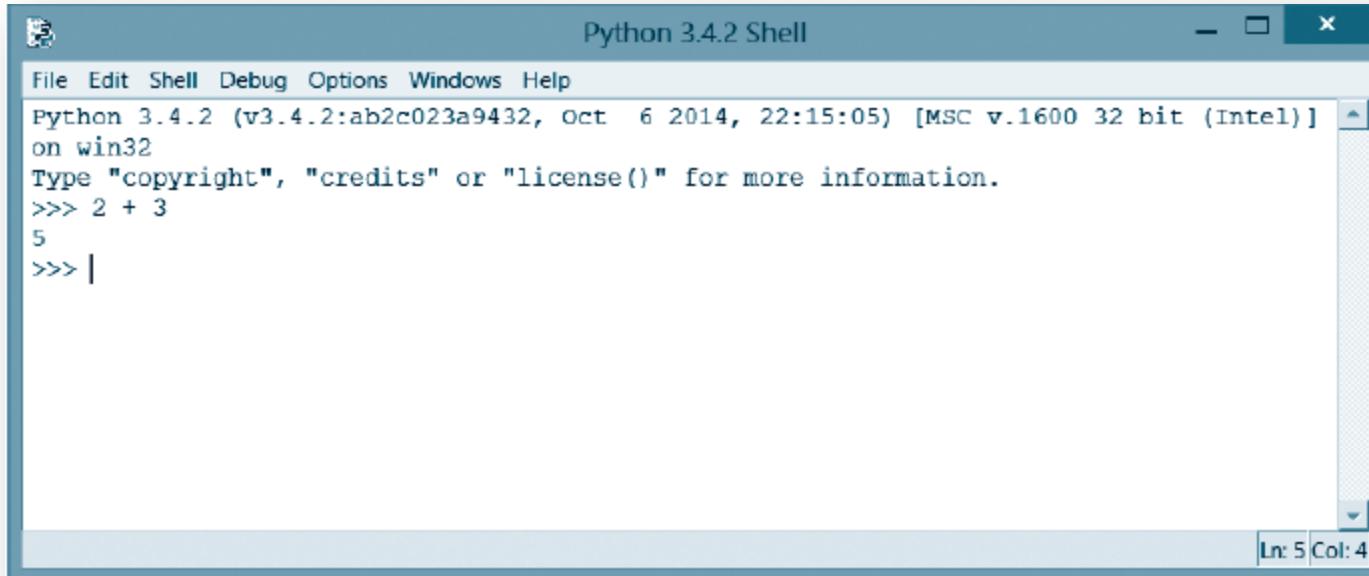


FIGURE 1.17 The Python shell after the expression  $2 + 3$  has been evaluated.

# Starting IDLE

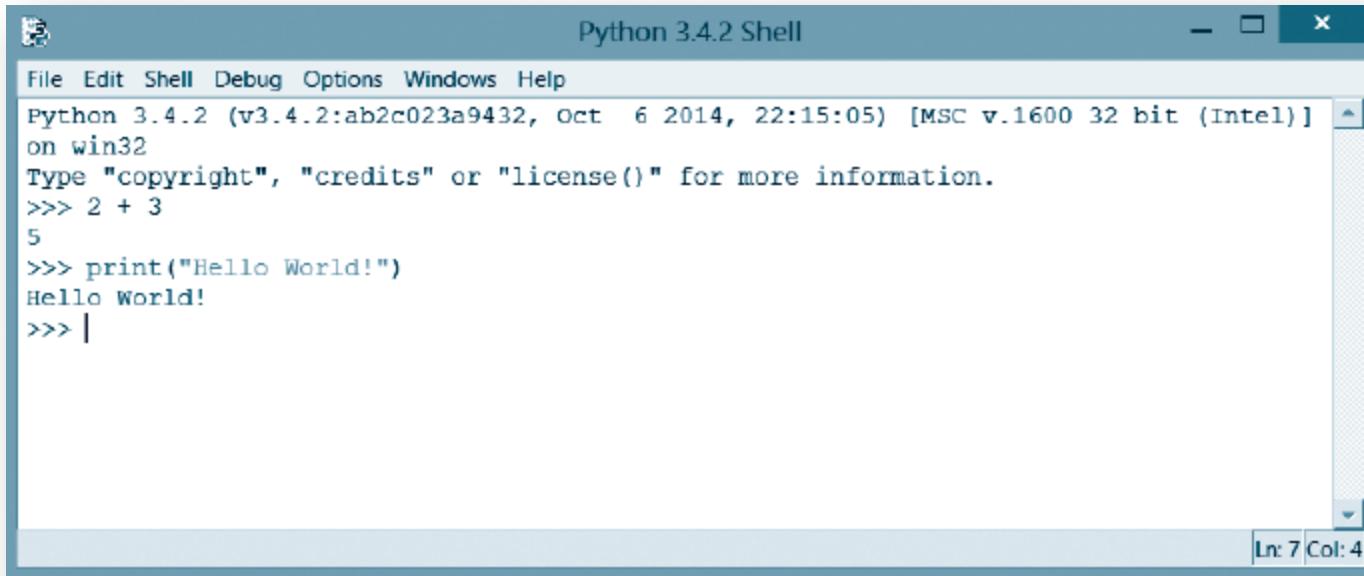


FIGURE 1.18 The Python shell after the statement `print("Hello World!")` has been executed.

# A Python Code Editor

## Walkthrough

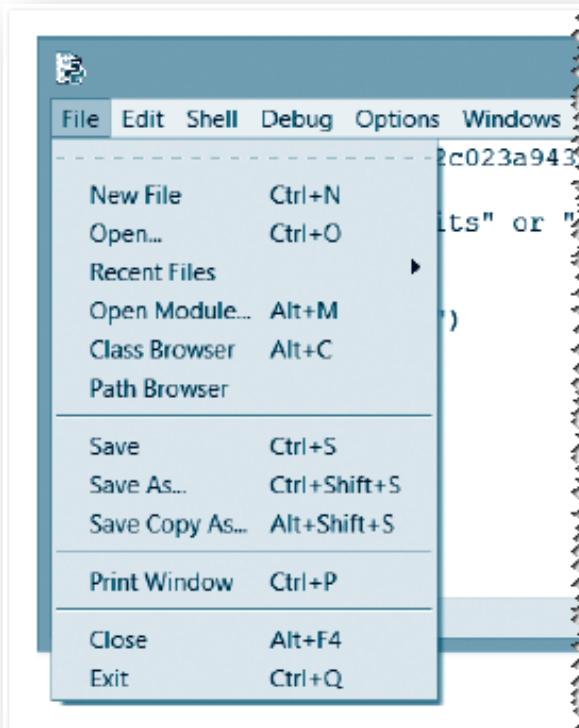


FIGURE 1.19 The File drop-down list.

# A Python Code Editor

## Walkthrough

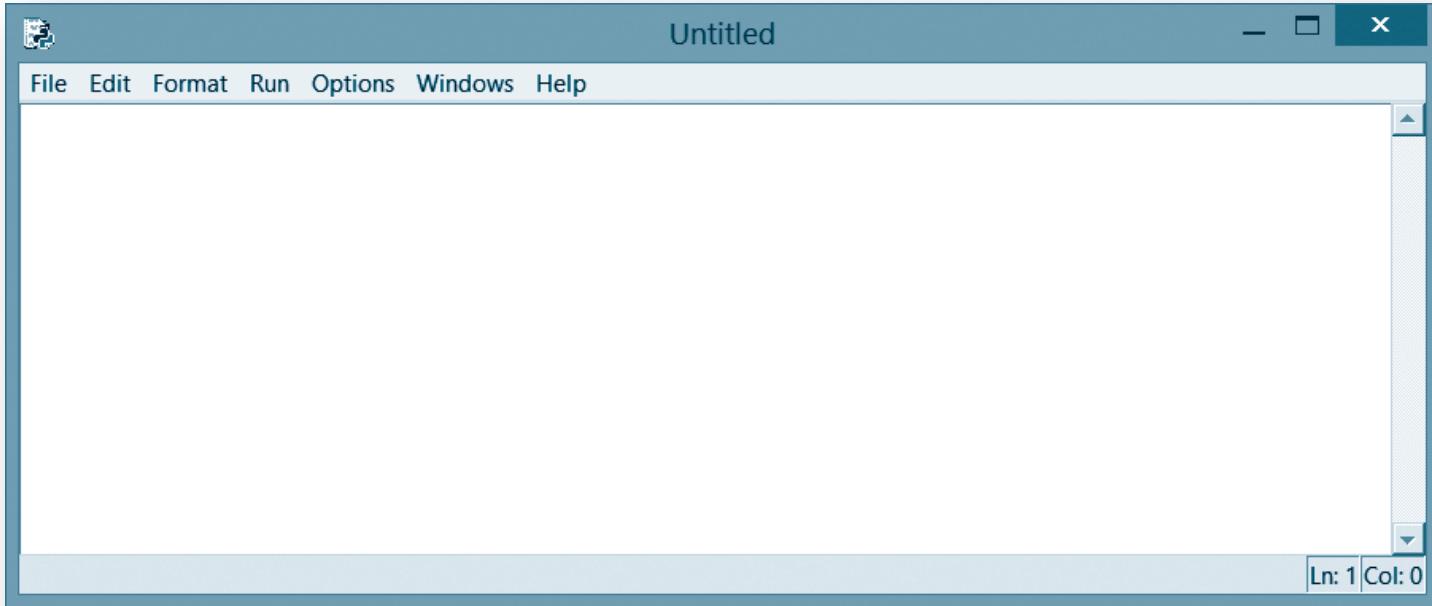


FIGURE 1.20 The code editor window generated after New Window is clicked on.

# A Python Code Editor Walkthrough

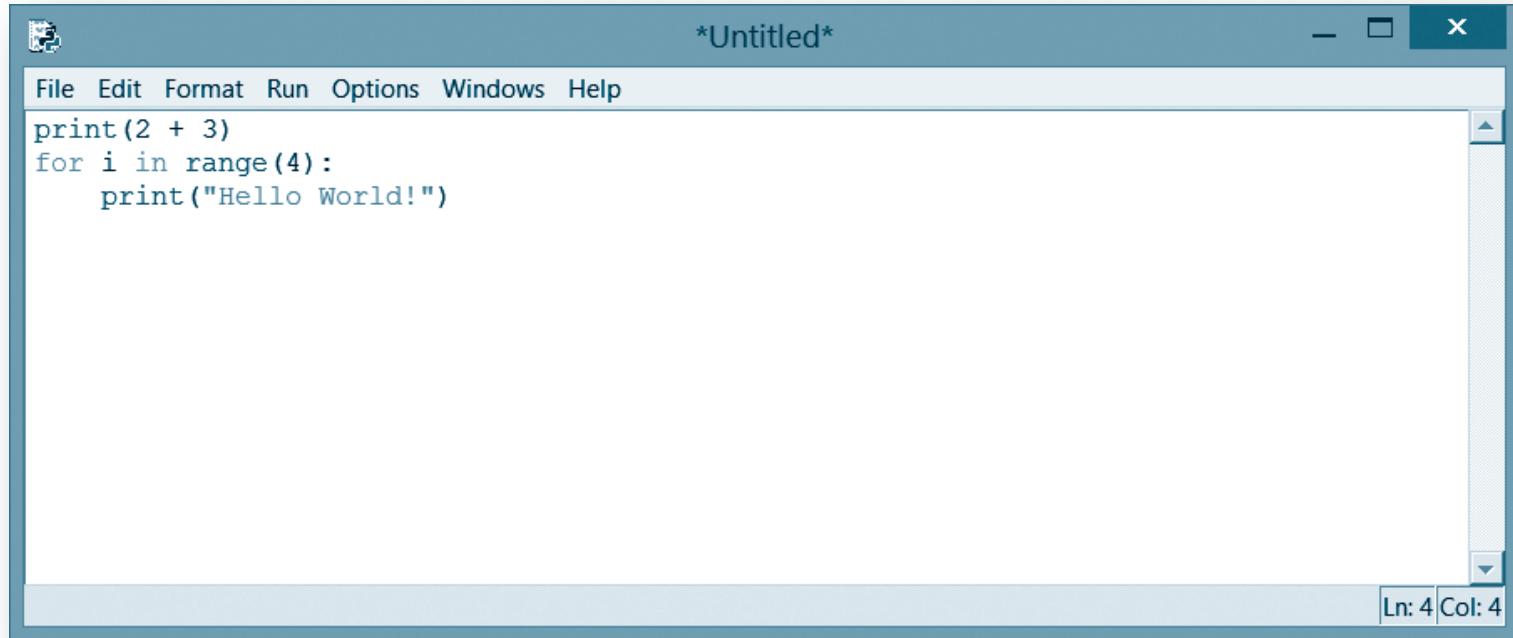


FIGURE 1.21 The code editor window containing a three-line Python program.

# A Python Code Editor Walkthrough

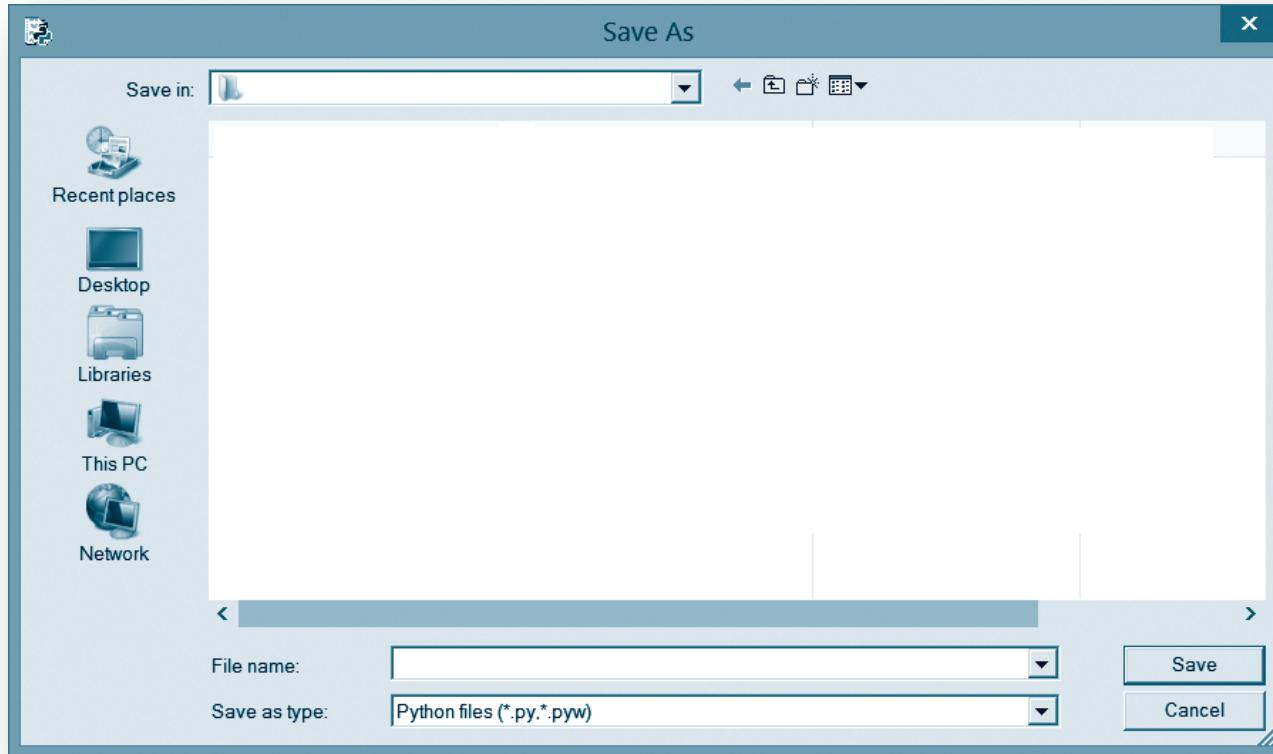


FIGURE 1.22 A Save As dialog box.

# A Python Code Editor Walkthrough

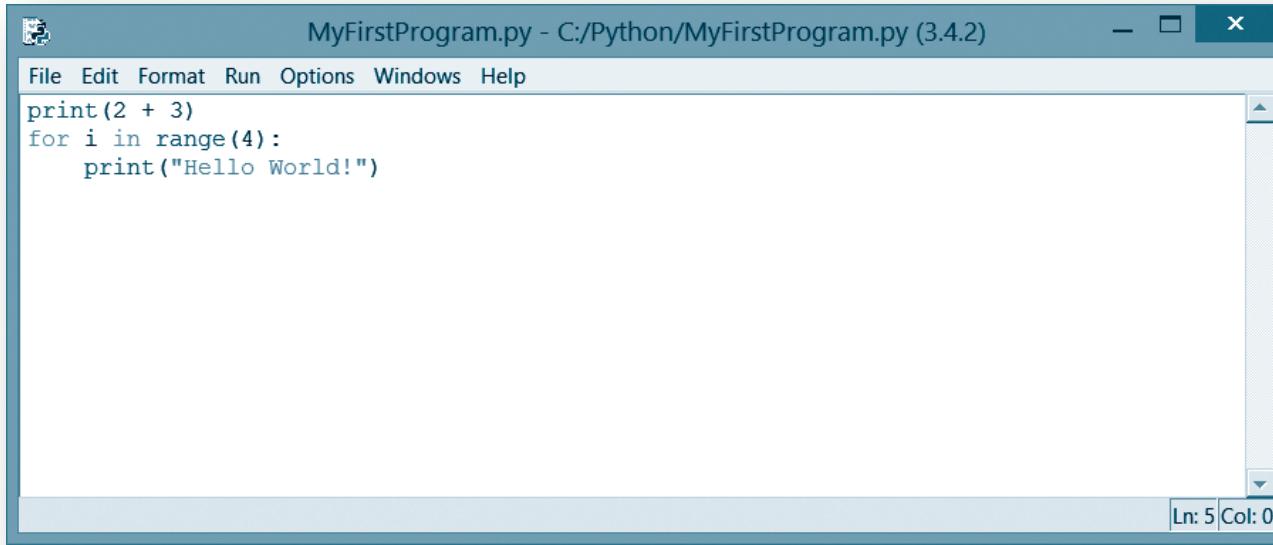
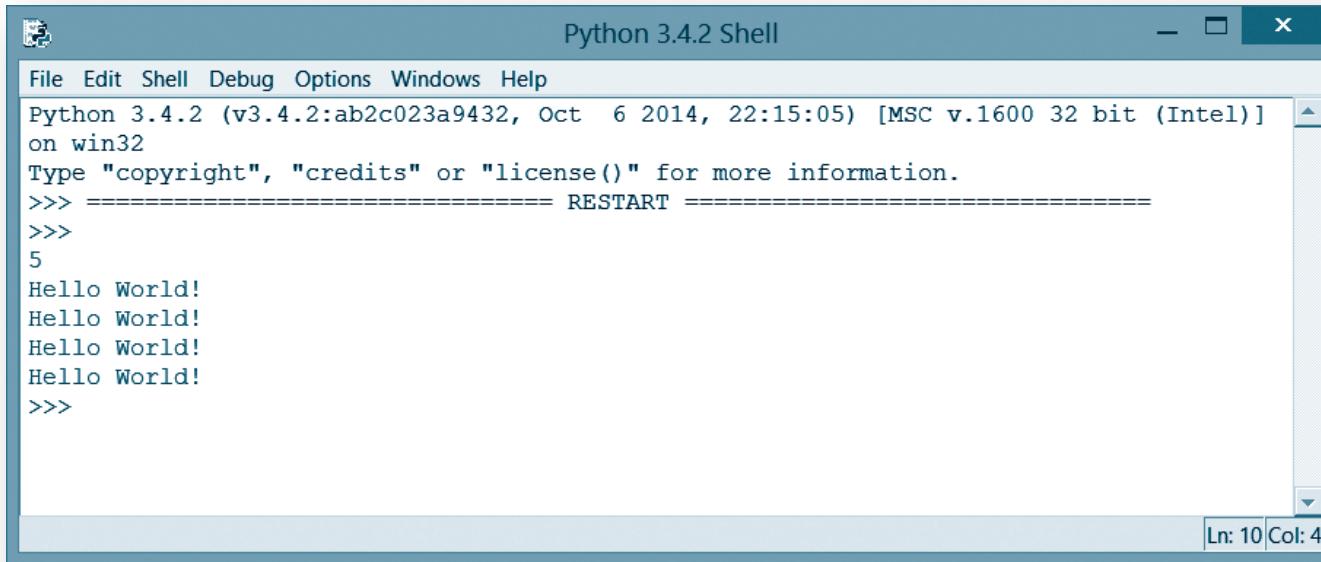


FIGURE 1.23 The code editor window containing a three-line Python program.

# A Python Code Editor Walkthrough



The screenshot shows the Python 3.4.2 Shell window. The title bar reads "Python 3.4.2 Shell". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Shell, Debug, Options, Windows, and Help. The main window displays the following text:

```
Python 3.4.2 (v3.4.2:ab2c023a9432, Oct  6 2014, 22:15:05) [MSC v.1600 32 bit (Intel)]
on win32
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> ===== RESTART =====
>>>
5
Hello World!
Hello World!
Hello World!
Hello World!
>>>
```

In the bottom right corner of the shell window, there is a status bar with "Ln: 10 Col: 4".

FIGURE 1.24 Press the F5 key to execute.  
The outcome of the Python program in Fig. 1.22.

# A Python Code Editor

## Walkthrough

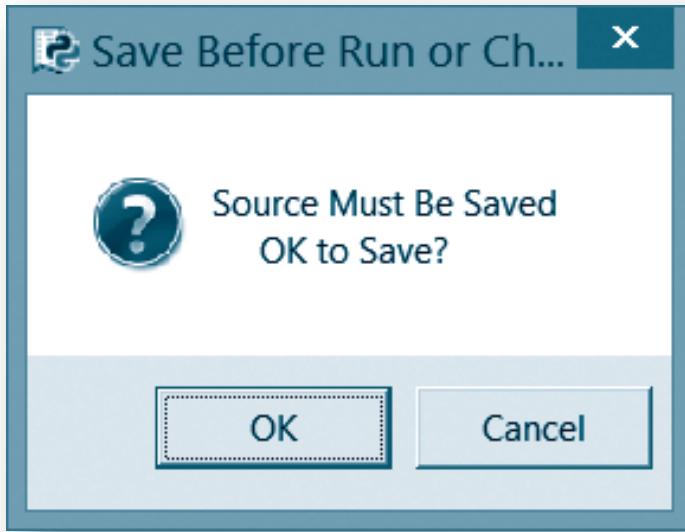


FIGURE 1.25 A Save message box.

# An Open-a-Program Walkthrough

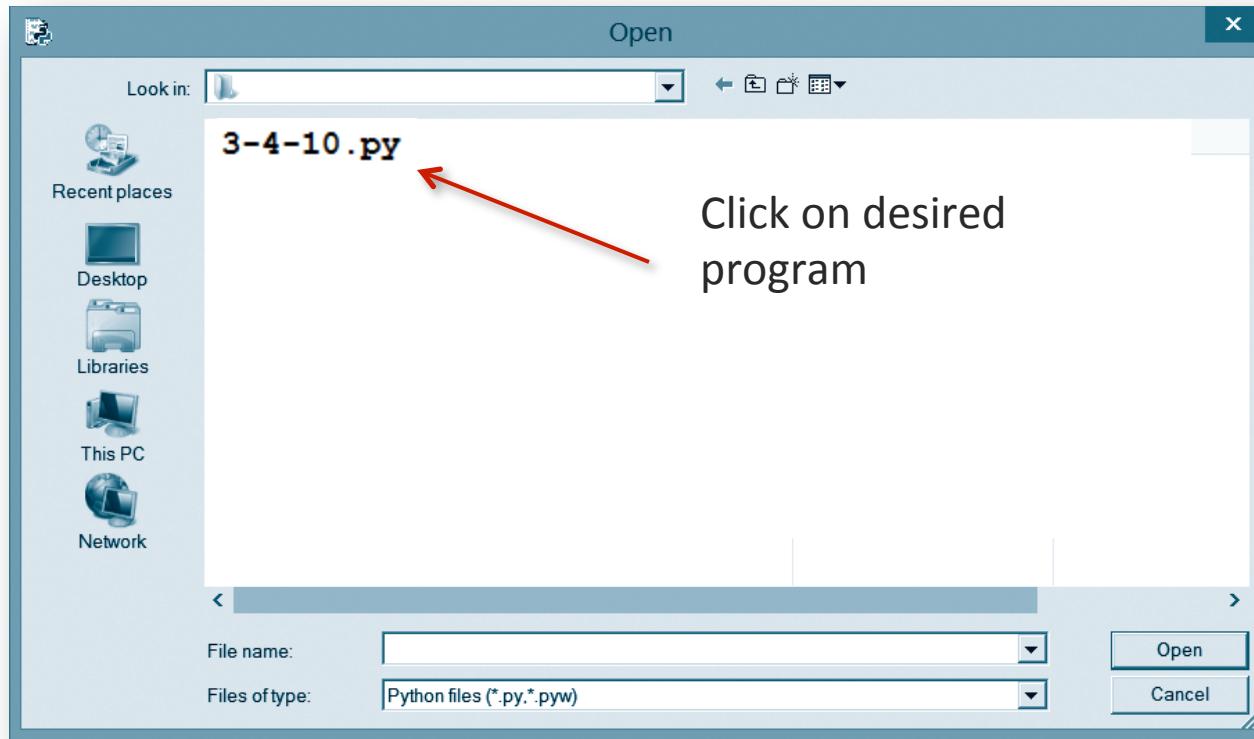
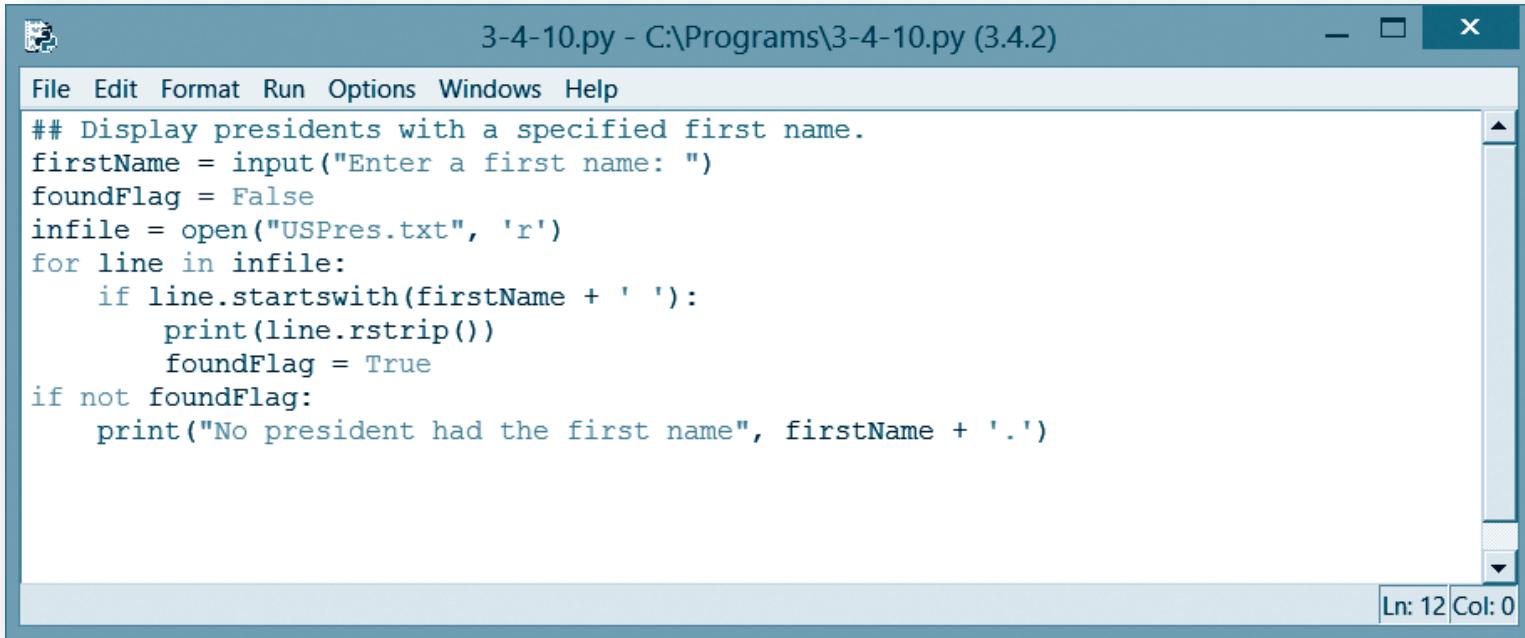


FIGURE 1.26 An Open dialog box.

# An Open-a-Program Walkthrough



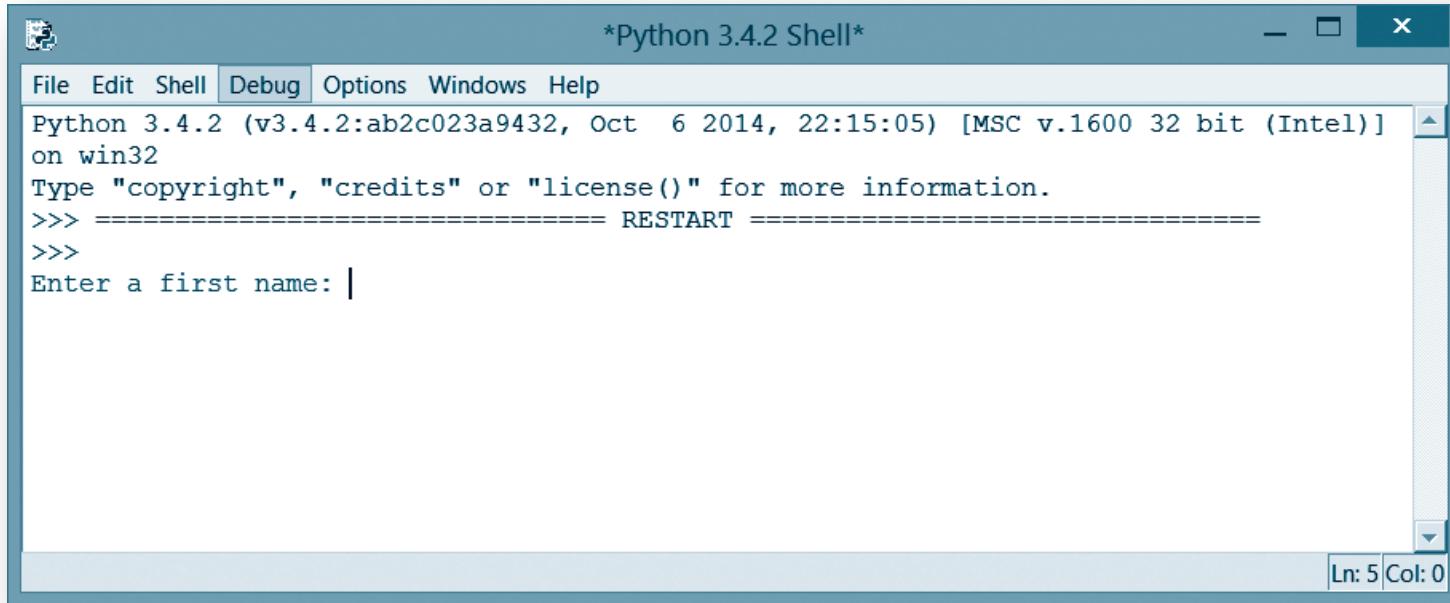
The screenshot shows a Windows application window titled "3-4-10.py - C:\Programs\3-4-10.py (3.4.2)". The window has a menu bar with File, Edit, Format, Run, Options, Windows, and Help. The main area contains the following Python code:

```
## Display presidents with a specified first name.
firstName = input("Enter a first name: ")
foundFlag = False
infile = open("USPres.txt", 'r')
for line in infile:
    if line.startswith(firstName + ' '):
        print(line.rstrip())
        foundFlag = True
if not foundFlag:
    print("No president had the first name", firstName + '.')
```

The status bar at the bottom right indicates "Ln: 12 Col: 0".

Example 10 of Section 3.4.

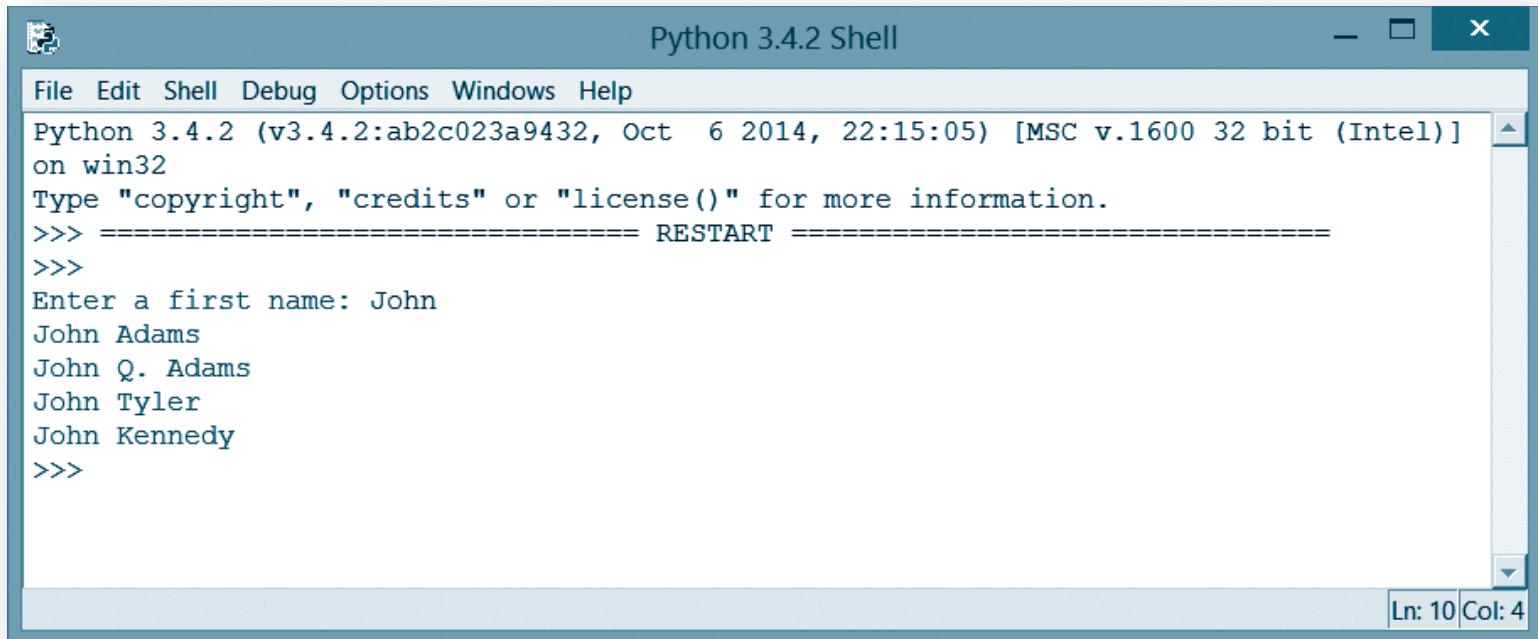
# An Open-a-Program Walkthrough



A screenshot of the Python 3.4.2 Shell window. The title bar reads "\*Python 3.4.2 Shell\*". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Shell, Debug, Options, Windows, and Help. The main window displays the Python version information: "Python 3.4.2 (v3.4.2:ab2c023a9432, Oct 6 2014, 22:15:05) [MSC v.1600 32 bit (Intel)] on win32". It also shows the copyright message: "Type "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information." followed by a double horizontal line separator and the word "RESTART". A prompt ">>> " is followed by the text "Enter a first name: |". In the bottom right corner of the window, there is a status bar with "Ln: 5 Col: 0".

Request for input from Example 10 of Section 3.4.

# An Open-a-Program Walkthrough



The screenshot shows a window titled "Python 3.4.2 Shell". The menu bar includes File, Edit, Shell, Debug, Options, Windows, and Help. The main window displays the following text:

```
Python 3.4.2 (v3.4.2:ab2c023a9432, Oct  6 2014, 22:15:05) [MSC v.1600 32 bit (Intel)]
on win32
Type "copyright", "credits" or "license()" for more information.
>>> ===== RESTART =====
>>>
Enter a first name: John
John Adams
John Q. Adams
John Tyler
John Kennedy
>>>
```

In the bottom right corner of the shell window, there is a status bar with "Ln: 10 Col: 4".

Complete output for Example 10 of Section 3.4.

# Block-Structure

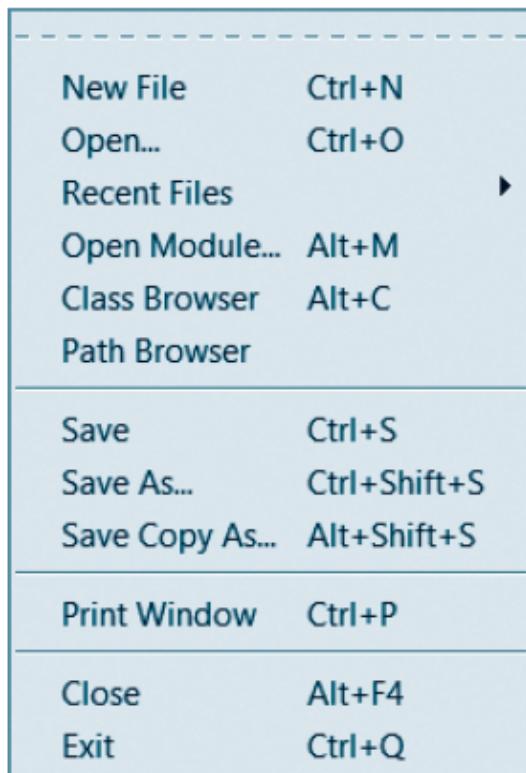
```
## Display presidents with a specified first name.
firstName = input("Enter a first name: ")
foundFlag = False
infile = open("USPres.txt", 'r')
for line in infile:
    if line.startswith(firstName + ' '):
        print(line.rstrip())
        foundFlag = True
if not foundFlag:
    print("No president had the first name", firstName + '.')
```

Annotations:

- ## Display presidents with a specified first name.: no indentation
- for line in infile:
  - if line.startswith(firstName + ' '):
    - print(line.rstrip())
    - foundFlag = Truedecision structure blockrepetition block
- if not foundFlag:
  - print("No president had the first name", firstName + '.')

Example 10 of Section 3.4.

# The File Drop-down Menu



## SOME COMMANDS FROM THE FILE DROP-DOWN MENU.

| COMMAND      | EFFECT  |
|--------------|---|
| New File     | Create a new code editor window.  |
| Open         | Open a saved program.   |
| Recent Files | Display a list of the most recently accessed programs.                          |
| Save         | Save the current program.   |
| Save As      | Save the current program with a different name and possibly different location. |
| Print Window | Print a copy of the program on a printer.                                       |
| Close        | Close the current window.   |
| Exit         | Terminate Python.   |

The File drop-down menu.

# [Numbers]

---

- Numbers are referred to as numeric literals
- Two Types of numbers: ints and floats
  - Whole number written without a decimal point called an int
  - Number written with a decimal point called a float

# [Numbers]

- Arithmetic Operators
  - Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and exponentiation.
- Result of a division is always a float
- Result of the other operations is a float if ...
  - Either of the numbers is a float
  - Otherwise is an int.

# The print Function

- Used to display numbers on the monitor
  - If n is a number, print(n) displays number n.
  - The print function can display the result of evaluated expressions
  - A single print function can display several values
- Example 1: Program demonstrates operations

```
print(3 + 2, 3 - 2, 3 * 2)
print(8 / 2, 8 ** 2, 2 * (3 + 4))

[Run]

5 1 6
4.0 64 24
```

# Variables

- In mathematics problems, quantities are referred to by names
- Names given to the values are called variables
- Example 2: Program uses speed, time ... calculates distance

```
speed = 50
timeElapsed = 14
distance = speed * timeElapsed
print(distance)
```

[Run]

700

# Variables

## Assignment statements

```
speed = 50
timeElapsed = 14
distance = speed * timeElapsed
print(distance)
```

[Run]

700

- Expression on right evaluated
  - That value assigned to variable

# Variables

- Variable names in Python
  - Begin with letter or underscore \_
  - Can only consist of letters, numbers, underscores
- Recommend using descriptive variable names
- Convention will be
  - Begin with lowercase
  - Use cap for additional “word” in the name
  - Example: rateOfChange

# Variables

- Names in Python are case-sensitive
- There are thirty-three words, called reserved words (or keywords)
  - Have special meanings in Python
  - Cannot be used as variable names
  - See Appendix B

# The abs Function



| Expression       | Value |
|------------------|-------|
| $\text{abs}(3)$  | 3     |
| $\text{abs}(0)$  | 0     |
| $\text{abs}(-3)$ | 3     |

# The int Function

| Expression             | Value |
|------------------------|-------|
| <code>int(2.7)</code>  | 2     |
| <code>int(3)</code>    | 3     |
| <code>int(-2.7)</code> | -2    |

# The round Function

| Expression      | Value |
|-----------------|-------|
| round(2.7)      | 3     |
| round(2.317, 2) | 2.32  |
| round(2.317, 1) | 2.3   |

# [ abs, int, and round Example ]

- Example 3: Program evaluates functions, prints results

```
a = 2
b = 3
print(abs(1 - (4 * b)))
print(int((a ** b) + .8))
print(round(a / b, 3))
```

[Run]

```
11
8
0.667
```

# [Augmented Assignments]

- Remember: expression on right side of assignment statement evaluated before assignment is made

`var = var + 1`

- Python has special operator to accomplish same thing

`var += 1`

# [Augmented Assignments]

- Example 4:  
Program illustrates  
different  
augmented  
assignment  
operators.

```
num1 = 6
num1 += 1
num2 = 7
num2 -= 5
num3 = 8
num3 /= 2
print(num1, num2, round(num3))

num1 = 1
num1 *= 3
num2 = 2
num2 **= 3
print(num1, num2)
```

[Run]

7 2 4  
3 8

# Two Other Integer Operators

- Integer division operator
  - Written //
- Modulus operator
  - Written %

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \hline 3 | 14 \\ \hline 12 \\ \hline 2 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \leftarrow 14 // 3 \\ \leftarrow 14 \% 3 \end{array}$$

# Two Other Integer Operators

- Example 5: converts 41 inches to 3 feet, 5 inches:

```
totalInches = 41
feet = totalInches // 12
inches = totalInches % 12
print(feet, inches)
```

[Run]

3 5

# Parentheses, Order of Precedence

- Parentheses used to clarify meaning of an expression
- Order of precedence
  - Terms inside parentheses (inner to outer)
  - Exponentiation
  - Multiplication, division (ordinary and integer), modulus
  - Addition and subtraction

# Syntax Errors

- Grammatical and punctuation errors are called syntax errors.

| <i>Statement</i>         | <i>Reason for Error</i>                                 |
|--------------------------|---|
| <code>print(3))</code>   | The statement contains an extraneous right parenthesis. |
| <code>for = 5</code>     | A reserved word was used as a variable name.            |
| <code>print(2; 3)</code> | The semicolon should be a comma.                        |

Table 2.1 Three Syntax Errors

# Syntax Errors

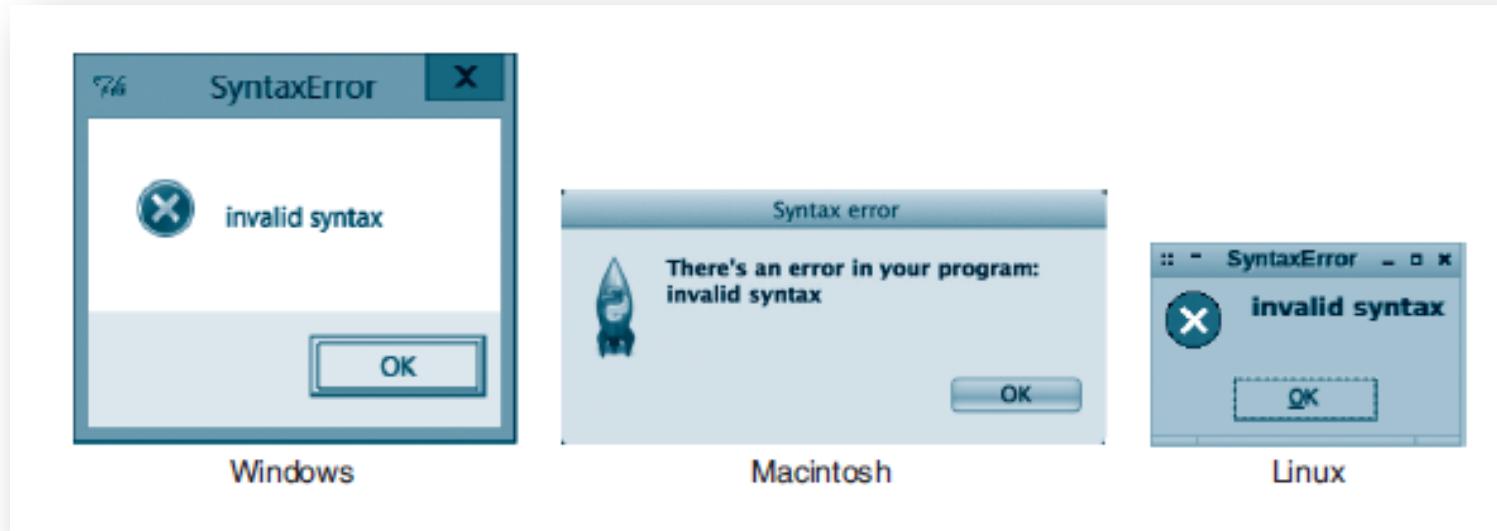


FIGURE 2.1 Syntax error message boxes.

# Runtime Errors

- Errors discovered while program is running called runtime errors or exceptions

| <i>Statement</i>   | <i>Reason for Error</i>                              |
|--|--|
| <code>prinrt(5)</code>   | The function <code>print</code> is misspelled.       |
| <code>x += 1</code> , when <code>x</code> has not been created | Python is not aware of the variable <code>x</code> . |
| <code>print(5 / 0)</code>                                      | A number cannot be divided by zero.                  |

Table 2.2 Three Runtime Errors

# Runtime Errors

- When Python encounters exception
  - Terminates execution of program, displays message

```
Traceback (most recent call last):  
  File "C:\test1.py", line 2, in <module>  
    print(5 / 0) #ZeroDivisionError  
ZeroDivisionError: division by zero
```

FIGURE 2.2 An Error Message for an Exception Error

# [ Logic Error ]

- Occurs when a program does not perform the way it was intended
- Example  
 $\text{average} = \text{firstNum} + \text{secondNum} / 2$
- Syntax correct, logic wrong: should be  
 $\text{average} = (\text{firstNum} + \text{secondNum}) / 2$
- Logic errors are most difficult type of error to locate

# [ Numeric Objects in Memory ]

- Consider this code:

```
n = 5  
n = 7
```

- This is what happens:

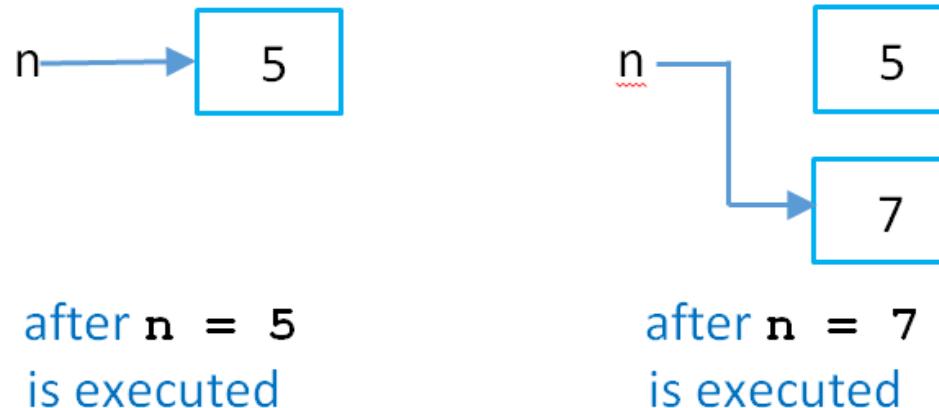


FIGURE 2.3 Numeric objects in memory.

# Questions

- Determine the output of the following pieces of code:

```
a = 3  
b = 5  
print(a * b ** 2)
```

```
n = 5  
n **= 2  
print(n/5)
```

```
totalBerries = 100  
totalCost = 352  
eachBerry = totalCost /  
           totalBerries  
print(eachBerry)
```

```
d = 5  
d -= 1  
print(d, d + 1, d - 2)
```

```
points = 30  
points += 20 * 10  
print(points)
```

```
totalMeters = 30255  
kiloMeters = totalMeters // 1000  
meters = totalMeters % 1000  
print(kiloMeters, meters)
```

# Questions

- Identify the errors:

```
a = 2  
b = 3  
a + b = c  
print(b)
```

```
0.05 = interest  
balance = 800  
print(interest * balance)
```

```
balance = 1,234  
deposit = $100  
print(Balance + Deposit)
```

```
9W = 2 * 9W  
print(9W)
```

# Time to code - Exercise 1

- Stock Purchase - The following steps calculate the amount of a stock purchase.
  - a) Create the variable `costPerShare` and assign it the value 25.625.
  - b) Create the variable `numberOfShares` and assign it the value 400
  - c) Create the variable `amount` and assign it the product of the values of `costPerShare` and `numberOfShares`.
  - d) Display the value of the variable `amount`.

# Time to code - Exercise 2

- Discounted Price - The following steps calculate the price of an item after a 30% reduction.
  - a) Create the variable price and assign it the value 19.95.
  - b) Create the variable discountPercent and assign it the value 30.
  - c) Create the variable markdown and assign it the value of (discountPercent divided by 100) times the value of price.
  - d) Decrease the value of price by markdown.
  - e) Display the value of price (rounded to two decimal places).

# [ String Literals ]

- Sequence of characters that is treated as a single item
- Written as a sequence of characters surrounded by either single quotes (' ) or double quotes (" ).

```
"John Doe"
'5th Avenue'
'76'
"Say it ain't so, Joe!"
```

Opening and closing quotation marks must be the same type

# [ String Variables ]

- Variables also can be assigned string values
- Created (come into existence) the first time they appear in assignment statements
- When an argument of a print statement
  - Quotation marks not included in display

# Indices and Slices

- Position or index of a character in a string
  - Identified with one of the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, . . .

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| s | p | a | m |   | & |   | e | g | g | s  |
| ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑  |
| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |

FIGURE 2.4 Indices of the characters of the string "spam & eggs".

# [ Indices and Slices ]

- If  $\text{str1}$  is a string, then  $\text{str1}[m:n]$  is the substring beginning at position  $m$  and ending at position  $n - 1$ 
  - Example “spam & eggs”[2:7]

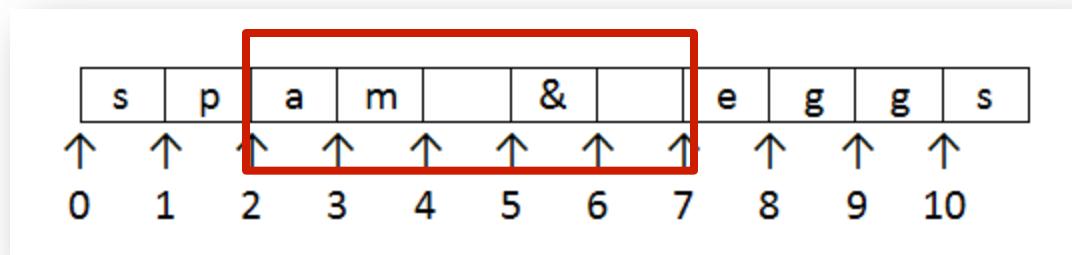


FIGURE 2.5 Aid to visualizing slices.

# Indices and Slices

- Example 1: Program shows use of indices

```
print("Python")
print("Python"[1], "Python"[5], "Python"[2:4])
str1 = "Hello World!"
print(str1.find('W'))
print(str1.find('x'))
print(str1.rfind('l'))
```

[Run]

```
Python
y n th
6
-1
9
```

# Negative Indices

- Python allows strings to be indexed by their position with regards to the right
  - Use negative numbers for indices.

|          |          |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| s        | p        | a       | m       |         | &       |         | e       | g       | g       | s       |
| ↑<br>-11 | ↑<br>-10 | ↑<br>-9 | ↑<br>-8 | ↑<br>-7 | ↑<br>-6 | ↑<br>-5 | ↑<br>-4 | ↑<br>-3 | ↑<br>-2 | ↑<br>-1 |

FIGURE 2.6 Negative indices of the characters of the string "spam & eggs".

# Negative Indices

- Example 2: Program illustrates negative indices.

```
print("Python")
print("Python)[-1], "Python)[-4], "Python][-5:-2])
str1 = "spam & eggs"
print(str1[-2])
print(str1[-8:-3])
print(str1[0:-1])

[Run]

Python
n t yth
g
m & e
spam & egg
```

# [ Default Bounds for Slices ]

- Example 3: Program illustrates default bounds

```
print("Python"[2:], "Python)[:4], "Python"[:])  
print("Python)[-3:], "Python":-3])
```

[Run]

```
thon Pyth Python  
hon Pyt
```

# [ String Concatenation ]

- Two strings can be combined to form a new string
  - Consisting of the strings joined together
  - Represented by a plus sign
- Combination of strings, plus signs, functions, and methods can be evaluated
  - Called a string expression

# [ String Repetition ]

- Asterisk operator can be used with strings to repeatedly concatenate a string with itself

| Expression           | Value         |
|----------------------|---------------|
| "ha" * 4             | "hahahaha"    |
| "mur" * 2            | "murmur"      |
| 'x' * 10             | "xxxxxxxxxx"  |
| ("cha-" * 2) + "cha" | "cha-cha-cha" |

# String Functions and Methods

| Function or Method | Example             | Value     | Description   |
|--------------------|---------------------|-----------|---|
| len                | len(str1)           | 6         | number of characters in the string  |
| upper              | str1.upper()        | "PYTHON"  | uppercases every alphabetical character   |
| lower              | str1.lower()        | "python"  | lowercases every alphabetical character   |
| count              | str1.count('th')    | 1         | number of non-overlapping occurrences of the substring                          |
| capitalize         | "coDE".capitalize() | "Code"    | capitalizes the first letter of the string and lowercases the rest              |
| title              | "beN hur".title()   | "Ben Hur" | capitalizes the first letter of each word in the string and lowercases the rest |
| rstrip             | "ab ".rstrip()      | "ab"      | removes spaces from the right side of the string                                |

Table 2.3 String Operations (str1 = "Python")

# Time to code - Exercise 3

- Inventor - The following steps give the name and birth year of a famous inventor.
  - a) Create the variable `firstName` and assign it the value “Thomas”.
  - b) Create the variable `middleName` and assign it the value “Alva”.
  - c) Create the variable `lastName` and assign it the value “Edison”.
  - d) Create the variable `yearOfBirth` and assign it the value 1847.
  - e) Display the phrase “The year of birth of” followed by the inventor's full name, followed by “is”, and the inventor's year of birth.

[ Questions ?

]



# Computer Organization

- Regardless of differences in physical appearance, computers can be envisioned as divided into various logical units or sections.

| Logical unit | Description  |
|--------------|--|
| Input unit   | This “receiving” section obtains information (data and computer programs) from <b>input devices</b> and places it at the disposal of the other units for processing. Most information is entered into computers through keyboards, touch screens and mouse devices. Other forms of input include receiving voice commands, scanning images and barcodes, reading from secondary storage devices (such as hard drives, DVD drives, Blu-ray Disc™ drives and USB flash drives—also called “thumb drives” or “memory sticks”), receiving video from a webcam and having your computer receive information from the Internet (such as when you download videos from YouTube™ or e-books from Amazon). Newer forms of input include position data from a GPS device, and motion and orientation information from an accelerometer in a smartphone or game controller (such as Microsoft® Kinect™, Wii™ Remote and PlayStation® Move). |

# Computer Organisation

| Logical unit | Description   |
|--------------|---|
| Output unit  | This “shipping” section takes information that the computer has processed and places it on various <b>output devices</b> to make it available for use outside the computer. Most information that’s output from computers today is displayed on screens, printed on paper, played as audio or video on PCs and media players (such as Apple’s popular iPods) and giant screens in sports stadiums, transmitted over the Internet or used to control other devices, such as robots and “intelligent” appliances.   |
| Memory unit  | This rapid-access, relatively low-capacity “warehouse” section retains information that has been entered through the input unit, making it immediately available for processing when needed. The memory unit also retains processed information until it can be placed on output devices by the output unit. Information in the memory unit is <i>volatile</i> —it’s typically lost when the computer’s power is turned off. The memory unit is often called either <b>memory</b> or <b>primary memory</b> . Typical main memories on desktop and notebook computers contain between 1 and 8 GB (GB stands for gigabytes; a gigabyte is approximately one billion bytes). |

# Computer Organisation

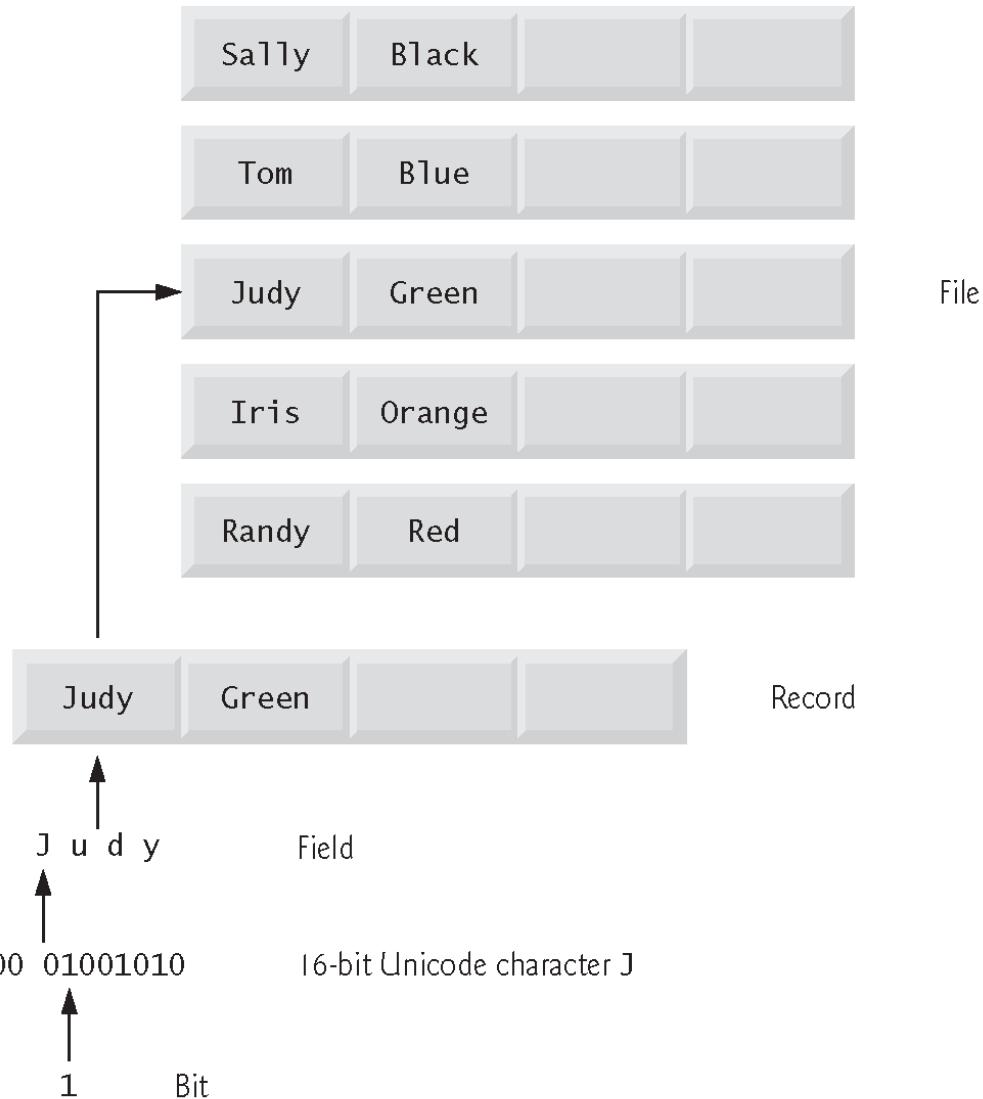
| Logical unit                    | Description  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Arithmetic and logic unit (ALU) | This “manufacturing” section performs <i>calculations</i> , such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It also contains the <i>decision</i> mechanisms that allow the computer, for example, to compare two items from the memory unit to determine whether they’re equal. In today’s systems, the ALU is usually implemented as part of the next logical unit, the CPU.  |
| Central processing unit (CPU)   | This “administrative” section coordinates and supervises the operation of the other sections. The CPU tells the input unit when information should be read into the memory unit, tells the ALU when information from the memory unit should be used in calculations and tells the output unit when to send information from the memory unit to certain output devices. Many of today’s computers have multiple CPUs and, hence, can perform many operations simultaneously. A <b>multi-core processor</b> implements multiple processors on a single integrated-circuit chip—a <i>dual-core processor</i> has two CPUs and a <i>quad-core processor</i> has four CPUs. Today’s desktop computers have processors that can execute billions of instructions per second. |

# Computer Organisation

| Logical unit           | Description   |
|------------------------|---|
| Secondary storage unit | This is the long-term, high-capacity “warehousing” section. Programs or data not actively being used by the other units normally are placed on secondary storage devices (e.g., your <i>hard drive</i> ) until they’re again needed, possibly hours, days, months or even years later. Information on secondary storage devices is <i>persistent</i> —it’s preserved even when the computer’s power is turned off. Secondary storage information takes much longer to access than information in primary memory, but the cost per unit of secondary storage is much less than that of primary memory. Examples of secondary storage devices include CD drives, DVD drives and flash drives, some of which can hold up to 512 GB. Typical hard drives on desktop and notebook computers can hold up to 2 TB (TB stands for terabytes; a terabyte is approximately one trillion bytes). |

# Data Hierarchy

■ Data items processed by computers form a data hierarchy that becomes larger and more complex in structure as we progress from bits to characters to fields, and so on.



# Levels of Data Hierarchy

| Level      | Description  |
|------------|--|
| Bits       | The smallest data item in a computer can assume the value 0 or the value 1. Such a data item is called a <b>bit</b> (short for “binary digit”—a digit that can assume one of two values). It’s remarkable that the impressive functions performed by computers involve only the simplest manipulations of 0s and 1s— <i>examining a bit’s value, setting a bit’s value and reversing a bit’s value</i> (from 1 to 0 or from 0 to 1).   |
| Characters | It’s tedious for people to work with data in the low-level form of bits. Instead, they prefer to work with <i>decimal digits</i> (0–9), <i>letters</i> (A–Z and a–z), and <i>special symbols</i> (e.g., \$, @, %, &, *, (, ), –, +, ", :, ? and / ). Digits, letters and special symbols are known as <b>characters</b> . The computer’s <b>character set</b> is the set of all the characters used to write programs and represent data items. Computers process only 1s and 0s, so every character is represented as a pattern of 1s and 0s. The <b>Unicode</b> character set contains characters for many of the world’s languages. C supports several character sets, including 16-bit Unicode® characters |

# Levels of Data Hierarchy

| Level                 | Description   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Characters<br>(cont.) | that are composed of two <b>bytes</b> , each composed of eight bits. See Appendix B for more information on the <b>ASCII (American Standard Code for Information Interchange)</b> character set—the popular subset of Unicode that represents uppercase and lowercase letters, digits and some common special characters.                           |
| Fields                | Just as characters are composed of bits, <b>fields</b> are composed of characters or bytes. A field is a group of characters or bytes that conveys meaning. For example, a field consisting of uppercase and lowercase letters could be used to represent a person's name, and a field consisting of decimal digits could represent a person's age. |

# Levels of Data Hierarchy

| Level   | Description   |
|---------|---|
| Records | <p>Several related fields can be used to compose a <b>record</b>. In a payroll system, for example, the record for an employee might consist of the following fields (possible types for these fields are shown in parentheses):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Employee identification number (a whole number)</li><li>• Name (a string of characters)</li><li>• Address (a string of characters)</li><li>• Hourly pay rate (a number with a decimal point)</li><li>• Year-to-date earnings (a number with a decimal point)</li><li>• Amount of taxes withheld (a number with a decimal point)</li></ul> <p>Thus, a record is a group of related fields. In the preceding example, all the fields belong to the same employee. A company might have many employees and a payroll record for each one.</p> |

# Levels of Data Hierarchy

| Level    | Description   |
|----------|---|
| Files    | A <b>file</b> is a group of related records. [Note: More generally, a file contains arbitrary data in arbitrary formats. In some operating systems, a file is viewed simply as a <i>sequence of bytes</i> —any organization of the bytes in a file, such as organizing the data into records, is a view created by the application programmer.] It's not unusual for an organization to have many files, some containing billions, or even trillions, of characters of information.   |
| Database | A <b>database</b> is an electronic collection of data that's organized for easy access and manipulation. The most popular database model is the relational database in which data is stored in simple <i>tables</i> . A table includes <i>records</i> and <i>fields</i> . For example, a table of students might include first name, last name, major, year, student ID number and grade point average. The data for each student is a record, and the individual pieces of information in each record are the fields. You can search, sort and manipulate the data based on its relationship to multiple tables or databases. For example, a university might use data from the student database in combination with databases of courses, on-campus housing, meal plans, etc. |