

### question

What is the expected output of the following code?

```
x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
x[::2] = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60
print(x)
```

### options

- a) The code is erroneous
- b) [1, 2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60]
- c) [1, 10, 3, 20, 5, 30, 7, 40, 9, 50, 60]
- d) [10, 2, 20, 4, 30, 6, 40, 8, 50, 60]

### answer

option a

---

### Original List

```
x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
```

This is a list of 9 elements.

### Slicing and Assignment:

```
x[::2] = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60
```

Here, `x[::2]` means:

Start from the beginning (start is omitted, defaults to 0), Go till the end (stop is omitted), Step by 2.

So `x[::2]` selects every second element, starting from index 0:

Indices selected: 0, 2, 4, 6, 8

So: `x[0]`, `x[2]`, `x[4]`, `x[6]`, `x[8]` → currently these are [1, 3, 5, 7, 9]

So, you're trying to assign:

```
x[0] = 10
x[2] = 20
x[4] = 30
x[6] = 40
x[8] = 50
```

But there are 6 values on the right (10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60) and only 5 positions being targeted in the list (due to the step of 2).

**So what happens?**

Python raises a `ValueError` because the number of elements you're assigning doesn't match the number of positions you're slicing.

**Final Answer**

`ValueError: attempt to assign sequence of size 6 to extended slice of size 5`  
Let me know if you want to explore how to fix or work around this!

**what should be the correct one ??**

To make it correct, the number of elements you're assigning must exactly match the number of elements selected by the slice.

```
x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
x[::2] # selects indices 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 → total 5 elements
So, you must assign exactly 5 values.
```

```
x = [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]
x[::2] = 10, 20, 30, 40, 50
print(x)
```

```
x[0] = 10
x[2] = 20
x[4] = 30
x[6] = 40
x[8] = 50
```

Final list

```
[10, 2, 20, 4, 30, 6, 40, 8, 50]
```