What are Operators?

In computer programming, **operators** are constructs defined within ==**programming languages**== which behave generally like ==**functions**==, but which differ ==**syntactically or semantically**==.

Common simple examples include arithmetic (e.g., addition with +), comparison (e.g., "greater than" with >), and ==**logical**== operations (e.g., AND, also written && in some languages). More involved examples include ==**assignment**== (usually = or:=), ==**field**== access in a record or ==**object**== (Usually.), and the ==**scope resolution operator**== (often:: or.). Languages usually define a set of built-in operators, and in some cases allow users to add new meanings to existing operators or even define completely new operators.

Arithmetic operators

Arithmetic operators are used to perform mathematical operations like addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc.

Operator	Meaning	Example
+	Add two operands or unary plus	x + y+ 2
-	Subtract right operand from the left or unary minus	x - y- 2
*	Multiply two operands	x * y
/	Divide left operand by the right one (always results into float)	x / y
%	Modulus - remainder of the division of left operand by the right	x % y (remainder of x/y)
//	Floor division - division that results into whole number adjusted to the left in the number line	x // y
**	Exponent - left operand raised to the power of right	x**y (x to the power y)

Comparison operators

Comparison operators are used to compare values. It returns either `True` or `False` according to the condition.

Operator	Meaning	Example
>	Greater than - True if left operand is greater than the right	x > y
<	Less than - True if left operand is less than the right	x < y
==	Equal to - True if both operands are equal	x == y
!=	Not equal to - True if operands are not equal	x != y
>=	Greater than or equal to - True if left operand is greater than or equal to the right	x >= y
<=	Less than or equal to - True if left operand is less than or equal to the right	x <= y

Logical operators

Logical operators are the `and`, `or`, `not` operators.

Operator	Meaning	Example
and	True if both the operands are true	x and y
or	True if either of the operands is true	x or y
not	True if operand is false (complements the operand)	not x

Bitwise operators

Bitwise operators act on operands as if they were strings of binary digits. They operate bit by bit, hence the name.

For example, 2 is 10 in binary and 7 is 111.

In the table below: Let x = 10 (0000 1010 in binary) and y = 4 (0000 0100 in binary)

Operator	Meaning	Example
&	Bitwise AND	x & y = 0 (0000 0000)
|	Bitwise OR	x | y = 14 (0000 1110)
~	Bitwise NOT	~x = -11 (1111 0101)
^	Bitwise XOR	x ^ y = 14 (0000 1110)
>>	Bitwise right shift	x >> 2 = 2 (0000 0010)
<<	Bitwise left shift	x << 2 = 40 (0010 1000)

Table
for
Bitwise logical operators

A	B	A|B	A&B	A^B	~A
0	0	0	0	0	1
0	1	1	0	1	1
1	0	1	0	1	0
1	1	1	1	0	0

Assignment operators

Assignment operators are used in Python to assign values to variables.

`a = 5` is a simple assignment operator that assigns the value 5 on the right to the variable `a` on the left.

There are various compound operators in Python like `a += 5` that adds to the variable and later assigns the same. It is equivalent to `a = a + 5`.

Operator	Example	Equivalent to
=	x = 5	x = 5
+=	x += 5	x = x + 5
-=	x -= 5	x = x - 5
*=	x *= 5	x = x * 5
/=	x /= 5	x = x / 5
%=	x %= 5	x = x % 5
//=	x //= 5	x = x // 5
**=	x **= 5	x = x ** 5
&=	x &= 5	x = x & 5
|=	x |= 5	x = x | 5
^=	x ^= 5	x = x ^ 5

Special operators

Python language offers some special types of operators like the identity operator or the membership operator. They are described below with examples.

Identity operators

`is` and `is not` are the identity operators in Python. They are used to check if two values (or variables) are located on the same part of the memory. Two variables that are equal does not imply that they are identical.

Operator	Meaning	Example
is	True if the operands are identical (refer to the same object)	x is True
is not	True if the operands are not identical (do not refer to the same object)	x is not True

Membership operators

`in` and `not in` are the membership operators in Python. They are used to test whether a value or variable is found in a sequence (==string, list, tuple, set and dictionary==).

In a dictionary we can only test for presence of key, not the value.

| not in | True if value/variable is not found in the sequence | 5 not in x |