



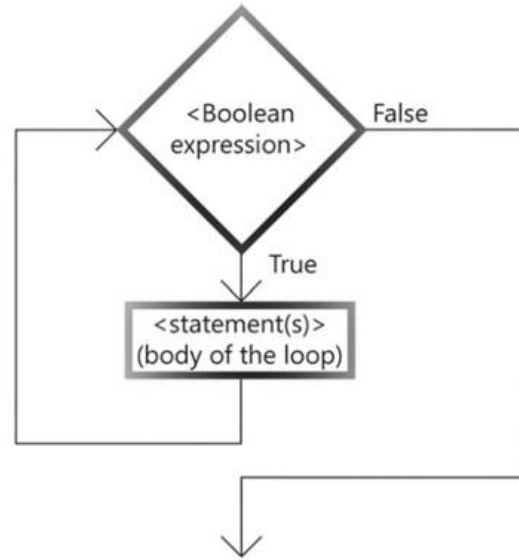
Week 5 Agenda

Week 5 Loops

Chapter 7 in [Python Crash Course: A Hands-on, Project-Based Introduction to Programming](#)

Loops

A loop is a block of code that is repeated until a certain condition is met. Within Python there are various types of loops including the for loop (which we previously introduced) and while loops.





Real world Example

To understand how this works, let's start with a silly real-life example.

```
I am hungry
while hungry
    take a bite of food
    chew
    swallow
    if thirsty:
        take a drink
go back to the point of checking if I am still hungry
eat dessert!
```

In this example, we repeatedly take a bite of food, chew, swallow, and if we are thirsty, take a drink. This process keeps going as long as we are still hungry. When we eventually reach the point where we are no longer hungry, the loop finishes and we eat dessert.

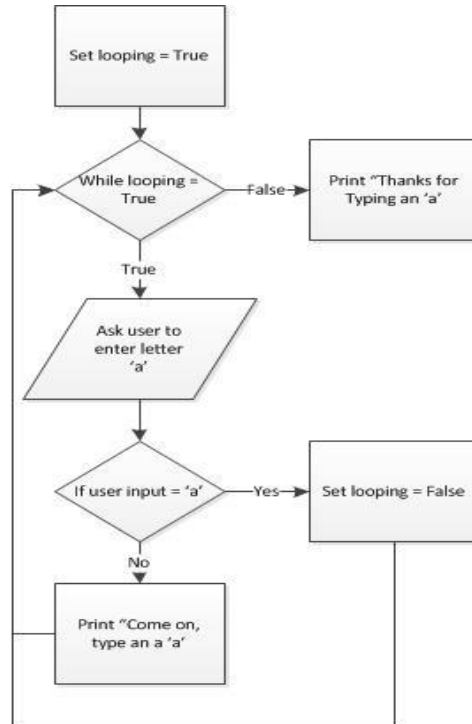


While Statement

In Python (as with many languages), a loop is implemented with a while statement. This is the generic form of the while statement:

```
while <Boolean expression>: # as long as the expression evaluates to True
    <indented block of statements>
```

While Example Flowchart





While Example

```
looping = True
while looping == True:
    answer = input("Please type the letter 'a': ")
    if answer == 'a':
        looping = False    # we're done, exit the loop
    else:
        print "Come on, type an 'a'! "
print("Thanks for typing an 'a'")
```

If the example above we set a Boolean variable looping to True so that the while loop runs for the first time the program runs. Within the loop we ask the user to enter a letter. We then evaluate the letter to see if it matches the letter "a". If so we set looping to false, otherwise we ask the user to again and looping remains set to true. Regardless of our evaluation of the user input the loop will return to be evaluated again as demonstrated in the flowchart.



While Loop Example

```
#Add up numbers from 1 to a target number

target = input('Enter a target number: ')
target = int(target)
total = 0
nextNumberToAddIn = 1
while nextNumberToAddIn <= target:
    # add in the next value
    total = total + nextNumberToAddIn #add in the next number
    print('Added in:', nextNumberToAddIn, 'Total so far is:', total)
    nextNumberToAddIn = nextNumberToAddIn + 1
print('The sum of the numbers from 1 to', target, 'is:', total)
```



Sentinel Values

Sentinel values are often used in programming in order to control loops. It is common to have a while loop which will run until the user wishes to stop. In these situations we use a Sentinel value to allow the user to stop the running of the program.

Sentinel Example:

```
total = 0.0
count = 0
x = float(input("Enter a number (negative to quit) >> "))
while x >= 0:
    total = total + x
    count = count + 1
    x = float(input("Enter a number (negative to quit) >> "))
print("\nThe average of the numbers is", total / count)
```




Indefinite Loops

```
i = 0
while i <= 10:
    print(i)
    i = i + 1
```

This code will have the same output as if we had written a for loop like this:

```
for i in range(11):
    print(i)
```

Notice that the while version requires us to take care of initializing `i` before the loop and incrementing `i` at the bottom of the loop body. In the for loop, the loop variable is handled automatically. In our while loop example, if we forgot to increment `i` we would end up with a loop which is indefinite and runs forever. It's important to have a condition which stops the loop. This is not a common occurrence in a "for" loop since the condition which stops the loop is often built into the statement itself.



For Statement

In Python the For Statement is often used to iterate over data as seen previously in our discussion of Lists. Below is the generic form of a For statement.

```
for iterating_var in sequence:  
    <indented block of statements(s)>
```



For Statement Example

```
>>> #Measure some strings:
>>> words = ['Omaha', 'Chicago', 'New York', 'Singapore']
>>> for w in words:
        print(w, len(w))
Omaha 5
Chicago 7
New York 8
Singapore 9
>>>
```

In this example we use a for loop to iterate through a List of cities. We then print the length of the each string (city name) by using the `len` function.



For Statement with Else Clause

It is also possible to use an Else statement from within a For statement to have a default condition. Below is an example using a list. Notice that when the below program is run, the Else runs once the conditions for the for are no longer met.

```
>>> list = ["geeks", "for", "python"]
>>> for index in range(len(list)):
    print (list[index])
else:
    print("Inside Else Block")
```

```
Geeks
For
Python
Inside Else Block
>>>
```



Loops with Control Statements

- Loops can also use control statements in order to control the execution of the loop's normal flow. These include the continue, break, and pass statements:
 - The break statement, like in C, breaks out of the innermost enclosing for or while loop.
 - The pass statement does nothing. It can be used when a statement is required syntactically but the program requires no action.
 - The continue statement, also borrowed from C, continues with the next iteration of the loop.



Break Example

The break statement is extremely useful and will solve the issue we saw previously where the else within a “for” loop executes no matter what. Loop statements may have an else clause; it is executed when the loop terminates through exhaustion of the list (with for) or when the condition becomes false (with while), but not when the loop is terminated by a break statement. This is exemplified by the following loop, which searches for prime numbers:

```
>>> for n in range(2, 10):
    for x in range(2, n):
        if n % x == 0:
            print (n, 'equals', x, '*', n/x )
            break
    else:
        print (n, 'is a prime number')
```



Continue Example

```
>>> for num in range(2, 10):  
    if num % 2 == 0:  
        print ("Found an even number", num)  
        continue  
    print ("Found a number", num)
```

```
Found an even number 2  
Found a number 3  
Found an even number 4  
Found a number 5  
Found an even number 6  
Found a number 7  
Found an even number 8  
Found a number 9  
>>>
```



References

The Basics of Compiled Languages, Interpreted Languages, and Just-in-Time Compilers,
<https://www.upwork.com/hiring/development/the-basics-of-compiled-languages-interpreted-languages-and-just-in-time-compilers/>



The End

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