

# Week 2/3

## 1. Important Reading: Using Python in this Class

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We strongly encourage you to install Python on your computer if you have a desktop or laptop. There are even some Python applications available for iPhone and Android phones.

But if you do not have a computer where you can install Python, you can still complete this class because we have a version of Python that runs in your browser that is sufficient to do the assignments for this class.

You will see various links that allow you to develop, turn in and auto-grade each of the programming assignments throughout the class. You can also use the ["Python Playground"](#) to experiment with writing your own Python applications using only your browser.

We feel that you learn the most if you develop your applications using the actual Python environment and then use our browser-based system to turn in your applications after they are completed. But we do understand that not everyone can install Python on their computers.

If you are planning on taking all of the courses in the "Python for Everybody" specialization, you will be required to eventually install and use Python on your own computer as the assignments become more complex.

None of the videos or assignments are required in this week. So don't worry about getting all the "check boxes" or completing the progress bar for this week. Simply use what you want and need to use.

## 2 - Notes on Choice of Text Editor

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We recommend that you use the Atom text editor for this course. We prefer it because it works the same on Windows, Macintosh, and Linux. All of the course demonstration videos use Atom. You can download and install it from:

<https://atom.io/>

If you do use Atom, be aware that user input is not supported when scripts are run from the editor rather than the command line.

If you already have a text editor like TextWrangler/BBEdit on the Macintosh and NotePad++ on Windows, they can be used for this course. Of course you can use any text editor or IDE that you like. If you install Python using the Anaconda distribution, which also includes many science and data analysis libraries, you can use the Spyder development environment to edit and run your Python programs. If you already use Eclipse for Java development, you might want to look at PyDev, a Python IDE that runs on top of Eclipse.