**Python Mega-Course: 10 Apps Notes:**

Notes taken for “The Python Mega Course: Build 10 Real World Applications” on Udemy, taught by Ardit Sulce.

**Table of Contents**

[Section 1 – Welcome: 3](#_Toc111210666)

[Course Introduction: 3](#_Toc111210667)

[Section 2 – Getting Started with Python: 3](#_Toc111210668)

[Section Introduction: 3](#_Toc111210669)

[Section 3 – The Basics: Data Types: 3](#_Toc111210670)

[Python Interactive Shell: 3](#_Toc111210671)

[Terminal: 3](#_Toc111210672)

[Data Type Attributes: 4](#_Toc111210673)

[How to Find Out What Code You Need: 4](#_Toc111210674)

[What Makes a Programmer a Programmer: 4](#_Toc111210675)

[How to Use Datatypes in the Real World: 4](#_Toc111210676)

[Section 4 – The Basics: Operations with Data Types: 5](#_Toc111210677)

[More Operations with Lists: 5](#_Toc111210678)

[Accessing List Items: 5](#_Toc111210679)

[Accessing List Slices: 5](#_Toc111210680)

[Accessing Items and Slices with Negative Numbers: 5](#_Toc111210681)

[Accessing Characters and Slices in Strings: 6](#_Toc111210682)

[Accessing Items in Dictionaries: 6](#_Toc111210683)

[Tip: Converting Between Datatypes: 7](#_Toc111210684)

[Section 5: The Basics: Functions and Conditionals: 8](#_Toc111210685)

[Creating Your Own Functions: 8](#_Toc111210686)

[Intro to Conditionals: 8](#_Toc111210687)

[If Conditional Example: 9](#_Toc111210688)

[Conditional Explained Line by Line: 9](#_Toc111210689)

# Section 1 – Welcome:

## Course Introduction:

* Just an overview.
* This course will include how to program with Python from scratch, so I may end up skipping a lot of notes for the first 10 sections or so.
* There are **39 Sections**.
* There’s a Discord channel: <https://discord.gg/QWArvbdZVZ>

# Section 2 – Getting Started with Python:

## Section Introduction:

* Sounds like we use VSCode for this class. Sweet.

# Section 3 – The Basics: Data Types:

## Python Interactive Shell:

* For Windows, run **py -3** in the terminal to start the interactive shell.
* Useful for testing some throwaway code; interactive shell doesn’t save code.
* Creating .py files is better for creating reusable code.

## Terminal:

* Tip about splitting the terminal in two. This way we can run both the **powershell terminal** and the **Python Interactive Shell** side-by-side.
* This allows us to run test code in the interactive code and run .py code in the terminal.

## Data Type Attributes:

* Showed a useful command, **dir()**, which can be used very effectively in the Interactive Shell to find out what operations can be performed on a given subject (methods or properties).
  + Running **dir(list)** shows everything that can be performed on a list.
  + Running **dir(int)** shows everything that can be performed on an integer.
* He used the example of running **dir(str)** to see what can be performed on a string, chose **“upper”** from the list, then ran **help(str.upper)** to find out what it does.
  + This showed that “upper” is a method, which “Returns a copy of the string converted to uppercase”.
* Note: Functions follow the naming convention **function()** while methods follow the naming convention **.method()**.

## How to Find Out What Code You Need:

* To find a complete list of built-in functions, run **dir(\_\_builtins\_\_)**. These are functions that aren’t attached to a specific data type.
* We didn’t find an “average” or “mean” function, but there was a “**sum**” function. Between that and **len**, we can calculate an average for a list of floats.

## What Makes a Programmer a Programmer:

* Three things you need to know to make any program:
  + Syntax
  + Data Structures
  + Algorithm

## How to Use Datatypes in the Real World:

* In our example of creating a Dictionary of student names and grades, would we manually create this dictionary in the real world? Unlikely. The data would be stored in something like an Excel file.
* There are ways to automatically input data from an Excel file into Python.
* We will be doing this later in the course.

# Section 4 – The Basics: Operations with Data Types:

## More Operations with Lists:

* Went over a few methods such as **.append()**, **.index()**, and **.clear()**. Pretty basic stuff.
* Used **dir(list)** and **help(list.append)** etc to see what all can be done to lists.

## Accessing List Items:

* In our “basics.py” with the list “monday\_temperatures” in it, we used **monday\_temperatures.\_\_getitem\_\_(1)** to get the item at Index 1, which was 8.8.
* He then showed that instead of that, we can just use **monday\_temperatures[1]** and we get the same result.
* The version with the double underscores (“\_\_getitem\_\_(1)”) is probably the private method within the function, that the “**[1]**” syntax calls to.

## Accessing List Slices:

* To access a portion of a list **monday\_temperatures = [9.1, 8.8, 7.5, 6.6, 9.9]**, we can use the syntax:
  + **monday\_temperatures[1:4]**
  + To find the items at index 1, index 2, and index 3.
* We can also use **monday\_temperatures[:2]** to get every item before index 2, or the first two items.
* A similar shortcut, **monday\_temperatures[3:]** gives us the values from index 3 to the end of the list.

## Accessing Items and Slices with Negative Numbers:

* Get last item of list with **monday\_temperatures[-1]**. Super basic, but super useful.
  + In this case, running **monday\_temperatures[-5]** gives us the first item again.
* Running **monday\_temperatures[-2:]** with a colon gives us everything from the second-to-last item to the end of the list, or the last two items of the list.

## Accessing Characters and Slices in Strings:

* Strings have the exact same indexing system as lists (duh).
* We can also index a string that’s part of a list:
  + **monday\_temperatures = [‘hello’, 1, 2, 3]**
  + **monday\_temperatures[0]**
    - 🡪 ‘hello’
  + **monday\_temperatures[0][2]**
    - 🡪 ‘l’

## Accessing Items in Dictionaries:

* Started with the dictionary **student\_grades = {“Mary”: 9.1, “Sim”: 8.8, “John”: 7.5}** and input that in the Python interactive shell.
* Running **student\_grades[1]** gives us **KeyError: 1** because the dictionary doesn’t have a key called 1.
* However, running **student\_grades[“Sim”]** gives us 8.8.
* Instead of integers, dictionaries have **keys** as their indexes.
* He gave an example of why this can be very useful by writing a short English-to-Portuguese translation dictionary, then running **eng\_port[“sun”]** to output “**sol**”.

## Tip: Converting Between Datatypes:

Sometimes you might need to convert between different data types in Python for one reason or another. That is very easy to do:

**From tuple to list:**

1. >>> cool\_tuple = (1, 2, 3)
2. >>> cool\_list = list(cool\_tuple)
3. >>> cool\_list
4. [1, 2, 3]

**From list to tuple:**

1. >>> cool\_list = [1, 2, 3]
2. >>> cool\_tuple = tuple(cool\_list)
3. >>> cool\_tuple
4. (1, 2, 3)

**From string to list:**

1. >>> cool\_string = "Hello"
2. >>> cool\_list = list(cool\_string)
3. >>> cool\_list
4. ['H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o']

**From list to string:**

1. >>> cool\_list = ['H', 'e', 'l', 'l', 'o']
2. >>> cool\_string = str.join("", cool\_list)
3. >>> cool\_string
4. 'Hello'

As can be seen above, converting a list into a string is more complex. Here str() is not sufficient. We need str.join(). Try running the code above again, but this time using str.join("---", cool\_list) in the second line. You will understand how str.join() works.

# Section 5: The Basics: Functions and Conditionals:

## Creating Your Own Functions:

* Started with an example from earlier in the course where we calculated our own average because there was no built-in function to do so:

student\_grades = [9.1, 8.8, 7.5]

mysum = sum(student\_grades)

length = len(student\_grades)

mean = mysum / length

print(mean)

* Rather than do this, we can wrap these calculations in our own mean function that can then be used on other lists as well.
* I added some exception handling (to only accept a list and only return a float) to the code he presented:

def mean(mylist: list) -> float:

    the\_mean = sum(mylist) / len(mylist)

    return the\_mean

student\_grades = [8.8, 9.1, 7.5]

print(mean(student\_grades))

* He also ran **print(type(mean), type(sum))** in the same code and showed that ***mean*** *was class ‘function’ and* ***sum*** *was class ‘builtin\_function\_or\_method’.*

## Intro to Conditionals:

* What if in the previous code, we passed a dictionary instead of a list?
  + In my case, my code has some error handling.
* We’d get an error because ‘+’ can’t be used on an ‘int’ and a ‘str’. Our function isn’t designed to process dictionaries, just lists. However, we can fix this with conditionals.

## If Conditional Example:

* Note: I’ll have to take my exception handling out for forcing the input to be a list. Don’t know how to accept two different input data types yet.

def mean(myinput) -> float:

    if type(myinput) == list:

        the\_mean = sum(myinput) / len(myinput)

    elif type(myinput) == dict:

        the\_mean = sum(myinput.values()) / len(myinput)

    else:

        print("Invalid input type. Must be list or dictionary")

    return the\_mean

monday\_temperatures = [8.8, 9.1, 9.9]

student\_grades = {"Mary": 9.1, "Sim": 8.8, "John": 7.5}

print(mean(student\_grades))

print(mean(monday\_temperatures))

* Added some basic exception handling in the **else** statement that he didn’t have. He just routed any list inputs straight into “else”.

## Conditional Explained Line by Line:

* In this video he just went through and explained what was going on line-by-line. Basic stuff.

## More on Conditionals:

* Stuff on Booleans, True/False, and how this works in conditionals.
* He mentioned the use of **if isinstance(myinput, dict)** as a useful bit of syntax. I should use that more often in my own code.
* He mentions that there are some very advanced reasons why the isinstance syntax is better to use, but that we won’t get into that until later in the course.

## Elif Conditionals:

* And yet I already used one in my earlier code. The structure of his course still makes sense for absolute beginners, but these first few sections are a bit of a slog.

# Section 6: The Basics: Processing User Input:

## Section Introduction:

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