

Postscript: Character Encoding Of Python Source Code

Python 3 assumes that your source code — i.e. each `.py` file — is encoded in `UTF-8`.

*In Python 2, the default encoding for `.py` files was ASCII. In Python 3, the default encoding is `**UTFf-8`.*

If you would like to use a different encoding within your Python code, you can put an encoding declaration on the first line of each file. This declaration defines a `.py` file to be windows-1252:

```
# -*- coding: windows-1252 -*-
```



Technically, the character encoding override can also be on the second line, if the first line is a `UNIX`-like hash-bang command.

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
# -*- coding: windows-1252 -*-
```



For more information, consult [PEP 263: Defining Python Source Code Encodings](#).