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Reflection:

Working with my partner on this programming lab was a productive and smooth experience. Since she had previous experience with Python, it significantly streamlined our workflow. Her knowledge helped in quickly understanding the problem, breaking it down into manageable tasks, and efficiently navigating through Python's syntax. This prior exposure to programming allowed us to discuss concepts clearly and provided a better understanding of the problem-solving process, ensuring we stayed on track and met the lab’s objectives without confusion. Whenever we hit a roadblock, her familiarity with debugging and testing different code sections proved useful in overcoming issues, particularly during the input/output processes.

One of the key takeaways from this lab was the importance of testing and validating our program through various test cases. By designing multiple test cases and running the program with different inputs, we were able to confirm the accuracy of our outputs. This also provided us with insights into potential edge cases, which improved the robustness of the program. Implementing test cases also helped identify logical errors or areas where the program did not behave as expected. As a result, we ensured that the program was reliable and could handle a variety of real-world scenarios without issues.

We followed the first three rules of programming throughout the lab:

1. **Keep it simple**: We adhered to simplicity by structuring our program in a readable and straightforward manner. Each step was logically laid out, avoiding unnecessary complexity. This made the code easier to debug and modify.
2. **Make it work**: Our initial focus was on getting the program to run successfully. We ensured that the program met the functional requirements before moving on to refinements. This approach allowed us to see early progress and troubleshoot smaller chunks rather than getting bogged down by finer details.
3. **Make it right**: After confirming that the program worked as intended, we went back to fine-tune and optimize the code. We ensured that variables were appropriately named, comments were added for clarity, and the code was easy to follow, which contributes to overall maintainability.

This lab reinforced the importance of collaboration, testing, and sticking to core programming principles. These strategies helped us efficiently complete the task while ensuring the quality of our final solution.