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Research

Teaching

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Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) Server at t-l.earth Port 443

Python 语言程序设计

Python Programming

2025/26



Session 06

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Content

Brain Activation + Review

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04 Passing Lists and Using *args / kwargs

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Brain Activation

Loop Through a List

- Make a list of three cities, then print each one.

```
cities = ["Nanjing", "Paris", "Tokyo"]  
for city in cities:  
    print(city)
```



Positive or Negative?



- Use an if statement to test each number in a list to see if it is positive or negative and print the result.

```
numbers = [3, -1, 7]
for n in numbers:
    if n > 0:
        print(n, "is positive")
    else:
        print(n, "is negative")
```

Mini Dictionary Recap



- Create a small dictionary describing one student.

```
student = {"name": "Ali", "age": 20}  
print(f"My name is {student['name']} and I am {student['age']} years old.")
```

Review

Why Dictionaries?

- Lists: store items by position.

```
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
print(fruits[0]) # 'apple'
```

- Dictionaries: store items by name (key).

```
person = {"name": "Ali", "age": 20}  
print(person["name"]) # 'Ali'
```



Dictionary Syntax



- A dictionary is wrapped in curly braces `{ }`. Each key is connected to a value with a colon `:`. Multiple pairs are separated by commas.

```
dict = {"key 1": "value 1", "key 2": "value 2"}
```

- Keys: must be unique.
- Values: can be numbers, strings, lists, or even other dictionaries.

Dictionary Syntax

- Values are accessed by their key.

```
person = {"name": "Ali", "age": 20}  
print(person["name"]) # 'Ali'
```

- There is no index!



Adding and Modifying Data



- Dictionaries are dynamic - you can add or change data anytime.

```
student = {"name": "Ali", "age": 20}
student["major"] = "Software Engineering" # add
student["age"] = 21 # modify
print(student) # {'name': 'Ali', 'age': 21, 'major': 'Software Engineering'}
```

Deleting Key-Value Pairs

- Use **del** to permanently remove a pair.

```
alien = {"color": "green", "points": 5}
del alien["points"]
print(alien) # {'color': 'green'}
```



Looping through key-value pairs



- Use `.items()` to get both the key and its value:

```
student = {"name": "Ali", "age": 21, "major": "Software Engineering"}  
for key, value in student.items():  
    print(key, value)
```

```
name Ali  
age 21  
major Software Engineering
```

Looping through keys only

- If you only need the keys, use `.keys()`:

```
student = {"name": "Ali", "age": 21, "major": "Software Engineering"}  
for key in student.keys():  
    print(key)
```

```
name  
age  
major
```



Looping through values only



- Use `.values()` to get all values:

```
student = {"name": "Ali", "age": 21, "major": "Software Engineering"}  
for value in student.values():  
    print(value)
```

Ali

21

Software Engineering

Avoiding Repeated Values with set()

- If some values repeat, we can make them unique using `set()`:

```
favorite_languages = {  
    'jen': 'python',  
    'sarah': 'c',  
    'edward': 'rust',  
    'phil': 'python'  
}
```

```
for language in set(favorite_languages.values()):  
    print(language.title())
```

Python
Rust
C



Defining and Calling Functions

What Is a Function?

- A function is a named block of code that performs one task.
- We use it to:
 - Reuse code instead of writing the same thing many times.
 - Keep programs organized and readable.
- Example idea: a machine that does one job when you press its button.

```
machine()
```

What Is a Function?

- We have already used some functions in the past:
 - `len()`
 - `sorted()`
 - `range()`
- These are built-in functions. But we can also make our own functions!

Defining a Function

- Basic syntax:

```
def greet_user(): 1  
    print("Hello!")
```

- **def** introduces a function.
- The name (**greet_user**) describes its job.
- The colon starts an indented block (function body).
- To run it: you must call it. Before that, nothing happens.

```
greet_user()
```

Mini Task 1

- Create and call your own simple function.
- Example:

```
def greet_user(): 1  
    print("Hello!")
```

```
greet_user()
```



Adding a Parameter

- Functions can accept input values.

```
def greet_user(name):  
    print("Hello, ", name)  
  
greet_user("Lina")  
greet_user("Maxi")
```

Arguments vs Parameters

- Parameter: variable name inside the function definition.
- Argument: actual value passed when calling the function.
- Example:

```
def greet_user(name): #name = Parameter
    print("Hello, ", name)

greet_user("Lina")    # "Lina" = Argument
```

Mini Task 2

- Adjust your own function definition with a parameter and call it with an argument.
- Example:

```
def greet_user(name): #name = Parameter
    print("Hello, ", name)

greet_user("Lina")    # "Lina" = Argument
```



Functions with Multiple Parameters

- You can pass more than one piece of information. Functions can be designed with any number of parameters.

```
def describe_pet(animal, name):  
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ", name)  
  
describe_pet("dog", "Max")
```

Order matters!

- The arguments must be provided in the same order as the function definition expects them.

```
describe_pet("dog", "Max")  
describe_pet("Max", "dog")
```

```
I have a dog named Max  
I have a Max named dog
```

Mini Task 3

- Add one more parameter to your own function and call it with two arguments.



Wrap-up

- Why Use Functions?
 - Avoid repetition - write once, use many times.
 - Improve structure - break big programs into small tasks.
 - Make code readable - each function has a clear name and job.
- Define a function using **def** and a name.
- Use parentheses () for parameters.
- Call functions to make them run.

Passing Information to Functions

Positional Arguments

- The arguments we have used so far are called positional arguments.

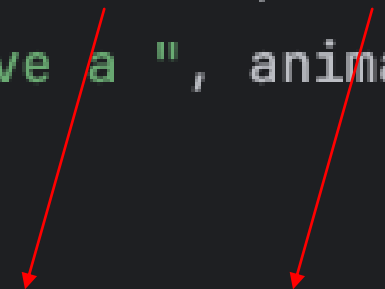
```
def describe_pet(animal, name):  
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ", name)
```

```
describe_pet("dog", "Max")
```

Positional Arguments

- The arguments we have used so far are called positional arguments.

```
def describe_pet(animal, name):  
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ", name)  
  
describe_pet("dog", "Max")
```

A diagram with two red arrows pointing from the function call to the function definition. One arrow points from the string "dog" in the function call to the parameter "animal" in the function definition. The other arrow points from the string "Max" in the function call to the parameter "name" in the function definition.

- The order is absolute!

Keyword Arguments

- The alternative is to use keywords (argument names) when calling the function.

```
def describe_pet(animal, name):  
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ", name)  
  
describe_pet(animal="dog", name="Max")  
describe_pet(name="Max", animal="dog")
```

```
I have a  dog  named  Max  
I have a  dog  named  Max
```

Mini Task 4

- Call your function by using keyword arguments.



Default Values

- You can provide default values to parameters.
 - In the definition, default parameters come after required parameters.

```
def describe_pet(name, animal = "dog" ):
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ",name)
```

```
describe_pet(name="Max", animal="dog")
```

```
describe_pet(name="Max")
```

```
describe_pet(name="Max", animal="cat")
```

```
I have a  dog  named  Max
```

```
I have a  dog  named  Max
```

```
I have a  cat  named  Max
```

Mini Task 5



- Add a default parameter to your function and call it.
- Example:

```
def describe_pet(name, animal = "dog" ):
    print("I have a ", animal, " named ",name)

describe_pet(name="Max", animal="dog")
describe_pet(name="Max")
describe_pet(name="Max", animal="cat")
```

Avoiding argument errors

- Arguments without default values need to be added during a function call, otherwise we receive an argument error.

```
def greet_user(name):  
    print("Hello, ", name)  
  
greet_user() # -> Argument Error
```

```
TypeError: greet_user() missing 1 required positional argument: 'name'
```

Optional Values

- We can use an empty string "" or **None** to make an argument optional.

```
def print_full_name(first, last, middle=""):
    if middle:
        print(first, middle, ",", last)
    else:
        print(first, ",", last)
```

```
print_full_name("John", "Doe") # John , Doe
```

```
print_full_name("John", "Doe", "Lee") # John Lee , Doe
```

Optional Values

- We can use an empty string "" or **None** to make an argument optional.

```
def print_full_name(first, last, middle=None):  
    if middle:  
        print(first, middle, ",", last)  
    else:  
        print(first, ",", last)  
  
print_full_name("John", "Doe") # John , Doe  
print_full_name("John", "Doe", "Lee") # John Lee , Doe
```

Wrap-up

- Functions can take multiple inputs in flexible ways.
- Use positional, keyword, and default arguments effectively.
- Add optional parameters for versatility.

Returning Values

Returning values

- So far, we have always printed the result of our functions using a direct print().

```
def add(a, b):  
    print(a + b)  
  
add(1, 2)
```

Returning values

- Usually, the result of a function call is returned as a value.
- With **return**, the result can be stored or reused.

```
def add(a, b):  
    return a + b
```

Capturing Return Values

- We can capture the return value of a function with an assignment.

```
def add(a, b):  
    return a + b  
  
c = add(1, 2)  
  
print(c)
```

Returning text

- We can write a function to repeat common tasks

```
def get_full_name(first, last):  
    full = first + " " + last  
    return full.title()  
  
musician = get_full_name("jimi", "hendrix")  
print(musician) # Jimi Hendrix
```

Mini Task 6



- Write your own function that accepts arguments and returns a value instead of printing it. You can use text or number arguments, as you wish.
- Example:

```
def get_full_name(first, last):  
    full = first + " " + last  
    return full.title()  
  
musician = get_full_name("jimi", "hendrix")  
print(musician) # Jimi Hendrix
```

Optional Arguments with Return

- Use default or optional parameters in return functions.

```
def return_full_name(first, last, middle=None):  
    if middle:  
        full_name = first + " " + middle + ", " + last  
    else:  
        full_name = first + ", " + last  
  
    return full_name  
  
full_name = return_full_name("John", "Doe")  
print(full_name) # John, Doe  
full_name = return_full_name("John", "Doe", "Lee")  
print(full_name) # John Lee, Doe
```

Returning a Dictionary

- Functions can build and return structured data.

```
def build_person(first, last, age):  
    person = {"first": first, "last": last}  
    person["age"] = age  
    return person
```

```
musician = build_person("jimi", "hendrix", 27)  
print(musician) # {'first': 'jimi', 'last': 'hendrix', 'age': 27}  
print(musician["first"]) # jimi
```

Mini Task 7



- Adjust your own function to return a dictionary instead of a single value.
- Remember:

```
dict1 = {}  
dict1["val1"] = 1  
dict1["val2"] = "text"
```

Returning from Conditional Logic

- Functions can decide what value to return based on conditions.

```
def pos_or_neg(number):  
    if number < 0:  
        return "Negative"  
    elif number > 0:  
        return "Positive"  
  
r = pos_or_neg(3)  
print(r) # Positive
```

Using Returned Values in Loops

- What do you think **result** will be?

```
def square(n):  
    return n ** 2  
  
numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
results = []  
for n in numbers:  
    results.append(square(n))  
  
print(results)
```

Using Returned Values in Loops

- What do you think **result** will be?

```
def square(n):  
    return n ** 2  
  
numbers = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
results = []  
for n in numbers:  
    results.append(square(n))  
  
print(results)
```

```
[1, 4, 9, 16]
```

Wrap-up

- Use **return** to send results back to the caller.
- Store and reuse those results later.
- Use **print()** in the function only to inform the user about a result.

Passing Lists and Using *args / kwargs

Moving Data Between Lists

- We can also pass a list as an argument.

```
def move(src):  
    dst = []  
    while src:  
        dst.append(src.pop())  
    return dst  
  
old = ['a', 'b']  
new = move(old[:]) # use copy !!!  
print(new) # ['b', 'a']  
print(old) # ['a', 'b'] stays unchanged
```

Moving Data Between Lists

- We can (of course) also pass a list as an argument.

```
def move(src):  
    dst = []  
    while src:  
        dst.append(src.pop())  
    return dst  
  
old = ['a', 'b']  
new = move(old[:]) # use copy !!!  
print(new) # ['b', 'a']  
print(old) # ['a', 'b'] stays unchanged
```

Mini Task 8

- Make any function that accepts a list as argument and does something with the list.



Arbitrary Arguments

- If we do not know the number of arguments, we can work with arbitrary arguments.
- The arguments will be passed as a tuple.

```
def pizza(*args):  
    print('Pizza with:', args)  
  
pizza('cheese') # Pizza with: ('cheese',)  
pizza('mushroom', 'onion') # Pizza with: ('mushroom', 'onion')
```

Tuple ???

- A tuple is similar to a list, but it can't be changed after creation.
- A tuple uses parentheses instead of brackets.

```
t = ("cheese", "mushroom", "onion") # immutable  
l = ["cheese", "mushroom", "onion"] # mutable
```

Mixing normal arguments with *args

- We can mix normal arguments with *args by defining normal parameters first before adding *args.

```
def pizza(size, *t):  
    print(size, 'inch:', t)  
  
pizza(12, 'cheese', 'olives')
```

Mini Task 9

- Write a function `sandwich(*args)` that prints all provided toppings.
- Reminder:

```
def pizza(*args):  
    print('Pizza with:', args)
```



Arbitrary Keyword Args **kwargs

- Using **kwargs, we can pack arbitrary arguments into a dictionary that is passed to the function.

```
def car(make, model, **x):  
    x['make'] = make  
    x['model'] = model  
    return x  
  
car1 = car('BMW', 'X3', color='red')  
print(car1) # {'color': 'red', 'make': 'BMW', 'model': 'X3'}
```

Wrap-up

- We can use lists as arguments and return lists.
- *args packs all arbitrary arguments into a tuple and passes them to the function.
- **kwargs packs all arbitrary arguments into a dictionary (with keywords) and passes them to the function.

Exercises

Pizza making

- Build one pizza-ordering function that grows with each task.
- You can find the task list in the CheatSheet_06.py file on the server.
- Try to finish as many tasks as possible!