



Introduction to Programming

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Systems

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Week 9: Functions



Exercise 2: Vowels

- Input a string, print out the characters in a vertical line, then count the number of lowercase vowels in the string.



Exercise 2: code

```
s = input("Enter a string:")
```

```
n = 0
```

```
for letter in s :
```

```
    print(letter)
```

```
        if letter == "a" or letter == "e" or letter == "i" or letter == "o" or letter == "u" :
```

```
            n = n+1
```

```
print("The number of vowels is", n)
```



Exercise 2: code

```
s = input("Enter a string:")
n = 0

for letter in s :
    print(letter)
    if letter == "a" or letter == "e" :
        n = n+1
    elif letter == "i" or letter == "o" or letter == "u" :
        n = n+1

print("The number of vowels is", n)
```



Exercise 2: code

```
s = input("Enter a string:")
n = 0

for letter in s :
    print(letter)
    if letter in "aeiou" :
        n = n+1

print("The number of vowels is", n)
```



Exercise 3: number properties

- Write a program to input a non-empty list of **strictly positive integers** from the keyboard.
- The **end of the input** is indicated by 0.
- The program then prints out the following numbers.
 - The average
 - The smallest of the values
 - The largest of the values
 - The range



Exercise 3: code(1)

```
number = int(input("Enter a strictly positive integer (0 to finish): "))
count = 1          # number of inputs
total = number     # total of the inputs
mx = number        # maximum value
mn = number        # minimum value
```

```
while number > 0 :
```

```
    number = int(input("Enter a strictly positive integer (0 to finish): "))
```

```
    if number != 0 :
```

```
        count = count + 1
```

```
        total = total + number
```

```
        mx = max(mx, number)
```

```
        mn = min(mn, number)
```

```
print("The average value is", total/count)
```



Exercise 3: code(2)

```
print("The average value is", total/count)
print("The smallest value is", mn)
print("The largest value is", mx)
print("The range is", mx-mn+1)
```


Functions are Tools

Name

What it does

Input

Output



#17095148



To **use** a tool, we **don't** need to know how it is implemented.
To **build** a tool, we **do** need to know how it's implemented.



Functions

- A function is a sequence of instructions with a name.
- When a function is called, the instructions are executed.
- When the execution of the instructions is complete, the function may **return a value** to the calling program.



Example

```
price = round(6.8275, 2)
```

```
# The function round is called with arguments 6.8275 and 2.
```

```
# round returns the number 6.83, which becomes the value of price.
```

```
# The computations within round are hidden from the calling program.
```



Function Definition

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :    # function header
    volume = sideLength**3      # function body
return volume                  # function body
```

name of function: cubeVolume

Name of parameter variable: sideLength

def and **return** are reserved words

return exits the function and returns the result



Compile Time Error

```
print(cubeVolume(10))
```

#when function is **used/called**

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    volume = sideLength**3  
    return volume
```

#when function is **created/defined**

The function **cubeVolume** is called before it is known to the program



Calling a Function from Within a Function

```
def main() :                               #main() is defined
    result = cubeVolume(2)
    print("A cube with side length 2 has volume", result)
# The definition of cubeVolume is not required when main is defined
```

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :              #cubeVolume() is defined
    volume = sideLength**3
    return volume
```

```
main()                                     #main() is called, cubeVolume() is called
# The definition of cubeVolume is required when main is called
```



Compile Time Error

```
def main() : #main() is defined
    result = cubeVolume(2)
    print("A cube with side length 2 has volume", result)
# The definition of cubeVolume is not required when main is defined
```

```
main() #main() is called, cubeVolume() is called
# The definition of cubeVolume is required when main is called
```

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) : #cubeVolume() is defined
    volume = sideLength**3
return volume
```



Function Comments

```
##  
# Computes the volume of a cube.  
# @param sideLength the length of a side of the cube  
# @return the volume of the cube  
#  
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    volume = sideLength**3  
    return volume
```

Function comments explain the **purpose of the function** and **the meaning of the parameter variables** and the **return value**.



Parameter Passing

- When a function is **called**, variables are created for receiving the function's arguments.
- **These variables** are called **parameter variables** or **formal parameters**.
- **The values** supplied to a function when it is called are the **arguments** or the **actual parameters**.



Example

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    volume = sideLength**3  
    return volume
```

```
result = cubeVolume(2)
```

- # The parameter variable `sideLength` is created when `cubeVolume` is called
- # `sideLength` is initialised with the value 2
- # The expression `sideLength**3` is evaluated, giving 8.
- # The value 8 is assigned to the variable `volume`
- # The function returns. All of its variables are removed. The return value 8 is assigned to the variable `result`.



Multiple Function Calls

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    volume = sideLength**3  
    return volume
```

```
result1 = cubeVolume(2)  
result2 = cubeVolume(10)
```

The variables `sideLength` and `volume` used in the
calculation of `result1` are discarded.

#New variables are created for the calculation of `result2`.



Test

```
def f(x) :  
    return g(x) + sqrt(h(x))
```

```
def g(x) :  
    return 4 * h(x)
```

Evaluate f(2) and g(h(2))

```
def h(x) :  
    return x * x + k(x) - 1
```

```
def k(x) :  
    return 2 * (x + 1)
```



Cases

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    if sideLength < 0 :           # deal with the exceptional case  
        return 0  
    else :  
        return sideLength**3     # then deal with the usual case
```

Alternative definition

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    if sideLength < 0 :  
        return 0  
    return sideLength**3
```



Branches of a Function

A branch of a function consists of a sequence of instructions that
are carried out when the function is evaluated

This function has two branches, one for `sideLength < 0` and
one for `sideLength ≥ 0`.

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    if sideLength < 0 :  
        return 0  
    else :  
        return sideLength**3
```



Branches and Return Values

If a function includes return, then every branch should return a value

```
def cubeVolume(sideLength) :  
    if sideLength ≥ 0 :  
        return sideLength**3
```

Error, no return value for sideLength < 0.

The compiler does **not** report the error.

```
v = cubeVolume(-1)           # returns a special value None
```



Scope

- The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it can be accessed.
- A **local variable** is a variable defined in a function. The scope extends from the line in which it is defined to the end of the function.

```
def main() :  
    sum = 0  
    for i in range(11)  
        square = i * i  
        sum = sum + square  
    print(square, sum)
```

How many local variables are there? What is the scope of each?



Scope

- The scope of a variable is the part of the program in which it can be accessed.
- A **local variable** is a variable defined in a function. The scope extends from the line in which it is defined to the end of the function.

```
def main() :  
    sum = 0          # first line in the scope of the local variable sum  
    for i in range(11) : # first line in the scope of the local variable i  
        square = i * i # first line in the scope of the local variable square  
        sum = sum + square  
    print(square, sum) # last line in the scope of sum, i, square
```

Note: main() has no return value



Stepwise Refinement

| i | $i * i * i$ |
|-----|-------------|
| 1 | 1 |
| 2 | 8 |
| ... | ... |
| 20 | 8000 |

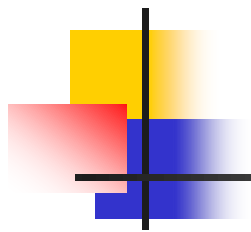
Divide the task of printing this table into a sequence of simpler tasks. (PFE, Ch. 5.7, self check 30)



Solution

| | | |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| +-----+-----+ | ← | printSeparator |
| i i * i * i | ← | printHeader |
| +-----+-----+ | ← | printSeparator |
| 1 1 | | |
| 2 8 | ← | printBody |
| | | |
| 20 8000 | | |
| +-----+-----+ | ← | printSeparator |

Solution



```
+-----+
|   i   | i * i * i |
+-----+
|   1   |   1   |
|   2   |   8   |
|   ... |   ... |
|  20   | 8000 |
+-----+
```

```
def printSeparator():
    separator = '+' + '-' * 5 + '+' + '-' * 11 + '+'
    print(separator)

def printHeader():
    header = '|' + '%5s' % 'i' + '|' + '%11s' % 'i*i*i' + '|'
    print(header)

def printBody():
    for i in range(1,21):
        string = '|' + '%5d' % i + '|' + '%11d' % i**3 + '|'
        print(string)

def main():
    printSeparator()
    printHeader()
    printSeparator()
    printBody()
    printSeparator()
```



Example

Write a function

```
def repeat(string, n, delim) :
```

that returns `string` repeated `n` times, separated by the string `delim`. For example

```
repeat("ho", 3, ", ")
```

returns "ho, ho, ho"
(not "ho, ho, ho, " !)



Solution

```
def repeat(string, n, delim) :  
    if n <= 0:  
        return "n should be greater than 0"           #error message  
    else:  
        s = string  
        for i in range(1,n):  
            s = s + delim + string  
        return s  
  
def main():  
    strg = input("Please enter the string to be repeated:")  
    num = int(input("Please enter the number of times to be repeated:"))  
    delimitator = input("Please enter the delimitator to separate the strings:")  
    print(repeat(strg, num, delimitator))
```

```
main()
```



Alternative Solution

```
def repeat(string, n, delim) :  
    if n <= 0:  
        return "n should be greater than 0"           #error message  
    else:  
        s = string  
        s = s + (delim + string) * (n - 1)  
        # Alternatively, we can write      β  
        # s += (delim + string) * (n - 1)  
        return s  
  
def main():  
    strg = input("Please enter the string to be repeated:")  
    num = int(input("Please enter the number of times to be repeated:"))  
    delimitator = input("Please enter the delimitator to separate the strings:")  
    print(repeat(strg, num, delimitator))
```

main()