Introduction to Python Exercises

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Chapter 1: Getting started with Python

Exercise 1: introducing Thonny

1a
Open the program Thonny and browse the menus and options.

1b
What version of Python are you running in Thonny?

1c
Go to the Thonny homepage at https://thonny.org and briefly familiarise yourself with this page.

1d
Run the Hello World! program in the Thonny interactive Window.

1e
Modify the Hello World! program to print to the screen “Saluton Mondo!”

Chapter 2: Data types and expressions

Exercise 2: introducing expressions

2a
Use the Thonny interactive window to perform the following numerical calculations:
   i) Five plus seven (5 + 7)
   ii) Eight minus ten
   iii) Nine multiplied by eleven
   iv) Minus fifteen divided by three
   v) Three cubed

2b
Use the Thonny interactive window to perform the following numerical calculations:
   i) Calculate the square root of 2 (remember: determining the n\text{th} root of a number is the same as raising that number to the power of 1/n)
   ii) One trillion is 1,000,000,000,000. Multiply 3.2 trillion by 2.5. To simplify this calculation, use scientific notation to represent a trillion.
   iii) Determine the value in grams of 2.3 picograms multiplied by 45.3. (Search the internet for an explanation of the term pico, if you don’t know what this means).
   iv) What is the remainder of dividing nine by two?
   v) Is 1522756 exactly divisible by 37?
   vi) What is the floor division of 22 divided by 7?

2c
Use the Thonny interactive window to write one-line expressions to calculate the following (include all the values mentioned). Use parentheses to make the calculations more readable, and then compare the results after removing these brackets.
   i) I buy 5 sandwiches at £1.20 and 8 rolls at £2.15. How much will they all cost?
ii) One thousand pounds is shared equally between 20 men and 30 women. How much does each person receive?

iii) I work for 3 hours at £15.20 per hour, 9 hours at £17.45 per hour and 2 hours at £24.00 per hour. I then pay 20\% income tax on the money earned. How much money do I take home?

**Exercise 3: working with strings**

3a
Use the Thonny interactive window to create the following strings:

i) Once upon a time

ii) Ready…
    Steady…
    Go!

Do ii) with triple quotes and then using the `\n` metacharacter.

iii) Toto, I've got a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

Do iii) with using contrasting single/double quote pairs. Also do this by using the backslash character.

iv) Concatenate the following strings into a single one-line string:
    Con
cat
ten
te

v) Concatenate the following words into the phrase “To be or not to be” from its constituent words (think about how to create the spaces between words).

vi) Write a single-line expression that comprises following phrase 20 times: “All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy”.

3b

i) The well-known phrase says that “There is no I in team”. Demonstrate that this is indeed true using the Python `in` operator. Try using `not in` as well. What happens?

ii) Does the following nucleotide sequence contain a BglII restriction site (AGATCT)?
    GATATCTAGTCTTCTGATAGAGATCTGATGGGGATTATTATAGCTTCTGATCGGTTT

3c
Use subscription and splicing to extract the specified text from the phrase: “Mighty oaks from little acorns grow”

i) Extract the first five characters
ii) Extract the word oak
iii) Extract the last four characters (using a negative value)
iv) Return alternate characters (i.e. M, g, t,….)
v) Reverse the text
**Exercise 4: Boolean logic**

**4a**
Use the Thonny interactive window to write one-line expressions to do the following comparisons. Take note of the answer (this should be a Boolean value).

i) Evaluate whether 0 is equal to -0
ii) Evaluate whether 10 is not equal to 10.000
iii) Evaluate whether (856 / 7) is greater than (864 * 7.2)
iv) Is 9/3 less than or equal to 33/11?

**4b**
Evaluate the following in the Thonny interactive window. Think about what the result for each evaluation means i.e. the logic behind the results. What happens if None is returned?

i) True and True
ii) True and False
iii) False or True
iv) True and None
v) None or True
vi) 1 or 5
vii) 0 or 0 or False or 1
viii) not False
ix) not 40

**Chapter 3: names, functions and methods**

**Exercise 5: writing your first script**

**5a**

i) Use the scripting area of Thonny to write a script that prints out “Hello World! This is my first script.”

ii) Save the script as hello_world.py

iii) Run the script and you should see your message print to the screen.

iv) Create another script using Python code you have learnt already on this course. Try to write at least 5 lines of code then run the script.

**Exercise 6: introducing names**

**6a**

i) Remember Pythagoras' theorem which is used to calculate the length of the hypotenuse of a right-angled triangle? The theorem may be represented algebraically as \( c^2 = a^2 + b^2 \) (where c is the length of the hypotenuse and a and b represent the lengths of the other two sides).

Write a script called pythagoras.py in which a=3, b=4. The script should then calculate c and print its corresponding value to the screen.

ii) Modify the script you created in i) to have different values for a and b. The value printed to the screen should now change. Does this happen?
6b

i) Write a script called `say_my_name.py` to print your name to the screen 50 times (on a different line each time). Assign your name to the variable `my_name`.

ii) Let's now create a `reverse_my_name.py` script. Create a new variable called `reverse_name` (which will be the reverse of your name - i.e. the letters in reverse order). The script should be able to calculate this value automatically from the value of `my_name`. Print the `reverse_name` to the screen 20 times.

iii) Let's now write a script called `say_my_full_name.py` that has variables `first_name`, `middle_name` and `last_name`. Assign your name to these variables (make up a middle name if you don’t have one). Now create a variable called `full_name` which comprises: first name, middle initial and last name e.g.

Homer J Simpson

The variable should contain spaces to separate values. This variable should be generated by your code from `first_name`, `middle_name` and `last_name` variables. Print the `full_name` variable to the screen.

Exercise 7: f-strings

7a

Let's create a new script called `f_string.py`. Declare the variables `first_name` and `last_name` and assign them your names.

i) Create an f-string called `greeting` that says hello to you and then includes your first name and last name. Print `greeting` to the screen.

ii) Use a string subscription to calculate your initials from within an f-string expression. Print the results.

iii) Repeat the previous step, but right align the initials (using a fixed-width line of 45 characters).

iv) In the same script, use an f-string to format the square root of 2, to 5 decimal places and then prints the result to the screen.

Exercise 8: built-in functions

8a

Refer to the list of functions in the course text. Now use the `help()` function to identify the functions that perform the tasks listed below. When you have found this out, think how each of these functions might be useful in your code.

i) Return the absolute value of a number

ii) Round a number

iii) Takes command line user input

iv) Checks whether an object is some kind of function (Hint: methods and functions are both kinds of what?)

8b

In the interactive window use the appropriate function to calculate:

i) The maximum value of 1, 4, 45, 9, -3, 0.3

ii) The minimum value of the same numbers

iii) The maximum value of the characters: 'A', 'B', 'z', '@'

iv) The length of the town name:
'Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch'

8c  Write a script that takes user input and converts degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius and prints the results to the screen (to 1 decimal place). The formula you require for the conversion is:

$$T(°C) = \frac{(T(°F) - 32) \times 5}{9}$$

8d  Write a script that collects a value in pounds (£) and a percentage tax rate from the user and then writes to the screen the amount after tax is added. Since this is money, write out the results to two decimal places and include commas to separates thousands (000s). Name the script `tax_calculator.py`.

Exercise 9: user-defined functions

9a  Define a function called `fahr_2_cels` that converts degrees Fahrenheit to degrees Celsius. It should take a value in degrees Fahrenheit as input and return a Celsius value. The function should be called from the main body of a script named `temperature_calculations.py`.

   i) Write a documentation for the function `fahr_2_cels` to explain what it does.

   ii) Assert that the input to the function is a `float`, else end the script with an appropriate message.

9b  In a similar fashion to the previous exercise, define a function called `calculate_tax` that takes a float value and returns the value after adding tax. Write documentation. Name the script `tax_calulations.py`. Also, if no tax value is supplied, set this value by default to 20%.

Exercise 10: methods

Using what you have learned so far, studying the cheat sheet and possibly online resources, complete the following exercises dealing with Python methods. Type your expressions into the Thonny command line.

10a  Write a string method to count the number of times “s” appears in the word “Mississippi”.

10b  Write a string method to capitalise the first letter of the text “much ado about nothing”.

10c  Write a string method to check whether all the characters in the text “01001001110000110” are digits.

10d  Write a string method to check whether all the characters in the string “The Magic Roundabout” are lower case.
10e
Write one-line expression to convert “The Magic Roundabout” to lowercase and then check whether it is lower case.

10f
At what position does the word “razor” occur in the string “Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stairhead, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed.”

Exercise 11: tying it all together
Write a function that takes a string of nucleotides and reports the GC content of the string (as a fraction of 1). Save the script to a file called gc_calculator.py.

Extra points to consider:
Provide function documentation.
The function needs to handle upper/lowercase characters.

Chapter 4 – collections

Exercise 12: sets
Use the interactive window to:

12a
Create a set named dna containing the nucleotides: “adenine”, “cytosine”, “guanine”, “thymine”.

12b
Make a copy of the dna set and name it rna (use the copy() method to do this — you will find out later why you should make the copy this way!). Unfortunately, the bases are now not quite correct. Therefore, remove “thymine” and replace it with “uracil”.

12c
Using the appropriate set operators:
   i) identify bases common to rna and dna
   ii) identify bases that are not common to both sets

12d
   i) Deduplicate the letters in the word ‘bookkeeper’
   ii) Deduplicate the nucleotides: “AaaaaGgGGCGcGG” (but treat lower/upper case as equivalent).

12e*
As briefly mentioned, there is a related datatype in Python known as a frozenset. Read the python documentation about this datatype. Now try to recreate the dna and rna data structures using a frozenset. What happens if we try to edit the rna frozenset? Is this what you expected?

(Hint: to create the frozenset, try passing a set object to the function frozenset().)
Exercise 13: ranges

13a
Use the interactive window to:
   i) Create a range of integers from 1 to 7 inclusive.
   ii) Create a range from of integers -5 to 3 inclusive.
   iii) Create a range of all the odd numbers from -3 to 5.
   iv) Pass the range to a set from the previous exercise to view the actual numbers.

Exercise 14: tuples

14a
Use the interactive window to:
   i) Create a tuple containing the first six letters of the alphabet.
   ii) Create a tuple of the integers from 0 to 1000 inclusive (there is a quick way to do this!)
   iii) Run the built-in function max() on your tuple to retrieve the maximum value.
   iv) Create a tuple that contains the following letters the letters ‘A’, ‘B’, ‘C’, repeated 10 times.
   v) Create a tuple containing only your first name.
   vi) Check that you have created a tuple in iv)
   vii) Tuples have 2 methods: count() and index(). Write code to work out what these methods do. Use the following tuple to help you:
       sample = (1,1,2,1,1,2,2)

Exercise 15 – lists

Use the interactive window to:
   i) Create a list of the planets, in order of distance from the sun:
      Mercury
      Venus
      Earth
      Mars
      Jupiter
      Saturn
      Uranus
      Neptune
   ii) Check you have indeed created a list in i).
   iii) Using the list, print out the name of the planet closest to the sun.
   iv) Print out the number of planets.
   v) Print out the name of planet furthest from the sun.
   vi) Find the position of Jupiter.
   vii) Print out the names of the planets after Jupiter.
   viii) Check whether Pluto is included in this list.
   ix) Let’s add Pluto as the planet furthest from the sun.
   x) Print out the name of every third planet from the sun.
   xi) Print out the names of the planets in alphabetical order, but do not change the order of the list. (Hint: compare the string sort() method to the sorted() function. Also, what does the string sort() method return?)
xii) Print out the names of the planets from the furthest from the sun to the closest.

xiii) Copy the list to another list called \texttt{planets\_copy}.

xiv) Remove the last planet from the list \texttt{planets}.

xv) Change the order of planets to be arranged alphabetically.

xvi)

**Exercise 16 - dictionaries**

Use the interactive window to:

i) Create a dictionary called \texttt{group1\_elements} of the Group I chemical elements:
   - H: Hydrogen
   - Li: Lithium
   - Na: Sodium
   - K:Potassium
   - Rb: Rubidium
   - Cs: Caesium
   - F: Francium

ii) Retrieve from the dictionary the name of the chemical element with symbol Na.

iii) Check whether the chemical element U is in our list.

iv) Print out the keys of our dictionary.

v) Make a copy of \texttt{group1\_elements} called \texttt{alkali\_metals}

vi) Remove H from \texttt{alkali\_metals}

vii) Let’s empty the dictionary \texttt{alkali\_metals}.

**Exercise 17 – files**

i) Write a script called \texttt{read\_file.py} that opens the file \texttt{lonely\_cloud.txt} and writes the file contents to the screen. (Hint, the will use the \texttt{readlines()} method.)

ii) Play around with the code you have just created and work out what datatype the \texttt{readlines()} method has returned.

iii) Using this new-found knowledge, print every other line from the poem to the screen in a script called \texttt{read\_file2.py}.

iv) Edit \texttt{read\_file2.py} so that in addition to printing to the screen the edited poem is written to a file called \texttt{wordsless.txt}. (Hint, this will use the \texttt{writelines()} method.)

v) There is also a method name \texttt{read()}. Does this return a different datatype than \texttt{readlines()}?

**Exercise 18 – lambda function**

Write a lambda function to sort the names: 'William', 'Catherine', 'Harry' and 'Meghan' by their last letters. Save the script as \texttt{royals.py}. 
Chapter 5 – conditionals, loops and iterations

Exercise 19 – conditionals

19a
Create a script called conditional_tester.py and declare a name called my_value with a numerical value of your choosing. Then perform the one-alternative conditional tests listed below. Print an appropriate message to the screen if the conditional test returns a True result.
   i) Write a conditional expression that checks whether my_value is equal to 10.
   ii) Write a conditional expression that checks whether my_value is less than 5.
   iii) Write a conditional expression that checks whether my_value is greater than or equal to 1001.
   iv) Write a conditional expression that checks whether my_value is not equal to 7.

19b
Create a new script named password.py that prompts the user to enter a password. The correct password should be 'Joshua'. An incorrect password returns the response 'Access denied', whereas a correct response returns 'Greetings Professor Falken!'

19c
The grade boundaries for an exam were:
70% or more : A
60 – 69% : B
50 – 59% : C
40 – 49 % : D
Less than 40: Unclassified

Write a script called exam.py that uses a multi-test conditional to classify a score using the above schema.

19d*
It is common knowledge that a leap year is a year exactly divisible by 4. However, this is not the whole story, for if a year is divisible by 100 then it is not a leap year. However, even that is not the whole story, for if a year is divisible by 400 then it is a leap year once more. Write a Python function to decide whether a year is a leap year.

Provide documentation for the function and assert that the input to the function is an integer, else the function should terminate with a relevant message. Write the code in a script called leap_year.py.

Exercise 20 – while loops

20a
Write a script called integer_sum.py that calculates the sum of the first 100 integers (i.e. 1 to 100) using a while loop. This total should be printed to the screen.

20b
Modify the script password.py so the script keeps asking for a password if a wrong password is entered by the user. If the correct password is entered, the greeting message should be displayed and the while loop is broken. Call this new script password2.py.
20c
Write a script named colours.py which opens the file colours.txt and uses a while loop and a set to deduplicate the list of colours (retaining one representative copy) in the file. Print the list of unique colours to the screen.

Exercise 21 - iterations
21a
Modify the colours.py script so it iterates over the file with a for loop. Also, print out the unique list of colours using a for loop. Call this new script colours2.py.

21b
Modify colours2.py so that the script now counts how many times each colour appears in the file (hint: use a dictionary with the get method). Also, use enumerate to keep track of the total number of colours in the file. Print this total to the screen, and also report the tally of each colour. Call this new script colours3.py.

21c
A chessboard comprises 64 squares, with 8 columns (A-H) and 8 rows (1-8). Using nested iterations, print out the chessboard references to the screen:

a8 b8 c8 d8 e8 f8 g8 h8
a7 b7 c7 d7 e7 f7 g7 h7
a6 b6 c6 d6 e6 f6 g6 h6
a5 b5 c5 d5 e5 f5 g5 h5
a4 b4 c4 d4 e4 f4 g4 h4
a3 b3 c3 d3 e3 f3 g3 h3
a2 b2 c2 d2 e2 f2 g2 h2
a1 b1 c1 d1 e1 f1 g1 h1

Iterate over a range to generate the numbers. Call this script chessboard.py.

21d*
Let’s continue with the chess theme: suppose there is an empty chessboard, save for a solitary king in the bottom left corner. We then give his majesty a series of instructions to move one space at a time – either forwards (F), backwards (B), right (R) or left (L). We provide the instructions in a string: ‘FFFFBBFFRRRLRBBBBLRRLRLRFLFBLRBBFR’.

Will the king, at any point, leave the board as a result of those instructions? If so, from which side of the board will the king leave? Write a Python script named king.py, that iterates over the string, to answer this question.