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PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON

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COMPUTER PROGRAMS

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Programs Vs. Recipes

Recipes

- Ingredients
- Amounts
- Actions (Mix, Bake, etc.)
- Precise Order

Programs

- Variables
- Numbers
- Operations (Print, Save, etc.)
- Precise order

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Computer Languages

- Computers use Machine Language
 - 001011101010001010100101001010 ..., or
 - 345D81F3 ... (Hexadecimal format)

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Programmers Use High-Level Languages

- Hundreds of Programming Languages:
 - Java
 - C
 - Python
 - C++
 - Visual Basic.NET
 - C#
 - JavaScript
 - PHP
 - *Etc.*

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Why So Many Languages?

Each language has particular strengths:

- C: popular in games, fast, small size
- C++: popular for large projects
- Java: popular on websites
- Python: general purpose, easy to read
- Visual Basic.NET: part of Microsoft Office apps

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A Simple Python Program

```
# This program prints Hello, world!  
  
print('Hello, world!')
```

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Writing Code

- Microsoft Word is too fancy
- You need a *simple* text editor
 - Windows: Notepad
 - Mac: TextEdit

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Text Editors for Programmers

- Have special features for programmers
 - E.g., Syntax highlighting
 - Makes it easy to distinguish comments from code
- Popular Text Editors
 - TextWrangler
 - Notepad++

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Translation Problem

- How to Translate High-Level Language to Machine Language?
- Two Solutions:
 - Use a Compiler
 - Use an Interpreter

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Compiler

- Translates the whole code file at once
- Creates an *executable* program file
- Which you can run

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Interpreter

- You first run the Interpreter program
- The Interpreter translates each line of code
- One line at a time
- Translates the code into actions

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IDE

- Integrated Development Environment
- Combines text editor with compiler or interpreter
- Makes it easy to write, check, and run code
- Examples:
 - Visual Studio Code
 - IDLE (Python GUI)

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PYTHON

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In The Beginning

- Python was created by Guido van Rossum
- First released in 1991
- Named after [Monty Python](#) TV show
- General-purpose programming language
- Emphasizes code readability



Guido van Rossum, 2006

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Python Uses an Interpreter

- Advantages:
 - Spots many errors immediately
 - Gives instant feedback
 - Python programs sometimes called Scripts
- Disadvantages
 - Somewhat slower than a compiled program

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SETTING UP PYTHON

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How to Get Python

- Download the latest Python version
 - Your system may already have an older version
 - Go to: python.org

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Downloading Python

- Go to python.org
- Click Downloads
- Click the Download button
- After installing, search for IDLE and run it

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To Run Python (Windows)

- Search for IDLE and run it
- Search for Python 3.8 and run it (interpreter only)

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IDE: Visual Studio Code

- Popular IDE for several languages
- Download Visual Studio Code
- Set up:
 - Welcome screen:
 - Customize > Tools & Languages > Python
 - View > Command Palette: Python: Select Interpreter
 - Choose: Python 3.8...

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PYTHON BASICS

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The Python Tutorial

- Go to:
<https://docs.python.org/3.8/tutorial/index.html>

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Statements

- The building blocks of a program
- Made up of:
 - Keywords
 - Expressions
 - Operators

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Keywords

- About 30-40 of them
- Examples:
 - and, if, else, print
- To see a list:
 - `>>>import keyword`
 - `>>>print(keyword.kwlist)`

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Expressions

- The most basic type of programming instruction
- Consist of:
 - Values and/or Variables
 - Operators
- Can always be evaluated to a single value
- Examples:
 - `2 + 3`
 - `rate * 5`
 - `42`

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Operators

- Perform some type of action
- Examples:
 - `*` Multiply `2 * 3` = 6
 - `/` Divide `2 / 3` = 0.6666666666
 - `**` Exponent `2 * 3` = 8
 - `//` Int. Div. `2 // 3` = 0
 - `%` Modulus `2 % 3` = 2 (remainder)
- Precedence:
 - P E M D A S
 - "Please Excuse My Dear Aunt Sally"

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Review

Evaluate the following expressions as Python would:

- `>>>2 + 2`
- `>>>6 / 3`
- `>>>8 // 3`
- `>>>8 % 3`
- `>>>2 + 3 * 5`
- `>>>(2 + 3) * 5`

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VARIABLES

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Variables

- Storage areas for values
- Values are assigned to variables with =
 - "=" does not mean equal; "=" means assigned
- Rules for Variable names:
 - Only letters, numerals, or "_" (no spaces)
 - Cap sensitive
 - Cannot begin with a number
 - Cannot be a keyword
- Camel case: totalSales, startDate

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Review: Variable Names

Which of the following is not a valid name:

- A. amount
- B. print
- C. total-sales
- D. revenue\$
- E. average net
- F. 5value

Evaluate the following as Python would:

- `>>>myName = "Tom"`
- `>>>print (myname)`

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Types of Numbers

- Every variable has a *data type*
 - Data type tells Python how to store the variable
- Two data types for numbers:
 - int Integers
 - float Floating point numbers (with decimal point)
- Python automatically assigns a data type
 - `>>>amount = 29 type(amount) = int`
 - `>>>amount = 49.95 type(amount) = float`

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Strings

- Strings of characters
- Indicated by single or double quotes

- Examples:

```

▫ >>>print("Say hi")      Say hi
▫ >>>print("Say 'hi'")   Say 'hi'
▫ >>>print('Say "hi"')   Say "hi"

```

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White Space

- Programmers spend most of their time reading code, not writing code
- Make programs easy to read
- Use blank lines to separate parts

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Comments

- Add comments to remind you or inform colleagues
- Comments are ignored by Python
- Indicated by #
- Some editors indicate comments with color
- Examples:

```

▫ >>># This is a comment
▫ >>>(a + b) / 2 # Average

```

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CONDITIONAL CODE

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Relational or Operators

- Also called Comparison Operators
- How one expression compares with another:
 - Greater than, Less than: > <
 - Greater than or equal to: >=
 - Equal to: ==
 - Not equal to: !=
- E.g.:
 - Sales >= 10000
 - Month == 'Jan'

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The IF Statement

- "If this, then that":
- Example:

```

if x < 0:
    x = 0
    print('Negative number found')
sales = x
  
```

Note: Colon at end of IF statement

Note: Indented code block

Note: Blank Line at end of code block

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The IF ELSE Statements

- "If this, then that, otherwise something else":
- Example:

```

if x < 0:
    x = 0
    print('Negative number found')
else:
    print('Positive number found')
sales = x
  
```

Note: Colon at end of ELSE

Note: Blank Line at end of code block

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The IF ELIF ELSE Statements

- "If A, then do plan A, else if B, then plan B, else, plan C":
- Example:

```

if x < 0:
    print('Negative number found')
elif x == 0:
    print('Zero found')
else:
    print('Positive number found')
sales = x
  
```

Note: Colon

Note: Blank Line at end of code block

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FUNCTIONS

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The Function of Functions

- To make code easier to read
- Helps us avoid writing the same lines of code over and over again
 - Just put the code in a function
 - And run the function over and over again

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Function Syntax

Example:

```
def larger(a, b):
    if a > b:
        return a
    else:
        return b
```

Note: Colon at end of **def** statement

Parentheses required, even if no arguments between them

return indicates the result of the function

Blank line indicates end of function code

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How to Call a Function

Example:

```
>>>x = 10
>>>y = 5
>>>z = larger(x, y)
>>>print(z)
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```

Note: No colon needed here

Guess the result

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Libraries

- Functions are often grouped together
- These groups are called libraries
- Libraries can be imported into your programs
- Python has many libraries available
- Making it a very useful language

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Popular Python Libraries

- Pillow: Image editing
- Matplotlib: 2-dimensional graphs
- Numpy: Multidimensional arrays
- TensorFlow: Machine Learning
- Arrow: Dates and times
- Scipy: Scientific and technical computation
- wxPython: GUI toolkit
- Pandas: Data structures and Excel
- Pygame: Video games

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HAVE FUN!

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