

# Introduction to



Matthieu Miossec, PhD (@RealMattJM)

Bioinformatics Core

<https://www.well.ox.ac.uk/people/matthieu-miossec>

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“Write a script that takes the numbers 1 through 100, but prints fizz if said number is a multiple of 3, buzz if a multiple of 5 and fizzbuzz if a multiple of 5 and 3.”

Did you manage? Here are two solutions...

Three independent IF statements here.

Only the first True statement is evaluated

```
for i in range(1,101):
    if i % 15 == 0:
        print("fizzbuzz")
    elif i % 3 == 0:
        print("fizz")
    elif i % 5 == 0:
        print("buzz")
    else:
        print(i)
```

```
for i in range(1,101):
```

```
    out = ""
```

```
        if i % 3 == 0:
```

```
            out="fizz"
```

```
        if i % 5 == 0:
```

```
            out += "buzz"
```

```
        if out:
```

```
            print(out)
```

```
        else:
```

```
            print(i)
```

Notice += here. This will add "buzz" to either an empty *string* or a *string* that says "fizz".

var+= other\_var is shorthand for: var = var + other\_var

Remember, a non-empty string is **True**.  
Quicker than writing out len(out) !=0

- Previously, we looked at built-in data types *string*, *integer*, *float* and *Boolean*.
- Python also has what are called **data structures**, more specifically *tuples* and *lists* and *dictionaries* (oh my!).

```
a_list = [1, 2, 3] # This is a list  
a_tuple = (4, 5, 6) # This is a tuple  
a_dict = {'fname': 'John', 'sname': 'Doe', 'age': 42} # This is a dictionary
```

- These data structures can store the data types we've seen so far.

```
days = ('Mon', 'Tue', 'Wed', 'Thu', 'Fri', 'Sat', 'Sun') #tuple of string
```

- Python allows for distinct data types within the same structure.

```
misc = ["sunny", 1, 36.8, True] # List with string, int, float and boolean
```

- They can also contain themselves and each other!

```
litup = [('A','a'),('B','b'),('C','c'),('D','d')] # List of tuples
```

- *Tuples* and *lists* look superficially the same (apart from the brackets), but in fact behave quite differently.
  - Unlike lists, **tuples are immutable** (like *strings*!)



```
weather = ("sun", "clouds", "rain", "snow")
print(weather[1]) # We can access items of the tuple like clouds.
# We can't replace or remove them.
weather[1] = "mist" # This will cause an error!
```

- As with strings, we can get a slice of a tuple...

```
print(weather[1:3]) # Notice the output is a tuple ('clouds', 'rain').
print(weather[-1]) # Notice here the output is string 'snow'.
```

- ...determine length, concatenate tuples or multiply them.

```
print(len(weather)) # 4
print(weather + ("mist", "thunder")) # New tuple w/ mist and thunder
print(weather[1:3]*3) # sun and clouds repeated 3 times
```

- As mentioned previously, tuples can contain other data structures.
- If a data structure exists within another, we can still access its items in the following manner.

```
forecast = (("sun", 32.6), ("clouds", 16.2), ("rain", 14), ("snow", -1))
```

```
print(forecast[2][1]) # 14  
print(forecast[0][0]) # sun  
print(forecast[1:3][1]) # ('rain', 14).
```

- If the result of the last line feels unexpected, think about what you generated in the first instance.

```
slice_cast = forecast[1:3]  
print(slice_cast) # ("clouds", 16.2), ("rain", 14)  
print(slice_cast[1]) # ('rain', 14). Same result in more steps.
```

- We've seen that both *strings* and *tuples* are immutable. What does a **mutable** data structure look like?

- We now turn to **lists**.

```
fruit = ["kiwi", "ornage", "pear", "apple"]  
print(fruit[1]) # Oops I wrote ornage  
# Good thing we can replace it!  
fruit[1] = "orange"  
print(fruit) # Same list, but ornage is now orange
```

- We can add items to the list without having to create a new list using built-in **methods** *.append()* and *.insert()*.

```
fruit.append("banana") #Adding an item to the end of the list  
print(fruit) # List is ['kiwi', 'orange', 'pear', 'apple', 'banana']  
fruit.insert(2, "pineapple")  
print(fruit) # List now is ['kiwi', 'orange', 'pineapple', 'pear', 'apple', 'banana']
```

- We can also search for and remove items from a list.
  - Earlier when we replaced 'ornage' with 'orange', we had to manually look up the index for 'ornage'. Let's automate this using `.index()`.

```
print(fruit.index('orange')) # Tells us the index of 'orange' is 1.
```

- How do we cut out the middle man (us) here?



```
fruit[fruit.index('orange')] = 'clementine' # This is like writing fruit[1]  
print(fruit.index('orange')) # Orange is no longer in list, throws error.
```

- When we want to remove items, we don't need to know where they are, we can name them within the `.remove()` method.

```
fruit.remove('banana') # Banana is gone from the list.  
fruit.pop(2) # We can also remove by index using the pop() method  
print(fruit.pop(0)) # Pop outputs the value it removes. Potentially useful!
```

- We have seen one way of searching for an item in a list and returning its index (but only if it exists, otherwise error).
  - How do we ascertain whether an item is in the list or not? For this we use *in* or *not in* which evaluates to True or False.

```
fruit = ["kiwi", "orange", "pear", "apple"]
print("cherry" in fruit) # That's false
pets = ("cat", "dog", "turtle")
print("bird" not in pets) # True because we're using: not in.
print('i' in 'teamwork') # These keywords work with strings too.
```

- Particularly useful with IF statements.

```
fav_dr = input("Who do you want to see?")
dr_avail = ["Henderson", "Strange", "Morales", "Rath"]
if fav_dr in dr_avail:
    print("I'd like to see Dr.", fav_dr)
else:
    print("whoever is available now")
```

- One final built-in data structure to look is *dictionaries* or *dict*.
  - As with *lists* and *tuples*, *dictionaries* can store values of various types. Unlike these two, values are accessed directly using a **key**.

```
off_num = {'Harrison Hamill': 1279, 'Carrie Ford': 1876, 'Mark Fisher': 1345}
# We know Carrie Ford (the key) we want her phone extension (the value)
print(off_num['Carrie Ford']) # Shows 1876
```
  - Although this won't be obvious on such small examples, getting a value using a key -a single step process- is much faster than looking through a list for a specific value.
    - This is why these types of structures are a fundamental part of aligning DNA sequences to the human genome (but that's a whole other course!)

- In *dictionaries*, everything is mutable except for the keys themselves.

- If Harrison Hamill gets a new extension, we can update that.

```
off_num['Harrison Hamill'] = 1138
```

- You can also use this approach to add a new entry.

```
off_num['Anthony Baker'] = 3022 # Not previously in dictionary but now is.
```

- Keys are also used for removing entries (using `.pop()` again).

```
off_num.pop('Anthony Baker') # Previously in dictionary now isn't.
```

- If we are not sure if a key exists, we can use *in* and *not in*.

```
'Mark Fisher' in off_num # It's true
```

- Methods also exists to lookup all keys, values or key:value pairs\*, but that often defeats the purpose of *dict*.

```
off_num.keys()  
off_nums.values()
```

```
off_num.items()
```

\*You should mostly only ever need `.keys()`.

- Previously, we saw how to repetitively apply an action to an iterable data structure using FOR and WHILE loops.
- Here's a new example with a list.

```
num = 0
for i in [5, 4, 20, 19, 1, 6]:
    if i % 2 == 0:
        num += i # If even we add.
    else:
        num -= i # If odd we subtract.
print(num)
```

- What if we want to apply an action in distinct parts of our code rather than sequentially in a loop? We will need to create a **function**.
- We have seen several examples of Python built-in functions, such as *print()*, *bool()*, *input()*, *range()*,...etc. Now let's create our own!

- Functions bear some resemblance to mathematical functions.

- Let's turn the following function  $f(x) = \frac{x^2}{3x}$  into a Python function.

# First we define the function.

def first\_func(x):

→ num = x\*\*2/(3\*x)

→ return num

#then we can execute it.

print(first\_func(20)) # 6.666...7

print(first\_func(100)) # 33.3333...6

The first line of any function we define will be: **def** function\_name(parameter):

followed by a set of instructions. The output of the function is the value prefaced with the **return** keyword.

**Nothing is invoked after a return statement.**

- Once defined, a function can be invoked in any part of your code. It can even be invoked on itself (in fact, this is an integral part of something called recursion).

```
print(first_func(first_func(100))) # Output of one function is input of the next.
```

- A **return** can appear in the last line of a block of code within a function and several **return** statements can coexist within a function given flow control structures such as IF statements.

```
def even_odd(x):  
    if x % 2 == 0:  
        return "even number"  
    else:  
        if x < 0:  
            return "negative odd number"  
        else:  
            return "positive odd number"  
            print("This print will never be executed")
```



- A function can and often has more than one input or **parameter**\*.

```
def some_math(x, y, z):  
    div = x/y  
    return div + z
```

\*And more than one comma-separated output

- In order to get some real work done with Python, we need to be able to read in large quantities of information from files.
  - To access a human-readable (i.e. text) file we use the function `open()`. The function takes two parameters: a file location and a single character that signals whether we are 'r'eading in or 'w'riting to a file.

```
myfile = open('mytext.txt', 'r') # All strings. The 'r' signals 'read' mode
print(myfile.read()) # Prints the entire content of the file.
myfile.close()
```

- The `.read()` method outputs the content of the entire file. Once this is done, the file is closed using the `.close()` method.
- Typically, we don't want to read a file all at once, but instead line by line. We typically use `.readline()` instead.

- Each invocation of `.readline()` outputs the next line in a file.
  - If we are interested in the first 3 lines of a file, we can use a FOR loop.

```
myfile = open('mytext.txt','r')
for i in range(3): # Here we don't use the variable explicitly, that's allowed!
    print(myfile.readline())
myfile.close()
```

- The file stream itself is an iterable data structure, which means we can also use the FOR loop directly on it.

```
myfile = open('mytext.txt','r')
for line in myfile: # You don't need to call the variable line for this to work.
    print(line)
myfile.close()
```

- If we are reading in big files and modifying them, we will want to keep the output in new files.
  - We use the same function as before but with the characters 'w' or 'a'. Both work the same when writing to a new file.

```
newfile = open('new_text.txt', 'w')
newfile.write("Hello World!\n") # You now have a file with Hello World! in it.
newfile.write("second line...\n") # The \n ensures you write to next line.
newfile.close()
```

- Where 'w' and 'a' differ is when the file being written to already exists. While 'w' (write) will overwrite what already exists, 'a' (append) will start writing from the end of the file, preserving what was there before.

- Reading and writing is often done in one steady stream.
  - We have a file with information we want to transform and output to another file. For example, from a list of tab-delimited names, we can generate e-mail addresses with help from methods like ***.replace()***, ***.split()*** and ***.join()***.

```
names = open('names.txt', 'r')
mail = open('emails.txt', 'a')
```

```
for line in names:
```

```
    line = line.replace("'", "0") # Any apostrophe in a name is replaced with 0
```

```
    elem = line.split() # We split a string around space and get a list.
```

```
    mail.write("_".join(elem)+ "@wow.ac.uk\n") # List back to string.
```

```
names.close()
```

```
mail.close()
```

- Another form of reading and writing to files uses keywords ***with*** and ***as*** to contain read/write operation in a self-closing loop.
  - This form does not require a `.close()` statement, the stream being closed when the block finishes its execution.

```
with open('emails.txt', 'a') as mail:  
    with open('names.txt', 'r') as names:  
        for line in names:  
            line = line.replace(" ", "0")  
            elem = line.split() # .split() breaks each column into items.  
            mail.write("_".join(elem)+ "@wow.ac.uk\n")
```

- Note that our code is otherwise unchanged!

- Here are a few practical exercises you can now tackle.
  - Write a function that takes as input two short DNA sequences such as 'ATGGTCA' and checks whether they are complements of each other.
  - From a file (you create manually) containing a column of temperatures in degrees Celsius, generate a file with three columns for degrees Celsius, Fahrenheit and Kelvin (hint: +"\t"+ to add tab).
- An inescapable part of programming is encountering errors.
  - Rather than do everything to avoid them, it's a good idea to familiarise oneself with them early on. Write bits of code that leads to as many of the following errors (without looking them up at first):
    - IOError, IndexError, KeyError, NameError, TypeError, ValueError, ZeroDivisionError.

- Create a simple text desktop-based version of the newly popular internet word game Wordle:  
(<https://www.nytimes.com/games/wordle/index.html>)
  - Your program must take a list of 5-letter words (any language you chose) from a text file and select one at random.
  - Prompt the user to try to guess the word 6 times. Showing which letters they got right, which they got wrong and which they just got in the wrong place.
  - Keep it simple, make it all text based, using `input()` to prompt the guesses. Don't forget to apply **divide** and **conquer** approach.

Thanks for listening!  
Happy scripting!



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- You can't always guess what the best way of doing something is. Every single programmer, from total beginner to professional programmer, needs some help from the Python community.
  - Want to keep learning or review more concepts? A good place to start is Python's official page: <https://www.python.org/doc/>
  - Have a more in-depth question? There's a good chance someone on stackoverflow has had the same question as you (or similar) and someone has offered an answer:  
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/python>
    - If you google your question, you will probably end up on stackoverflow.

- Once you're comfortable enough with Python, you can start exploring packages! Remember `import this` ?
  - You can use it to do some pretty cool things in Python without having to reinvent the wheel:
    - Would you like to make graphs? `import matplotlib, seaborn`
    - Rapid matrix calculation and data analysis? `import numpy, pandas`
    - Want to make a graphical user interface? `import Tkinter`
    - Want to make some artificial or convolutional neural networks without having to create the whole infrastructure from scratch?  
`import tensorflow, keras, pytorch`
  - No need to reinvent the wheel if there's a package for what you need.