

# PYTHON

programming language



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## About the Tutorial

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Today, Python is one of the most popular programming languages. Although it is a general-purpose language, it is used in various areas of applications such as Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, web development, IoT, and more. This **Python tutorial** is designed to be a self-learning guide for beginners, students looking for a career in software development and Data science. This tutorial shall also be useful for experienced software professionals to enhance their skills.

This Python tutorial is based on the latest Python 3.11.2 version.

## What is Python?

**Python** is a very popular general-purpose interpreted, interactive, object-oriented, and high-level programming language. Python is dynamically-typed and garbage-collected programming language. It was created by Guido van Rossum during 1985- 1990. Like Perl, Python source code is also available under the GNU General Public License (GPL).

Python supports multiple programming paradigms, including Procedural, Object Oriented and Functional programming language. Python design philosophy emphasizes code readability with the use of significant indentation.

This tutorial gives a complete understanding of Python programming language starting from basic concepts to advanced concepts. This tutorial will take you through simple and practical approaches while learning Python Programming language.

## Python Jobs

Today, Python is very high in demand and all the major companies are looking for great Python Programmers to develop websites, software components, and applications or to work with Data Science, AI, and ML technologies. When we are developing this tutorial in 2023, there is a high shortage of Python Programmers whereas market demands more number of Python Programmers due to its application in Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence etc.

Today a Python Programmer with 3-5 years of experience is asking for around \$150,000 annual package and this is the most demanding programming language in America. Though it can vary depending on the location of the Job. It's impossible to list all of the companies using Python, to name a few big companies are:

- Google
- Intel
- NASA
- PayPal
- Facebook
- IBM
- Amazon
- Netflix
- Pinterest
- Uber
- Many more...

So, you could be the next potential employee for any of these major companies. We have developed a great learning material for you to learn Python Programming which will help you prepare for the technical interviews and certification exams based on Python. So, start

learning Python using this simple and effective tutorial from anywhere and anytime absolutely at your pace.

## Why Learn Python?

Python is consistently rated as one of the world's most popular programming languages. Python is fairly easy to learn, so if you are starting to learn any programming language then Python could be your great choice. Today various Schools, Colleges and Universities are teaching Python as their primary programming language. There are many other good reasons which makes Python as the top choice of any programmer:

- Python is Open Source which means its available free of cost.
- Python is simple and so easy to learn
- Python is versatile and can be used to create many different things.
- Python has powerful development libraries include AI, ML etc.
- Python is much in demand and ensures high salary

**Python** is a MUST for students and working professionals to become a great Software Engineer specially when they are working in Web Development Domain. I will list down some of the key advantages of learning Python:

- **Python is Interpreted** – Python is processed at runtime by the interpreter. You do not need to compile your program before executing it. This is similar to PERL and PHP.
- **Python is Interactive** – You can actually sit at a Python prompt and interact with the interpreter directly to write your programs.
- **Python is Object-Oriented** – Python supports Object-Oriented style or technique of programming that encapsulates code within objects.
- **Python is a Beginner's Language** – Python is a great language for the beginner-level programmers and supports the development of a wide range of applications from simple text processing to WWW browsers to games.

## Python Online Compiler/Interpreter

We have provided **Python Online Compiler/Interpreter** which helps you to **Edit** and **Execute** the code directly from your browser.

You can run the following Python code online to print conventional "Hello, World!".

The following code box allows you to change the value of the code. Try to change the value inside **print()** and run it again to verify the result.

```
# This is my first Python program.

# This will print 'Hello, World!' as the output

print ("Hello, World!");
```

## Careers in Python

If you know Python nicely, then you have a great career ahead. Here are just a few of the career options where Python is a key skill:

- Game developer
- Web designer
- Python developer
- Full-stack developer
- Machine learning engineer
- Data scientist
- Data analyst
- Data engineer
- DevOps engineer
- Software engineer
- Many more other roles

## Characteristics of Python

Following are important characteristics of **Python Programming** –

- It supports functional and structured programming methods as well as OOP.
- It can be used as a scripting language or can be compiled to byte-code for building large applications.
- It provides very high-level dynamic data types and supports dynamic type checking.
- It supports automatic garbage collection.
- It can be easily integrated with C, C++, COM, ActiveX, CORBA, and Java.

## Applications of Python

The latest release of Python is 3.x. As mentioned before, Python is one of the most widely used language over the web. I'm going to list few of them here:

- **Easy-to-learn** – Python has few keywords, simple structure, and a clearly defined syntax. This allows the student to pick up the language quickly.
- **Easy-to-read** – Python code is more clearly defined and visible to the eyes.
- **Easy-to-maintain** – Python's source code is fairly easy-to-maintain.
- **A broad standard library** – Python's bulk of the library is very portable and cross-platform compatible on UNIX, Windows, and Macintosh.
- **Interactive Mode** – Python has support for an interactive mode which allows interactive testing and debugging of snippets of code.

- **Portable** – Python can run on a wide variety of hardware platforms and has the same interface on all platforms.
- **Extendable** – You can add low-level modules to the Python interpreter. These modules enable programmers to add to or customize their tools to be more efficient.
- **Databases** – Python provides interfaces to all major commercial databases.
- **GUI Programming** – Python supports GUI applications that can be created and ported to many system calls, libraries and windows systems, such as Windows MFC, Macintosh, and the X Window system of Unix.
- **Scalable** – Python provides a better structure and support for large programs than shell scripting.

## Audience

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This tutorial has been prepared for the beginners to help them understand the basics to advanced concepts of Python programming language. After completing this tutorial, you will find yourself at a great level of expertise in Python programming, from where you can take yourself to the next levels.

## Prerequisites

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Although it is a beginners' tutorial, we assume that the readers have a reasonable exposure to any programming environment and knowledge of basic concepts such as variables, commands, syntax, etc.

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# Python Basics

# 1. Python – Overview

Python is a high-level, multi-paradigm programming language. As Python is an interpreter-based language, it is easier to learn compared to some of the other mainstream languages. Python is a dynamically typed language with very intuitive data types.

Python is an open-source and cross-platform programming language. It is available for use under **Python Software Foundation License** (compatible to GNU General Public License) on all the major operating system platforms Linux, Windows and Mac OS.

The design philosophy of Python emphasizes on simplicity, readability and unambiguity. Python is known for its batteries included approach as Python software is distributed with a comprehensive standard library of functions and modules.

Python's design philosophy is documented in the **Zen of Python**. It consists of nineteen aphorisms such as:

- Beautiful is better than ugly
- Explicit is better than implicit
- Simple is better than complex
- Complex is better than complicated

To obtain the complete Zen of Python document, type **import this** in the Python shell:

```
>>> import this

The Zen of Python, by Tim Peters

Beautiful is better than ugly.
Explicit is better than implicit.
Simple is better than complex.
Complex is better than complicated.
Flat is better than nested.
Sparse is better than dense.
Readability counts.
Special cases aren't special enough to break the rules.
Although practicality beats purity.
Errors should never pass silently.
Unless explicitly silenced.
In the face of ambiguity, refuse the temptation to guess.
There should be one-- and preferably only one --obvious way to do it.
Although that way may not be obvious at first unless you're Dutch.
```

Now is better than never.

Although never is often better than \*right\* now.

If the implementation is hard to explain, it's a bad idea.

If the implementation is easy to explain, it may be a good idea.

Namespaces are one honking great idea -- let's do more of those!

Python supports imperative, structured as well as object-oriented programming methodology. It provides features of functional programming as well.

## 2. Python – History

**Guido Van Rossum**, a Dutch programmer, created Python programming language. In the late 80's, he had been working on the development of ABC language in a computer science research institute named **Centrum Wiskunde & Informatica** (CWI) in the Netherlands. In 1991, Van Rossum conceived and published Python as a successor of **ABC** language.

For many uninitiated people, the word Python is related to a species of snake. Rossum though attributes the choice of the name Python to a popular comedy series "**Monty Python's Flying Circus**" on BBC.

Being the principal architect of Python, the developer community conferred upon him the title of "**Benevolent Dictator for Life** (BDFL). However, in 2018, Rossum relinquished the title. Thereafter, the development and distribution of the reference implementation of Python is handled by a nonprofit organization **Python Software Foundation**.

Important stages in the history of Python:

### Python 0.9.0

Python's first published version is 0.9. It was released in February 1991. It consisted of support for core object-oriented programming principles.

### Python 1.0

In January 1994, version 1.0 was released, armed with functional programming tools, features like support for complex numbers etc.

### Python 2.0

Next major version – Python 2.0 was launched in October 2000. Many new features such as list comprehension, garbage collection and Unicode support were included with it.

### Python 3.0

Python 3.0, a completely revamped version of Python was released in December 2008. The primary objective of this revamp was to remove a lot of discrepancies that had crept in Python 2.x versions. Python 3 was backported to Python 2.6. It also included a utility named as **python2to3** to facilitate automatic translation of Python 2 code to Python 3.

### EOL for Python 2.x

Even after the release of Python 3, Python Software Foundation continued to support the Python 2 branch with incremental micro versions till 2019. However, it decided to discontinue the support by the end of year 2020, at which time Python 2.7.17 was the last version in the branch.

## Current Version

Meanwhile, more and more features have been incorporated into Python's 3.x branch. As of date, Python **3.11.2** is the current stable version, released in February 2023.

### What's New in Python 3.11?

One of the most important features of Python's version 3.11 is the significant improvement in speed. According to Python's official documentation, this version is faster than the previous version (3.10) by up to 60%. It also states that the standard benchmark suite shows a 25% faster execution rate.

- Python 3.11 has a better exception messaging. Instead of generating a long traceback on the occurrence of an exception, we now get the exact expression causing the error.
- As per the recommendations of PEP 678, the **add\_note()** method is added to the **BaseException** class. You can call this method inside the except clause and pass a custom error message.
- It also adds the **croot()** function in the **maths** module. It returns the cube root of a given number.
- A new module **tomllib** is added in the standard library. TOML (Tom's Obvious Minimal Language) can be parsed with tomllib module function.

### 3. Python – Features

In this chapter, let's highlight some of the important features of Python that make it widely popular.

#### Python is Easy to Learn

This is one of the most important reasons for the popularity of Python. Python has a limited set of keywords. Its features such as simple syntax, usage of indentation to avoid clutter of curly brackets and dynamic typing that doesn't necessitate prior declaration of variable help a beginner to learn Python quickly and easily.

#### Python is Interpreter Based

Instructions in any programming languages must be translated into machine code for the processor to execute them. Programming languages are either compiler based or interpreter based.

In case of a compiler, a machine language version of the entire source program is generated. The conversion fails even if there is a single erroneous statement. Hence, the development process is tedious for the beginners. The C family languages (including C, C++, Java, C Sharp etc) are compiler based.

Python is an interpreter based language. The interpreter takes one instruction from the source code at a time, translates it into machine code and executes it. Instructions before the first occurrence of error are executed. With this feature, it is easier to debug the program and thus proves useful for the beginner level programmer to gain confidence gradually. Python therefore is a beginner-friendly language.

#### Python is Interactive

Standard Python distribution comes with an interactive shell that works on the principle of REPL (Read – Evaluate – Print – Loop). The shell presents a Python prompt `>>>`. You can type any valid Python expression and press Enter. Python interpreter immediately returns the response and the prompt comes back to read the next expression.

```
>>> 2*3+1  
7  
  
>>> print ("Hello World")  
Hello World
```

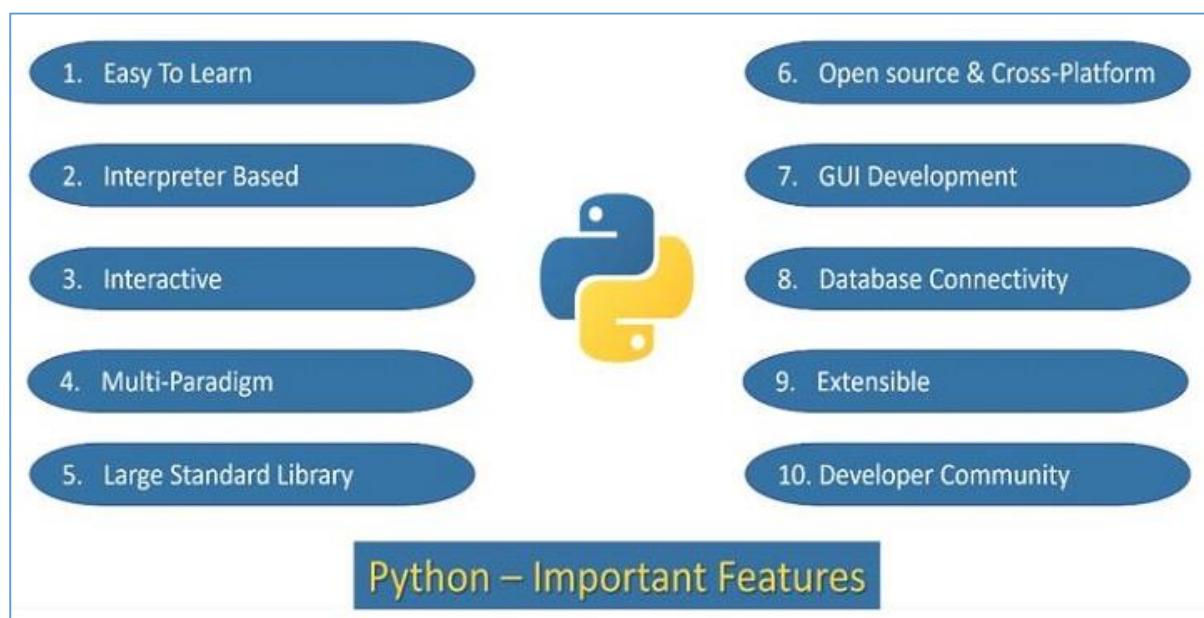
The interactive mode is especially useful to get familiar with a library and test out its functionality. You can try out small code snippets in interactive mode before writing a program.

## Python is Multi-Paradigm

Python is a completely object-oriented language. Everything in a Python program is an object. However, Python conveniently encapsulates its object orientation to be used as an imperative or procedural language – such as C. Python also provides certain functionality that resembles functional programming. Moreover, certain third-party tools have been developed to support other programming paradigms such as aspect-oriented and logic programming.

## Python's Standard Library

Even though it has a very few keywords (only Thirty Five), Python software is distributed with a standard library made of large number of modules and packages. Thus Python has out of box support for programming needs such as serialization, data compression, internet data handling, and many more. Python is known for its batteries included approach.



## Python is Open-Source and Cross-Platform

Python's standard distribution can be downloaded from <https://www.python.org/downloads/> without any restrictions. You can download pre-compiled binaries for various operating system platforms. In addition, the source code is also freely available, which is why it comes under open source category.

Python software (along with the documentation) is distributed under Python Software Foundation License. It is a BSD style permissive software license and compatible to GNU GPL (General Public License).

Python is a cross-platform language. Pre-compiled binaries are available for use on various operating system platforms such as Windows, Linux, Mac OS, Android OS. The reference implementation of Python is called CPython and is written in C. You can download the source code and compile it for your OS platform.

A Python program is first compiled to an intermediate platform independent byte code. The virtual machine inside the interpreter then executes the byte code. This behaviour

makes Python a cross-platform language, and thus a Python program can be easily ported from one OS platform to other.

## Python for GUI Applications

Python's standard distribution has an excellent graphics library called TKinter. It is a Python port for the vastly popular GUI toolkit called TCL/Tk. You can build attractive user-friendly GUI applications in Python. GUI toolkits are generally written in C/C++. Many of them have been ported to Python. Examples are PyQt, WxWidgets, PySimpleGUI etc.

## Python's Database Connectivity

Almost any type of database can be used as a backend with the Python application. DB-API is a set of specifications for database driver software to let Python communicate with a relational database. With many third party libraries, Python can also work with NoSQL databases such as MongoDB.

## Python is Extensible

The term extensibility implies the ability to add new features or modify existing features. As stated earlier, CPython (which is Python's reference implementation) is written in C. Hence one can easily write modules/libraries in C and incorporate them in the standard library. There are other implementations of Python such as Jython (written in Java) and IPython (written in C#). Hence, it is possible to write and merge new functionality in these implementations with Java and C# respectively.

## Python's Active Developer Community

As a result of Python's popularity and open-source nature, a large number of Python developers often interact with online forums and conferences. Python Software Foundation also has a significant member base, involved in the organization's mission to "promote, protect, and advance the Python programming language"

Python also enjoys a significant institutional support. Major IT companies Google, Microsoft, and Meta contribute immensely by preparing documentation and other resources.

## 4. Python vs C++

Both Python and C++ are among the most popular programming languages. Both of them have their advantages and disadvantages. In this chapter, we shall take a look at their characteristic features.

### Compiled vs Interpreted

Like C, C++ is also a compiler-based language. A compiler translates the entire code in a machine language code specific to the operating system in use and processor architecture.

Python is interpreter-based language. The interpreter executes the source code line by line.

### Cross-platform

When a C++ source code such as hello.cpp is compiled on Linux, it can be only run on any other computer with Linux operating system. If required to run on other OS, it needs to be compiled.

Python interpreter doesn't produce compiled code. Source code is converted to byte code every time it is run on any operating system without any changes or additional steps.

### Portability

Python code is easily portable from one OS to other. C++ code is not portable as it must be recompiled if the OS changes.

### Speed of Development

C++ program is compiled to the machine code. Hence, its execution is faster than interpreter based language.

Python interpreter doesn't generate the machine code. Conversion of intermediate byte code to machine language is done on each execution of program.

If a program is to be used frequently, C++ is more efficient than Python.

### Easy to Learn

Compared to C++, Python has a simpler syntax. Its code is more readable. Writing C++ code seems daunting in the beginning because of complicated syntax rule such as use of curly braces and semicolon for sentence termination.

Python doesn't use curly brackets for marking a block of statements. Instead, it uses indents. Statements of similar indent level mark a block. This makes a Python program more readable.

## Static vs Dynamic Typing

C++ is a statically typed language. The type of variables for storing data need to be declared in the beginning. Undeclared variables can't be used. Once a variable is declared to be of a certain type, value of only that type can be stored in it.

Python is a dynamically typed language. It doesn't require a variable to be declared before assigning it a value. Since, a variable may store any type of data, it is called dynamically typed.

## OOP Concepts

Both C++ and Python implement object oriented programming concepts. C++ is closer to the theory of OOP than Python. C++ supports the concept of data encapsulation as the visibility of the variables can be defined as public, private and protected.

Python doesn't have the provision of defining the visibility. Unlike C++, Python doesn't support method overloading. Because it is dynamically typed, all the methods are polymorphic in nature by default.

C++ is in fact an extension of C. One can say that additional keywords are added in C so that it supports OOP. Hence, we can write a C type procedure oriented program in C++.

Python is completely object oriented language. Python's data model is such that, even if you can adapt a procedure oriented approach, Python internally uses object-oriented methodology.

## Garbage Collection

C++ uses the concept of pointers. Unused memory in a C++ program is not cleared automatically. In C++, the process of garbage collection is manual. Hence, a C++ program is likely to face memory related exceptional behavior.

Python has a mechanism of automatic garbage collection. Hence, Python program is more robust and less prone to memory related issues.

## Application Areas

Because C++ program compiles directly to machine code, it is more suitable for systems programming, writing device drivers, embedded systems and operating system utilities.

Python program is suitable for application programming. Its main area of application today is data science, machine learning, API development etc.

The following table summarizes the comparison between C++ and Python:

Criteria	C++	Python
Execution	Compiler based	Interpreter based
Typing	Static typing	Dynamic typing
Portability	Not portable	Highly portable
Garbage collection	Manual	Automatic

Syntax	Tedious	Simple
Performance	Faster execution	Slower execution
Application areas	Embedded systems, device drivers	Machine learning, web applications

## 5. Python – Hello World

Hello World program is a basic computer code written in a general purpose programming language, used as a test program. It doesn't ask for any input and displays a Hello World message on the output console. It is used to test if the software needed to compile and run the program has been installed correctly.

It is very easy to display the Hello World message using the Python interpreter. Launch the interpreter from a command terminal of your operating system and issue the print statement from the Python prompt as follows:

```
PS C:\Users\mlath> python
Python 3.11.2 (tags/v3.11.2:878ead1, Feb  7 2023, 16:38:35) [MSC v.1934
64 bit (AMD64)] on win32
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print ("Hello World")
Hello World
```

Similarly, Hello World message is printed in Linux.

```
mvl@GNVBGL3:~$ python3
Python 3.10.6 (main, Mar 10 2023, 10:55:28) [GCC 11.3.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> print ("Hello World")
Hello World
```

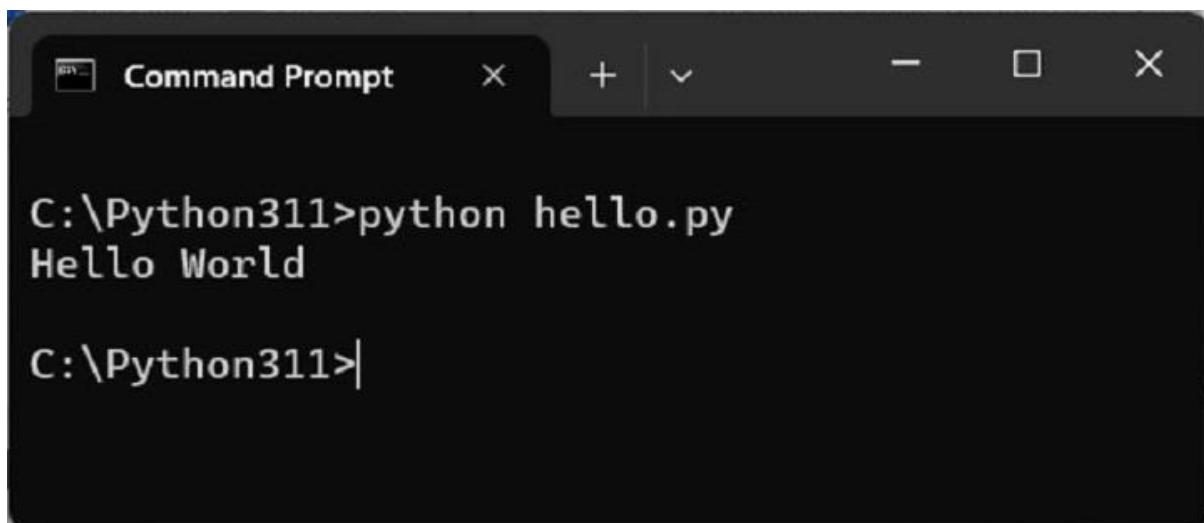
Python interpreter also works in scripted mode. Open any text editor, enter the following text and save as Hello.py

```
print ("Hello World")
```

For Windows OS, open the command prompt terminal (CMD) and run the program as shown below:

```
C:\Python311>python hello.py
Hello World
```

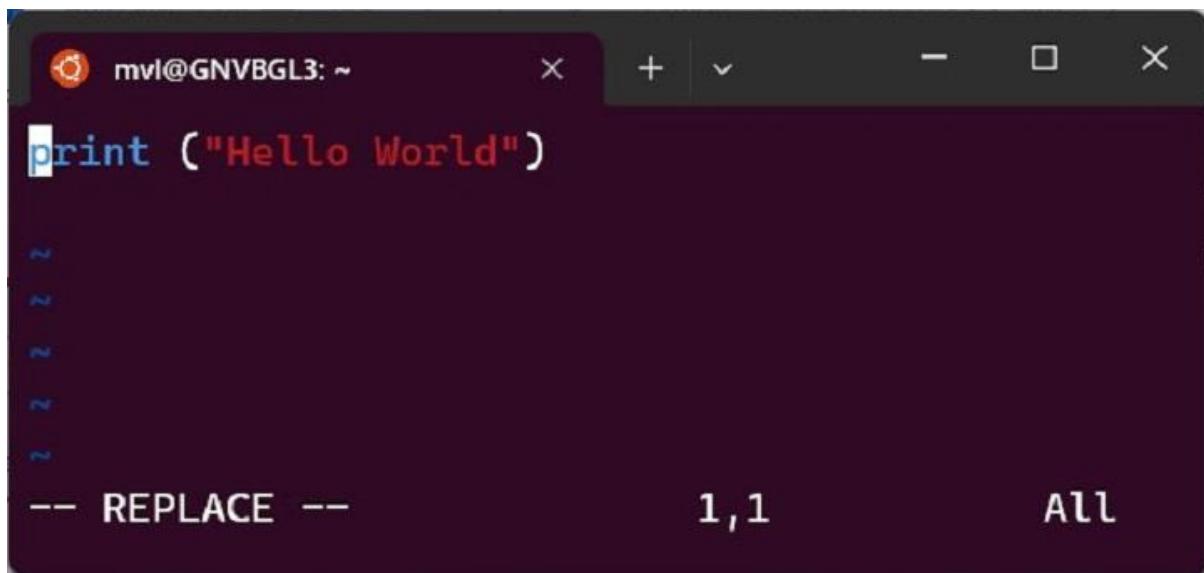
The terminal shows the Hello World message.



```
C:\Python311>python hello.py
Hello World

C:\Python311>|
```

While working on Ubuntu Linux, you have to follow the same steps, save the code and run from Linux terminal. We use vi editor for saving the program.



```
mvl@GNVBGL3: ~
print ("Hello World")
~
~
~
~
-- REPLACE --          1,1      All
```

To run the program from Linux terminal

```
mvl@GNVBGL3:~$ python3 hello.py
Hello World
```

In Linux, you can convert a Python program into a self executable script. The first statement in the code should be a shebang. It must contain the path to Python executable. In Linux, Python is installed in /usr/bin directory, and the name of the executable is python3. Hence, we add this statement to hello.py file

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
print ("Hello World")
```

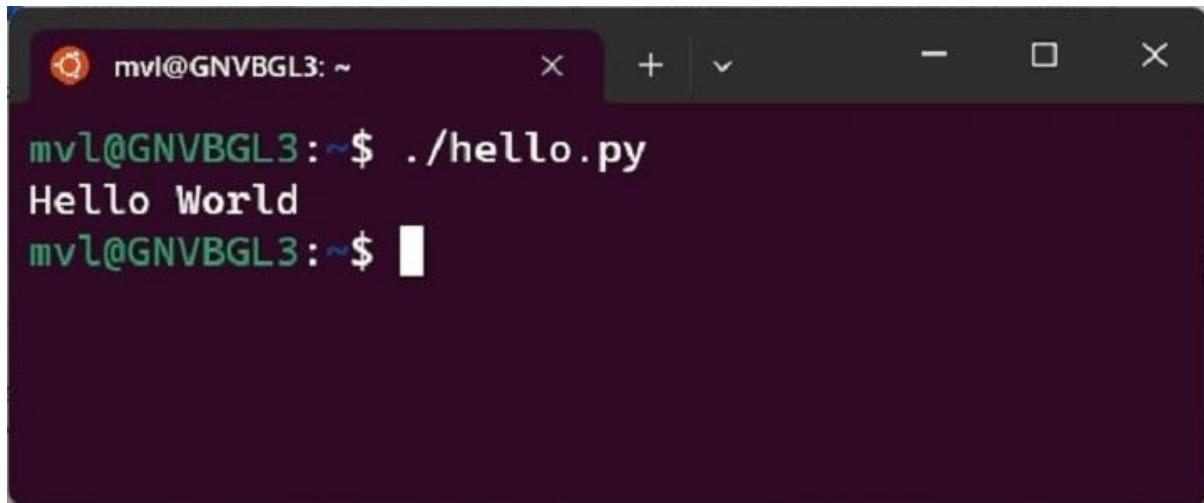
You also need to give the file executable permission by using the chmod +x command

```
mvl@GNVBGL3:~$ chmod +x hello.py
```

Then, you can run the program with following command line:

```
mvl@GNVBGL3:~$ ./hello.py
```

The **output** is shown below:



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "mvl@GNVBGL3: ~". The window shows the command "mvl@GNVBGL3:~\$ ./hello.py" being run, followed by the output "Hello World". The terminal has a dark background with light-colored text.

Thus, we can write and run Hello World program in Python using the interpreter mode and script mode.

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**End of ebook preview**

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