

Python Common Error Codes – Debugging

Code Example	Error	Notes
<pre> 1 amount = 5 2 3 if(amount>10) 4 print("Exceeds Target") </pre>	<pre> if(amount>10) ^ SyntaxError: invalid syntax >>> </pre>	Missing colon :
<pre> 1 amount = 5 2 3 if(amount>10): 4 print("Exceeds Target") </pre>	<pre> print("Exceeds Target") ^ IndentationError: expected an indented block >>> </pre>	<p>Constructs like if, loops and functions use indentation.</p> <p>Anything indented is included within the construct. Removing indent will end the construct.</p>
<pre> 1 amount = 0 2 3 amount = int(input("Please enter the amount")) 4 5 if(amount>10): 6 print("Exceeds Target") </pre>	<pre> if(amount>10): ^ SyntaxError: invalid syntax >>> </pre>	<p>This can be confusing. The highlighted line is completely correct but the line above is missing a closing bracket. Always check the line above</p>
<pre> if(amount>10): print "Exceeds Target" </pre>	<pre> print "Exceeds Target" ^ SyntaxError: Missing parentheses in call to 'print'. >>> </pre>	<p>Parentheses means brackets.</p> <p>print output should always be inside brackets.</p>
<pre> 4 5 if(amount>10): 6 print ("Exceeds Target") </pre>	<pre> print ("Exceeds Target") ^ SyntaxError: EOL while scanning string literal >>> </pre>	Missing quotations to end string "Exceeds Target")
<pre> 12 if average = 15: 13 print("Well done") </pre>	<pre> if average = 15: ^ SyntaxError: invalid syntax >>> </pre>	<p>When comparing values python syntax uses double equals</p> <p>if average == 15:</p>

<p>Running total with fixed loop – calculate average rainfall over 7 days using array</p> <pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 5 2 total = 0 3 average = 0 4 5 for days in range(7): 6 rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) 7 8 total = total + rainfall[days] 9 10 average = total/7 </pre>	<p>Execution Error - Index out of range</p> <p>Crashes during run</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day: 3 Enter rainfall each day: 4 Enter rainfall each day: 2 Enter rainfall each day: 6 Enter rainfall each day: 7 Enter rainfall each day: 2 Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\...ry", line 6, in <module> rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) IndexError: list assignment index out of range >>> </pre>	<p>It occurs when the Array Size is incorrect – not enough storage. Increase Array size needed.</p> <p>In this example, the array is only set to store 5 values and the fixed loop is looping 7 times. Program has nowhere to store the data so index out of range is range. Index just refers to the position within the array list. rainfall[0] You can use any variable to fill an array – doesn't have to be index all the time. This example uses [days]</p>
<p>Same example as above but Conditional loop.</p> <pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 5 2 days = 0 3 4 while days != 7: 5 rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) 6 days = days + 1 </pre>	<p>Execution Error - Index out of range</p> <p>Crashes during run</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day: 2 Enter rainfall each day: 3 Enter rainfall each day: 4 Enter rainfall each day: 5 Enter rainfall each day: 6 Enter rainfall each day: 4 Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\...or\py", rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) IndexError: list assignment index out of range >>> </pre>	<p>days will continue to increment (+1) until it reaches 7 days – but the array has only been sized to store 5 list items.</p>
<pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 7 2 total = 0 3 average = 0 4 5 for days in range(7): 6 rainfall[index] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) 7 8 total = total + rainfall[days] 9 10 average = total/7 </pre>	<p>Execution Error – Variable not defined</p> <p>Crashes during run</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day: 2 Traceback (most recent call last): File "s\Mu Editor\ rainfall[index] = int(input("Enter rainfall each day: ")) NameError: name 'index' is not defined >>> 2 </pre>	<p>Not defined</p> <p>A Variable – in this case index - has not been defined. This fixed loop uses days to cycle through each time around the loop.</p>

<pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 7 2 average = 0 3 4 for days in range(7): 5 rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall for day: ")) 6 7 total = total + rainfall[days] 8 9 average = total/7 </pre>	<p>Execution Error – Variable not defined Crashes during run</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day2 Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\Users\user\Documents\Python\programs\Mu Editor\program1.py", line 7, in <module> total = total + rainfall[days] NameError: name 'total' is not defined >>> </pre>	<p>total variable not defined</p> <p>total = 0 should be added to top.</p>
<pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 7 2 average = 0 3 total = "" 4 5 for days in range(7): 6 rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall for day: ")) 7 8 total = total + rainfall[days] 9 10 average = total/7 </pre>	<p>Execution Error – Variable type mismatch</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day2 Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\Users\user\Documents\Python\programs\Mu Editor\program1.py", line 8, in <module> total = total + rainfall[days] TypeError: can only concatenate str (not "int") to str >>> </pre>	<p>total has been declared to store a string (text) but the program is asking the user to enter an integer and perform a calculation.</p> <p>Wrong data type</p>
<pre> 1 rainfall = [0] * 7 2 average = 0 3 total = 0 4 5 for days in range(7): 6 rainfall[days] = int(input("Enter rainfall for day: ")) 7 8 total = total + rainfall 9 10 average = total/7 </pre>	<p>Execution Error – Data type mismatch</p> <pre> Enter rainfall each day2 Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\Users\user\Documents\Python\programs\Mu Editor\program1.py", line 8, in <module> total = total + rainfall TypeError: unsupported operand type(s) for +: 'int' and 'list' >>> </pre>	<p>Data type mismatch.</p> <p>Array is declared but missing [variable] to cycle through array list.</p> <p>rainfall is not a single variable it is an array. rainfall[days]</p>
<p>Reading from File</p> <p>#1. Read members data from walkers file.</p> <pre> def readFileDate(members): counter = 0 with open("memberData.txt") as readFile: line = readFile.readline().rstrip("\n") while line: items = line.split(",") members[counter].forename = items[0] members[counter].surname = items[1] counter += 1 line = readFile.readline().rstrip("\n") </pre>	<p>File Not found</p> <pre> members = readFileDate(members) File "c:\Users\user\Documents\Python\programs\Mu Editor\program1.py", line 10, in <module> members = readFileDate(members) File "c:\Users\user\Documents\Python\programs\Mu Editor\program1.py", line 10, in readFileDate with open("memberData.txt") as readFile: FileNotFoundError: [Errno 2] No such file or directory: 'memberData.txt' >>> </pre>	<p>Ensure that the text/csv file is in the same directory folder as your python code.</p>

<p>Functions/Procedures</p> <pre> 1 # 2. Find the furthest distance walked. 2 def findLongestDistance(members): 3 furthest = members[0].distance 4 for loop in range(1,len(members)): 5 if members[loop].distance > furthest: 6 furthest = members[loop].distance 7 return furthest </pre>	<p>Syntax Error- Indentation</p> <pre> NameError: name 'members' is not defined File "C:\Users\user\Documents\Python\Programs\findLongestDistance.py", line 3, in <module> furthest = members[0].distance ^ IndentationError: expected an indented block >>> </pre>	<p>When declaring functions/procedures code must be indented so the code is contained within the function/procedure.</p>
<p>Call statement – 3 Actual parameters</p> <pre> 94 #2. Generate bib values and write to new file with entry IDs 95 generateBibValues(entryID,location,firstName) </pre> <p>4 formal parameters</p> <pre> # 2. Generate bib values and write to file using sub-string def generateBibValues(entryID,location,firstName,surname): with open('bibValues.csv','w') as athletes: for loop in range(len(location)): bibValue = firstName[loop][0:1] + surname[loop] athletes.write(bibValue + "\n") </pre>	<p>Parameter mismatch</p> <pre> Traceback (most recent call last): File "C:\Users\user\Documents\Python\Programs\generateBibValues.py", line 95, in <module> generateBibValues(entryID,location,firstName) TypeError: generateBibValues() missing 1 required positional argument: 'surname' >>> </pre>	<p>Arguments is another name for parameters.</p> <p>There are 3 actual parameters in the call statement but 4 formal parameters.</p> <p>Formal and Actual parameters can be different names but the order in which they are passed is vitally important.</p>
<pre> 17 #3. Function to find the highest number of jumps 18 maxJumps = findMax(jumps) </pre> <pre> 8 # 3. Find max algorithm to find the highest number of jumps 9 def findMax(jumps): 10 maxJumps = jumps[0] 11 for loop in range(1,len(jumps)): 12 if jumps[loop] > maxJumps: 13 maxJumps = jumps[loop] 14 </pre>	<p>No error but unexpected results.</p> <p>No value is being returned from the findMax function</p>	<p>return maxJumps</p> <p>should be added to the end of the function to ensure the correct data is passed out to the main program.</p>