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Sets in Python

In Python, a set is an unordered collection of unique elements. Sets are mutable, but the elements inside them must be immutable (e.g., numbers, strings, tuples).

Set = { "stores", "useful", "things" }

✔ Unchangeable ✔ Unordered

Key Uses of Sets in Python

- Remove duplicates from lists or other collections.
- Perform set operations like union, intersection, difference, etc.
- Fast membership testing (much faster than lists).
- Compare datasets to find common or unique elements.
- Filter data based on allowed or restricted values.
- Find unique characters or words in strings or documents.
- Efficient data lookup without duplicates or ordering.
- Set comprehension for creating sets using expressions.
- Count unique values in a collection quickly.

Common Set Operations

Operation	Syntax / Method	Example
Add element	set.add(x)	s.add(5)
Remove element	set.remove(x)	s.remove(3)
Discard element	set.discard(x)	s.discard(3)
Clear set	set.clear()	s.clear()
Union	`set1	set2`
Intersection	set1 & set2	a & b
Difference	set1 - set2	a - b
Symmetric Difference	set1 ^ set2	a ^ b
Check subset	a <= b	a.issubset(b)
Check superset	a >= b	a.issuperset(b)

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1. Add Element – set.add(x)

- Adds a single element to the set.
- If the element already exists, it won't be added again.

Example:

```
s = {1, 2, 3}  
s.add(4)  
print(s)
```

Output:

```
{1, 2, 3, 4}
```

2. Remove Element – set.remove(x)

- Removes a specific element from the set.
- If the element doesn't exist, Python gives an error.

Example:

```
s = {1, 2, 3}  
s.remove(2)  
print(s)
```

Output:

```
{1, 3}
```

Example of Error:

```
s.remove(5) # 5 not in set → KeyError
```

3. Discard Element – set.discard(x)

- Works like remove(), but it does not show an error if the element isn't present.

Example:

```
s = {1, 2, 3}  
s.discard(2) # removes 2  
s.discard(5) # does nothing, no error  
print(s)
```

Output:

```
{1, 3}
```

4. Clear Set – set.clear()

- Removes all elements from the set, leaving it empty.

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Sets in Python

```
s = {1, 2, 3}
s.clear()
print(s)
```

Output:
set()

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5. Union – set1 | set2 or set1.union(set2)

• Combines elements from both sets (no duplicates).

Example:

```
a = {1, 2, 3}
b = {3, 4, 5}
print(a | b)
```

Output:
{1, 2, 3, 4, 5}

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6. Intersection – set1 & set2 or set1.intersection(set2)

• Returns elements common to both sets.

Example:

```
a = {1, 2, 3, 4}
b = {3, 4, 5, 6}
print(a & b)
```

Output:
{3, 4}

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7. Difference – set1 - set2 or set1.difference(set2)

• Returns elements that are in the first set but not in the second.

Example:

```
a = {1, 2, 3, 4}
b = {3, 4, 5}
print(a - b)
```

Output:
{1, 2}

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8. Symmetric Difference – set1 ^ set2 or set1.symmetric_difference(set2)

• Returns elements that are in either of the sets, but not in both.

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Example:

```
a = {1, 2, 3}  
b = {3, 4, 5}  
print(a ^ b)
```

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Output:

```
{1, 2, 4, 5}
```

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9. Check Subset – a <= b or a.issubset(b)

- Checks if all elements of set a are present in set b.

Example:

```
a = {1, 2}  
b = {1, 2, 3, 4}  
print(a <= b)
```

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Output:

```
True
```

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10. Check Superset – a >= b or a.issuperset(b)

- Checks if set a contains all elements of set b.

Example:

```
a = {1, 2, 3, 4}  
b = {2, 3}  
print(a >= b)
```

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Output:

```
True
```

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Add Multiple Elements in Sets

Use .update() to add more than one element.

```
fruits = {"apple", "banana", "cherry"}  
fruits.update(["grape", "orange"])  
print(fruits)
```

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Output:

```
{'apple', 'banana', 'mango', 'grape', 'orange'}
```

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No Duplicates Allowed

If you try to add the same element twice, Python automatically removes duplicates.

Example:

```
numbers = {1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4}
print(numbers)
```

Output:

```
{1, 2, 3, 4}
```

Solved Example: Write a Python program to:

1. Store the names of students in **Class A** and **Class B** using sets.
2. Find the students who are **common in both classes**.
3. Find the students who are **only in Class A** (not in Class B).
4. Display the results using print statements.

Solution:

```
students_classA = {"Ravi", "Sita", "Amit", "Rahul"}
students_classB = {"Amit", "Rina", "Rahul", "Neha"}
```

```
# Find students common in both classes
common_students = students_classA & students_classB
```

```
# Find students unique to Class A
only_A = students_classA - students_classB
```

```
print("Common Students:", common_students)
print("Only in Class A:", only_A)
```

Explanation:

1. Creating Sets:

```
students_classA = {"Ravi", "Sita", "Amit", "Rahul"}
students_classB = {"Amit", "Rina", "Rahul", "Neha"}
```

- Here, we created two sets.
- Each set stores the names of students in that class.
- Sets automatically remove duplicates (if any).

2. Finding Common Students (Intersection):

```
common_students = students_classA & students_classB
```

- The & operator finds the **intersection** of two sets.
- It gives the elements that are **present in both sets**.
- In this case: "Amit" and "Rahul" are common in both classes.

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3. Finding Students Only in Class A (Difference):

only_A = students_classA - students_classB

- The - operator finds the **difference** between two sets.
- It gives elements that are **in Class A but not in Class B**.
- Here, "Ravi" and "Sita" are only in Class A.

Assignment

Ques 1: Create two sets:

A = {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}

B = {4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Perform and print the following:

1. Union of both sets
2. Intersection of both sets
3. Difference of A and B
4. Symmetric difference of A and B

Expected Output:

Union: {1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}

Intersection: {4, 5}

Difference (A - B): {1, 2, 3}

Symmetric Difference: {1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8}

Ques 2: Write a Python program to:

- Create a set named fruits containing "apple", "banana", "mango".
- Add "orange" to the set.
- Remove "banana" from the set.
- Display the final set.

Expected Output:

{'apple', 'orange', 'mango'}



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