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Variables in Python



Variables in Python

Variable: A variable is simply a name that stores some value in a program. A variable like a container or a labeled box that holds data – like numbers, text, etc. – so you can use or change it later in your code.

Why We Use Variables in Python:

- To store data for later use
- To reuse values without repeating them
- To make code easier to read and understand
- To change values dynamically in the program
- To handle input from users or other sources
- To avoid repetition in calculations or operations
- To organize data logically and cleanly
- To perform operations using stored values (e.g., math)

Assignment Statement

Variables allow programs to refer to values using names rather than memory locations. Ex: age refers to a person's age, and birth refers to a person's date of birth.

A statement can set a variable to a value using the assignment operator (=). Note that this is different from the equal sign of mathematics. Ex: age = 6 or birth = "May 15". The left side of the assignment statement is a variable, and the right side is the value the variable is assigned.

Variable Naming Rules

- A variable name can consist of letters, digits, and underscores and be of any length.
- The name cannot start with a digit. Ex: 101class is invalid. Also, letter case matters. Ex: Total is different from total.
- Python's style guide recommends writing variable names in snake case, which is all lowercase with underscores in between each word, such as first_name or total_price.
- A name should be short and descriptive, so words are preferred over single characters in programs for readability. Ex: A variable named count indicates the variable's purpose better than a variable named c.

| | | | | |
|--------|----------|---------|----------|--------|
| False | await | else | import | pass |
| None | break | except | in | raise |
| True | class | finally | is | return |
| and | continue | for | lambda | try |
| as | def | from | nonlocal | while |
| assert | del | global | not | with |
| async | elif | if | or | yield |

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How to Create a Variable?

You just assign a value using the = sign.

```
a = 5
b = 3.2
c = "Hello"
```

Here:

- a is an integer variable
- b is a float variable
- c is a string variable

Ways to Declare a Variable in Python

| Method | Description | Example |
|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Single Assignment | Assign a single value to one variable | x = 10 |
| 2. Multiple Assignment | Assign multiple values to multiple variables | a, b = 5, 6 |
| 3. Same Value to Multiple Vars | Assign one value to multiple variables | x = y = z = 100 |
| 4. Unpacking Collection | Assign multiple values from a list/tuple | a, b, c = [1, 2, 3] |
| 5. Type Casting | Convert and assign data types | age = int("25") |
| 6. User Input Assignment | Assign value from user input | name = input("Enter name: ") |
| 7. Type Hinting (Optional) | Declare type using hints (Python 3.6+) | score: float = 99.5 |

A. Single Assignment

Assigning one value to one variable at a time.

Example:

```
# Single Assignment
name = "Alice"
age = 20
height = 5.6

print(name)
print(age)
```

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```
print(height)
```

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Output:

```
Alice  
20  
5.6
```

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B. Multiple Assignment

```
# Multiple Assignment  
a, b, c = 10, 20, 30
```

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```
print(a)  
print(b)  
print(c)
```

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Output:

```
10  
20  
30
```

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Here:

- a gets 10
- b gets 20
- c gets 30

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C. Same Value to Multiple Variable

You can assign the same value to many variables at once.

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Example:

```
# Same value to multiple variables  
x = y = z = 100  
rint(x)  
print(y)  
print(z)
```

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Output:

```
100  
100  
100
```

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NOTE: All three variables hold the same value 100.

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D. Unpacking Collection

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If you have a list, tuple, or collection, you can “unpack” (split) its values into separate variables.

Example:

```
# Unpacking a list  
fruits = ["apple", "banana", "cherry"]  
a, b, c = fruits
```

```
print(a)  
print(b)  
print(c)
```

Output:

```
apple  
banana  
cherry
```

NOTE: Works with tuples and other collections too.

E. Type Casting

Changing (or converting) the data type of a variable manually.

Example:

```
# Type Casting  
a = "10" # string  
b = int(a) # convert to integer  
c = float(a) # convert to float
```

```
print(a, type(a))  
print(b, type(b))  
print(c, type(c))
```

Output:

```
10 <class 'str'>  
10 <class 'int'>  
10.0 <class 'float'>
```

Common type casting functions:

- int() → convert to integer
- float() → convert to float
- str() → convert to string

F. User Input Assignment

Take input from the user and assign it to a variable.

By default, input() takes data as a string, so you may need type casting.

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Example:
User Input Assignment
name = input("Enter your name: ")
age = int(input("Enter your age: "))

print("Hello", name)
print("You are", age, "years old.")

Output (example):
Enter your name: Rahul
Enter your age: 18
Hello Rahul
You are 18 years old.

