

## Re: Mandis Quotes (aka retiring "" and ")

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2004-10/0613.html>

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**Date:** 10/05/04

Date: Tue, 05 Oct 2004 08:17:21 +0200

Russell Nelson wrote:

- > *Jef Raskin (namedropping) has pointed me at a neat scheme for quoting*
- > *arbitrary textual matter called "Mandis quotes". Since google is*
- > *ignorant of the phrase, I presume that Jef made it up. It is*
- > *disgustingly simple, and very Pythonesque. Here's how it works: If*
- > *you have a string that doesn't have any single quotes in it, you*
- > *surround the string by a pair of doubled single quotes. "Like*
- > *this". No backslash interpolation. If you want a character in*
- > *there, you put it in there (yes, I know, stand down your armies).*
- > *Clearly, then, any character except a single quote can go into one of*
- > *these strings. If you need to put a single quote in, then you put*
- > *an arbitrary string in-between the single quotes which does NOT*
- > *appear in the string. For example, "Bill's house" becomes*
- > *'x'Bill's house'x'.*
- >
- > *More formally, a mandis quote is a pair of tokens surrounding a*
- > *completely arbitrary sequence of bytes. These tokens are comprised of*
- > *a possibly null sequence of characters preceded by and followed by a*
- > *single quote.*
- >
- > *To save time, here's why this pre-PEP proposal sucks in decreasing*
- > *order of severity:*
- >
- > *o Python source is typically represented, not as an arbitrary string*
- > *of ASCII or Unicode characters, but instead as a sequence of lines*
- > *separated by the native line terminator (e.g. CRLF, LF, or CR).*
- >
- > *o Editors are not all up to the task of inserting arbitrary*
- > *characters into strings (although they SHOULD).*
- >
- > *o Email cannot withstand arbitrary strings of characters (although*