

# Re: How do you program in Python?

---

*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Python/comp.lang.python/2005-07/msg00462.html>

---

- *From:* "[mensanator@xxxxxxx](mailto:mensanator@xxxxxxx)" <[mensanator@xxxxxxx](mailto:mensanator@xxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* 3 Jul 2005 12:10:08 -0700
- 

anthonyberet wrote:

- > My question isn't as all-encompassing as the subject would suggest...
- >
- > I am almost a Python newbie, but I have discovered that I don't get
- > along with IDLE, as i can't work out how to run and rerun a routine
- > without undue messing about.
- >
- > What I would really like is something like an old-style BASIC
- > interpreter, in which I could list, modify and test-run sections of
- > code, to see the effects of tweaks, without having to save it each time,
- > or re-typing it over and over (I haven't even worked out how to cut and
- > paste effectively in the IDLE environment).

I think you're missing something about IDLE if you are re-typing.

For example:

IDLE 1.1a3

```
>>> for i in range(25):  
print i,
```

When you type the above, you get

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24
```

Now let's say you want to re-run that with 10 instead of 25.

You don't have to re-type it. Click to place your cursor anywhere in the original block of code and hit <return>. Idle will re-type the entire block for you:

```
>>> for i in range(25):  
print i,
```

The cursor will be at the very end of the block so you can re-run it by hitting <enter> twice. But you'll get the same output. Instead of hitting <enter> twice, use your cursor keys (or mouse) to move to the 25 in the range function and edit it to 10. Once

## Re: How do you program in Python?

edited, move the cursor back to end of the block and hit <enter> twice to execute

```
>>> for i in range(10):  
print i,
```

```
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

It sounds worse than it is, just takes a little getting used to.

Once you're happy with that code fragment, edit it again and add a definition at the start.

[1] click in the block and hit <enter>, Idle re-types the block

```
>>> for i in range(10):  
print i,
```

[2] place cursor in front of the 'for' and add a function name and change the 'for' to use the parameter instead of a constant

```
>>> def t(n): for i in range(n):  
print i,
```

[3] hit <enter> (here we do want to insert a line) and IDLE will show you this (indents adjust automatically)

```
>>> def t(n):  
for i in range(n):  
print i,
```

[4] move cursor to the end of the block (after the comma) and hit <enter> twice

Nothing happens. You have defined a function, but did not execute it. To execute it, type its name with some value of n.

```
>>> t(8)  
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
```

Now you can try it out with different values of n without having to edit the whole block. Now if you want to change the function definition, say we want each number output on a separate line, do the same thing we did before. Click anywhere in the block and hit <enter>. The entire block is re-typed for you. Make your change (remove the comma) and hit <enter> twice.

```
>>> def t(n):  
for i in range(n):  
print i
```

## Re: How do you program in Python?

Again, the function is not executed. And you can always simply click on the previously typed line t(8) and hit <enter> twice

```
>>> t(8)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
```

```
>
> I see lots of alternate IDEs etc, but which would allow me the simple
> interface that I have described? – I really don't know about IDEs in
> general, and I suspect I would be out of my depth with one of those.
>
> Thanks, and feel free to mock ;)
```

.

---

- **References:**

- ◆ **[How do you program in Python?](#)**  
◇ From: anthonyberet

- Prev by Date: **[Re: Using regular expressions in internet searches](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: math.nroot \[was Re: A brief question.\]](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: How do you program in Python?](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: How do you program in Python?](#)**
- Index(es):
  - ◆ **[Date](#)**
  - ◆ **[Thread](#)**