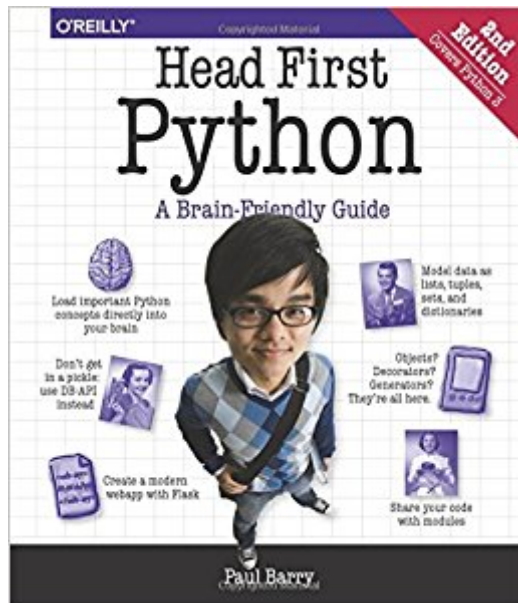


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# Head First Python: A Brain-Friendly Guide



## Synopsis

Want to learn the Python language without slogging your way through how-to manuals? With Head First Python, you'll quickly grasp Python's fundamentals, working with the built-in data structures and functions. Then you'll move on to building your very own webapp, exploring database management, exception handling, and data wrangling. If you're intrigued by what you can do with context managers, decorators, comprehensions, and generators, it's all here. This second edition is a complete learning experience that will help you become a bonafide Python programmer in no time. Why does this book look so different? Based on the latest research in cognitive science and learning theory, Head First Python uses a visually rich format to engage your mind, rather than a text-heavy approach that puts you to sleep. Why waste your time struggling with new concepts? This multi-sensory learning experience is designed for the way your brain really works.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

About 'Head First' Books We think of a Head First Reader as a Learner Learning isn't something that just happens to you. It's something you do. You can't learn without pumping some neurons. Learning means building more mental pathways, bridging connections between new and pre-existing knowledge, recognizing patterns, and turning facts and information into knowledge (and ultimately, wisdom). Based on the latest research in cognitive

science, neurobiology, and educational psychology, Head First books get your brain into learning mode. Here's how we help you do that: We tell stories using casual language, instead of lecturing. We don't take ourselves too seriously. Which would you pay more attention to: a stimulating dinner party companion, or a lecture? We make it visual. Images are far more memorable than words alone, and make learning much more effective. They also make things more fun. We use attention-grabbing tactics. Learning a new, tough, technical topic doesn't have to be boring. The graphics are often surprising, oversized, humorous, sarcastic, or edgy. The page layout is dynamic: no two pages are the same, and each one has a mix of text and images.

**Metacognition: thinking about thinking** If you really want to learn, and you want to learn more quickly and more deeply, pay attention to how you pay attention. Think about how you think. The trick is to get your brain to see the new material you're learning as Really Important. Crucial to your well-being. Otherwise, you're in for a constant battle, with your brain doing its best to keep the new content from sticking. If you answer 'yes' to all of these, this book is for you Do you already know how to program in another programming language? Do you wish you had the know-how to program Python, add it to your list of tools, and make it do new things? Do you prefer actually doing things and applying the stuff you learn over listening to someone in a lecture rattle on for hours on end?

Here's what we do: We use pictures, because your brain is tuned for visuals, not text. As far as your brain's concerned, a picture really is worth a thousand words. And when text and pictures work together, we embedded the text in the pictures because your brain works more effectively when the text is within the thing the text refers to, as opposed to in a caption or buried in the text somewhere. We use redundancy, saying the same thing in different ways and with different media types, and multiple senses, to increase the chance that the content gets coded into more than one area of your brain. We use concepts and pictures in unexpected ways because your brain is tuned for novelty, and we use pictures and ideas with at least some emotional content, because your brain is more likely to remember when you feel something. We use a personalized, conversational style, because your brain is tuned to pay more attention when it believes you're in a conversation than if it thinks you're passively listening to a presentation. We include many activities, because your brain is tuned to learn and remember more when you do things than when you read about things. And we make the exercises challenging-yet-do-able, because that's what most people prefer. We use multiple learning styles, because you might prefer step-by-step procedures, while someone else wants to understand the big picture first, and

someone else just wants to see an example. But regardless of your own learning preference, everyone benefits from seeing the same content represented in multiple ways. We include content for both sides of your brain, because the more of your brain you engage, the more likely you are to learn and remember, and the longer you can stay focused. Since working one side of the brain often means giving the other side a chance to rest, you can be more productive at learning for a longer period of time. We include challenges by asking questions that don't always have a straight answer, because your brain is tuned to learn and remember when it has to work at something. Finally, we use people in our stories, examples, and pictures, because, well, you're a person. Your brain pays more attention to people than to things.

Paul Barry is formally educated and trained in Computer Science and holds a Masters Degree in Computing Science. He has been programming professionally, on and off, for close to 25 years. Paul already has two textbooks to his name, and is also a Contributing Editor to Linux Journal magazine. His day job is with the Institute of Technology, Carlow in Ireland where he has spent over a decade preparing Ireland's next generation of computing folk to be productive in the workforce. His role as a third level educator affords him the opportunity to explore, learn and teach the very latest programming technologies and practices, which is something that he enjoys even though he knows this makes him a bonafide "geek". Paul lives just outside the town of Carlow in Ireland with his wife, two sons, daughter, dog and cat. There's a bunch of computers and a growing collection of music instruments in the house, too (and like a lot of the Head First family, Paul is a struggling guitarist trapped inside a geek's body). He has so far resisted any suggestion that the family acquire a hamster ... or a set of drums.

Excellent Well Planned Instruction in Python 3. Advanced Data Structures Lists, Dictionaries, Sets, Tuples Before Control and Object-Oriented Programming. Definite Improvement over Distractions Like Android SDK in 1st Edition. Gives a Solid Foundation for Study of Algorithms and Libraries in Advanced Python.

Excellent introduction to Python. The book focuses on being fun to read and providing a real understanding of why things work the way they do. The other two intro to Python books I have are not fun to read and concentrate more on trying to teach the reader as many functions as possible but at the cost of being a bit dry. The author spends several chapters explaining how Python can be used to create a web app that stores and manipulates user entered data in text and SQL databases.

This is also a topic I was very interested in but assumed I would need another book for it. I invested about 30 hours over 2 weeks going through this book and I feel that I now truly understand the foundation of how Python works. This book is definitely not a reference book but that's what Google is for.

Excellent book once you get used to the different format.

Very useful and clear book.

I happened to spot this book at my local library, and I wanted to give it a try. I have some background with Python already, but not a whole lot. HEAD FIRST PYTHON marks my first read of any "Head First" book. The fun graphics and jokes make the learning experience go a little faster and easier, which I appreciated. I downloaded the code examples so that I would not have to type in a bunch of code. The code was indeed on the web sites listed. The code is stored via chapter, which made finding the examples easy. I especially like the way the author helped me get started with downloading Python 3, and getting an easy example going right away. This all worked very well, without a hitch. The chapter on integrating Python with database work was especially interesting to me. Chapter 7 covers the installation of a MySQL server, then using the Python DB-API to talk to the database. I thought at first I could just jump to that chapter, but realistically, I will have to work through the earlier examples first. So far, so good! So all in all, I found HEAD FIRST PYTHON to be an excellent book. It is a tough job writing a computer language book, with all the code and explanations. I thought Paul Barry did an excellent job, making this a very readable book--and yes, a little fun, too. Perhaps I could have done with a little less graphics and photos, but I appreciate the editors making the book a fun read.

This book contains some useful information about Python 3. But in too many cases the information seemed poorly sequenced. The book does contain some helpful info about getting Python 3, Flask, and MySql to work together in a demonstration Web app. So it's a helpful book in that regard. BUT there were a lot of places where the book stated almost literally, "oops, we just used a term we haven't described -- we'll explain it later". This might arguably have been unavoidable in a couple of places. But in my opinion it occurred too frequently when it should have, could have, been fixed. If one is willing and able to find their way through the twisty structural maze there's some good stuff in there. But one should expect that they'll need to do some back-and-forthing through the book to

mentally assemble key bits of what should be related information...

I got this book from the library, it's been checked out a lot and I can't renew it so I'll lily end up buying it. So far so good. I'm through the first chapter. I've gotten familiar with shell scripting to perform various tasks. This book has been fun to read so far. Can't wait for the rest of the book.

Is this really the second edition of the book? It seems to me totally different than the first edition. The first edition was a very nice irreverent Python book, this second edition tried to be more like a textbook but is terrible boring, in particular I do not understand why so many books of the head first series has the "99 bottles of beer" as a "funny" example, is that a requirement or the authors don't have more good examples?

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