COMPUTING AND DIGITAL LITERACY

Reading Simple Code

Difficulty level: Easy

Computing and Digital Literacy

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Overview of the concept

This is how you understand a program before you change it, like reading a recipe line by line so you know what each step does before you cook. A programmer who changes code they have not read can break something that was working, just as a cook who skips a step can ruin a dish. Reading code means following what each line does and how the lines fit together, so you know where a change belongs. It is the first skill of programming, and it comes before writing a single line of your own.



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Worked examples

EXAMPLE 1

Q Read a greeting program

SOLUTION

name = input("Name? ")

print("Hello, " + name)

Plain words: ask for a name, then print Hello plus that name.

Read the first line: input asks a question and stores the answer in name.

Read the second line: print shows Hello, joined to the stored name.

Say the whole program in one sentence: it asks for a name and greets that person.

EXAMPLE 2

Q Read a counting loop

SOLUTION

total = 0

for n in [2, 4, 6]:

total = total + n

print(total) -> Output: 12

total starts at 0, then the loop takes each value in [2, 4, 6] in turn.

Each pass adds the value: 0+2=2, 2+4=6, 6+6=12.

After the loop, print shows the final total, 12.

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Practice questions

1

Read: x = 3; print(x * 2). What prints?

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2

Read name = "Ana"; print(name). What prints?

A name

B Hello

C Ana

D print

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3 Read: if 5 > 3: print("Yes"). What prints?

- A Yes
- B No

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4 Read: for i in range(1, 3): print(i). What prints?

- A 1, then 2
- B 1, 2, 3
- C 2, then 3
- D 0, then 1

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5 What is the first step in reading code?

- A Read it line by line, top to bottom
- B Change the code first, then read it
- C Run it and guess what it does
- D Delete the lines you do not understand

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6 What does 'print' do?

- A It displays a value on screen
- B It saves the code to a file
- C It deletes a value
- D It asks the user a question

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7 Read: if 3 > 5: print("Yes") else: print("No"). What prints?

- **A** Yes
- **B** No

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8 Read: s = "hi"; print(s + "!"). What prints?

- **A** hi!
- **B** hi
- **C** Hello
- **D** s

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9 Why read code before changing it?

- **A** So you understand what it does and do not break working parts
- **B** So you can delete it faster
- **C** So the computer runs it twice
- **D** So you do not need to test it

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10 A line says total = total + n. In plain words, what does it do?

- **A** It adds n to total and stores the result back in total
- **B** It sets total to n
- **C** It prints n
- **D** It subtracts n from total

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ANSWER KEY

1. 6

2. Ana

3. Yes

4. 1, then 2

5. Read it line by line, top to bottom

6. It displays a value on screen

7. No

8. hi!

9. So you understand what it does and do not break working parts

10. It adds n to total and stores the result back in total

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