

# Introduction to Python

Saturday December 6, 2003, 10:00AM – 5:30PM  
Hosted at ActiveState, 580 Granville Street  
Presented by Paul Prescod, Python evangelist

## About Python

Python is an interactive, object-oriented, open source programming language that has a sizable following among developers and organizations such as Google and NASA.

## Overview

This free class is intended for anybody who is curious about this emerging Open Source Language. It will be primarily in a tutorial format with opportunity for questions and discussion. A follow-up class in January will have a significant hands-on component.

The class is open to all kinds of students:

If you have never programmed, it will give you a good sense of whether Python is an appropriate first language for you. But there will be parts of the class that will be over your head.

If you are a programmer of another language, the class will introduce you to what makes Python distinct. By the end of the class you will be able to write simple programs and easily follow the various online and printed Python books that are available.

If you have dabbled in Python without learning about its extensions, community and history, this class will round out your knowledge of those things but probably will not teach you anything new about the language syntax and semantics.

Although the class is free, participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the Vancouver Food Bank. Those who would rather support Python development and marketing can donate to the Python Software Foundation.

There will be a break for lunch. You can bring lunch or pick up lunch at one of the local restaurants.

If it is likely that you will attend, please RSVP to [brian@sweetapp.com](mailto:brian@sweetapp.com) so we have an idea of how many participants to expect. Also, if you have any questions about this class, please contact us.

## Syllabus

### Morning

1. The big picture
  1. What is Python?
  2. History of Python
  3. Where is Python used?
  4. How can I get Python?
  5. Implementations of Python
  6. Python on different platforms
  7. Python compared to other languages
  8. Python community
2. Basic language syntax
  1. Basic data types
  2. Data structures
  3. Simple statements
  4. Flow control

### Afternoon

1. Advanced features (very high level overviews!)
  1. Exceptions
  2. Classes
  3. Magic methods
  4. Threads
  5. Comprehensions
2. Overview of the Python Library
  1. Regular expressions
  2. Internet libraries
  3. XML handling
  4. Operating system features
  5. Misc
3. Major Python extensions, environments and tools
  1. Third party modules
  2. Tools
  3. Language extensions and variants