Assignment Statement

Form:

«variable» = «expression»

How it's executed:

Evaluate the expression on the right-hand side (RHS) to produce a value. This value has a memory address.

Store that memory address in the variable on the left-hand side (LHS). (Create a new variable if it doesn't exist; otherwise just reuse the existing variable.)

Variables

Terminology

For this statement:

\[ x = 7 \]

We say:

“x gets 7”

“x refers to the value 7”

“x contains memory address idl”

“memory address idl is stored in variable x”

Variable Names

Must start with a letter (or underscore).

Can include letters, digits, and underscores, but nothing else.

Case matters:

age = 11
age # Error! This is not defined.

Valid: _moo_cow, cep3, I_LIKE_TRASH

Invalid: 49ers, @home
Conventions for the format of names

- there's a good reason why words have a standard capitalization scheme.

Python convention: pothole_case

CamelCase is sometimes seen, but not for function and variable names.

Rarely, single-letter names are capitalized: L, X, Y.

When in doubt, use lowercase_pothole.

Choosing good names

Python doesn’t care about the content of the names, only their format. (It doesn’t understand English.)

For example, these are equally fine names to Python: xx3, class_average, fraggle.

We choose names that will be meaningful to the humans who will read our code.

Example: if you are adding something up, total is better than x.

You will be graded on the names you pick.