

CSC120 Recipe for Designing Functions

1. **Examples** Pick a name for the function (often a verb or verb phrase). Sometimes a good name is a short answer to the question “What does your function do?”

Write one or two examples of calls to your function¹ and the expected returned values. Include an example of a *standard* case (as opposed to a tricky or corner case). Put the examples inside a triple-quoted string that you’ve indented since it will be the beginning of the docstring.

```
"""
>>> add_two(4.0)
6.0
>>> add_two(15.5)
17.5
"""
```

2. **Header** Write the function header above the docstring and outdent it. Choose a meaningful name for each parameter (often nouns). Include the *type contract* (the types of the parameters and return value).

```
def add_two(value: float) -> float:
    """
    >>> add_two(4.0)
    6.0
    >>> add_two(15.5)
    17.5
    """
```

3. **Description** Before the examples, add a description of what the function does and mention each parameter by name. Describe the return value.

```
def add_two(value: float) -> float:
    """Return two more than value.

    >>> add_two(4.0)
    6.0
    >>> add_two(15.5)
    17.5
    """
```

4. **Body** Write the body of the function and indent it to match the docstring. To help yourself write the body, review your example cases from step 1 and consider how you determined the return values. You may find it helpful to write a few more example calls.

```
def add_two(value: float) -> float:
    """Return two more than value.

    >>> add_two(4.0)
    6.0
    >>> add_two(15.5)
    17.5
    """
```

```
    return value + 2
```

5. **Test Your Function** Test your function on all your example cases including any additional cases you created in step 4. Additionally, try it on extra *tricky* or *corner* cases.

¹Do not include examples for functions that involve randomness or input and output.

Another Example *Write a function that accepts the number of pizzas that you are ordering and the number of slices per pizza, and returns the total number of slices in the order.*

1. Examples

```
"""
>>> total_slices(1, 8)
8
>>> total_slices(3, 12)
36
"""
```

2. Header

```
def total_slices(num_pizzas: int, slices_per_pizza: int) -> int:
    """
    >>> total_slices(1, 8)
    8
    >>> total_slices(3, 12)
    36
    """
```

3. Description

```
def total_slices(num_pizzas: int, slices_per_pizza: int) -> int:
    """Return the total number of slices in num_pizzas pizzas that each have
    slices_per_pizza slices.

    >>> total_slices(1, 8)
    8
    >>> total_slices(3, 12)
    36
    """
```

4. Body

```
def total_slices(num_pizzas: int, slices_per_pizza: int) -> int:
    """Return the total number of slices in num_pizzas pizzas that each have
    slices_per_pizza slices.

    >>> total_slices(1, 8)
    8
    >>> total_slices(3, 12)
    36
    """

    return num_pizzas * slices_per_pizza
```

5. Test

Call your function and compare the return values to what you are expecting.