Parenthesization

It is important that opening and closing parentheses, brackets, and braces match

\[
(1 + [7 - \{8 / 3\}]) \Rightarrow \text{Good}
\]

\[
(1 + [7 - \{8 / 3\}]) \Rightarrow \text{Bad}
\]

Remember, the computer only "sees" one character at a time.

Define Balanced Parentheses

- A string with no parentheses is balanced.
- A string that begins with a left parenthesis "(", ends with a right parenthesis ")", and in between has balanced parentheses. Same for brackets "[..]" and braces "{...}"
- The concatenation of two strings with balanced parentheses is also balanced.

Exercise

- Design a class that would analyze a string and return True if the string has balanced parentheses
- Write the class API first before adding any codes

Why Linked Lists?

- Regular python lists are flexible and useful, but overkill in some situations – they allocate large blocks of contiguous memory, which becomes increasingly difficult as memory is in use.
- Linked list nodes reserves just enough memory for the object value they want to refer to, a reference to it, and a reference to the next node in the list.
Two Concepts

There are two useful, but different, ways of thinking about linked list nodes:
1. As lists made up of an item (value) and a sub-list (rest)
2. As objects (nodes) with a value and a reference to other similar objects

For now, we will take the second point-of-view, and design a separate "wrapper" to represent a linked list as a whole.