

# RASPBERRY PI COURSE

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## Day 3 - The Python Print function

The print function has already been introduced but we will expand on what you have already learned. The print function is used when you need to output data or informational messages. So far you have used the print command with a single argument. This argument was a string.

```
print('Hello Raspberry pi')
```

You can also utilise the print function further to output some simple calculations as it spits out a message. Examine the line below.

```
print('Hello Raspberry pi ', 5+5)
```

The result will be

```
Hello Raspberry Pi 10
```

Another common desire is to produce a blank line so that the output does not become too cluttered. You can produce a blank line using the following methods

```
print('\n')
```

or

```
print()
```

The first example uses an escape character which is indicated by a backslash \ followed by a character. In this case the \n indicates that a new line is required. The print function without any arguments will print a blank line but both produce the same result.

### **Download [helloRaspberryPi.py](#)**

You can also apply formatting to strings. Although this isn't the print() function it does however work in a similar way. The format() function is used to output a message and format it. Enter the following into IDLE or download the file.

### **Download [printFormatting.py](#)**

```
>>> 'I drive a {0} and it can reach speeds of {1}.'.format('car','42 mph')
```

'I drive a car and it can reach speeds of 42 mph.'

The {0} is used to substitute the first occurrence of the string in the format option. In this case the 'car' word will be displayed. You can also repeat the word multiple times throughout the sentence.

```
'I drive a {0} and the {0} can reach speeds of {1}.'.format('car','42 mph')
```

It can be a little confusing remembering all those numbers in the correct order so it is better to use variables. Enter the following into IDLE.

```
'I drive a {car} and it can reach speeds of  
{speed}.'.format(car='Porche',speed='180 mph')
```

You can also download the file below.

**Download simplePrintFormatting.py**

'I drive a Porche and it can reach speeds of 180 mph.'

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