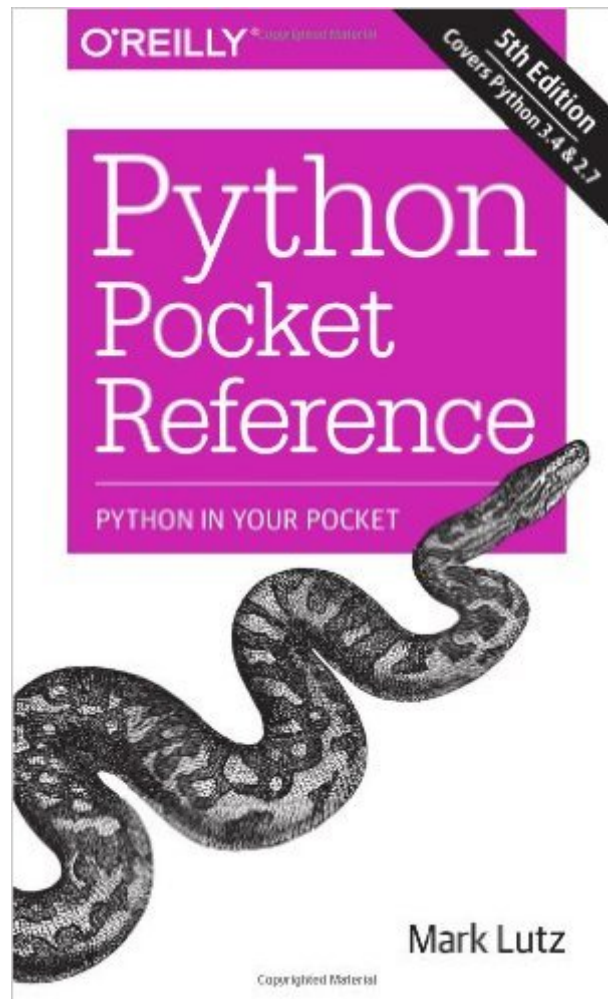


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Python Pocket Reference (Pocket Reference (O'Reilly))



Synopsis

Updated for both Python 3.4 and 2.7, this convenient pocket guide is the perfect on-the-job quick reference. You'll find concise, need-to-know information on Python types and statements, special method names, built-in functions and exceptions, commonly used standard library modules, and other prominent Python tools. The handy index lets you pinpoint exactly what you need. Written by Mark Lutz—widely recognized as the world's leading Python trainer—Python Pocket Reference is an ideal companion to O'Reilly's classic Python tutorials, *Learning Python* and *Programming Python*, also written by Mark. This fifth edition covers:

- Built-in object types, including numbers, lists, dictionaries, and more
- Statements and syntax for creating and processing objects
- Functions and modules for structuring and reusing code
- Python's object-oriented programming tools
- Built-in functions, exceptions, and attributes
- Special operator overloading methods
- Widely used standard library modules and extensions
- Command-line options and development tools
- Python idioms and hints
- The Python SQL Database API

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Customer Reviews

I refer to this frequently as I am learning Python and it usually gives me the answer but sometimes it takes quite a bit of searching and flipping back and forth. So I think the index and/or organization could be a little better. Some examples:

- * If you are trying to look up a concept but you don't know Python's word for it, alternate words likely won't get you there.
- * Suppose you want to copy an

object, or assign the contents of one object to another, and you're trying to find the Python way to do that. The index does not have entries for "copy" or "contents". It does have an entry for "assignment statement" but that will just assign an object's reference to another variable so now you have two variables pointing to the same object. What you're looking for is under "slicing" but how would you find that unless you already knew it? A few more details / examples wouldn't hurt either although I understand they are trying to keep a "pocket" reference small.

As someone who teaches beginning Pythonistas to learn to program, this updated edition of the Python Pocket Reference is worth keeping close at hand. The reference covers both Python 3.4 and 2.7, and it highlights changes between the two major releases in a succinct, clear way. Yes, one can find the reference information in the freely available Python docs, but this guide earns its place in my backpack by pulling together practical tips, hints, and common gotchas when using a method or function. I appreciate the author including a section on the tkinter GUI module and tools. It's helpful to have the basics in a concise format for the times that I am troubleshooting a user interface for a laboratory program or helping someone create a simple status display for an application. Though it might not be the most exciting read, the Python Pocket Reference does what it does well at – a straightforward, up-to-date resource for Python 3.4 and 2.7. Its hints and common idioms may also save a programmer valuable time debugging common mistakes.

This book has become a permanent resident in my backpack. I often find myself writing quick python scripts on the go for work. This book has proved immensely valuable when I'm working on a script and don't have network access (if I have internet it's generally faster to google it :). 5/5 would recommend.

I recommend this book because it has high information density, it is relatively up-to-date, the sections are well-organized, it is inexpensive, it is physically compact, and does a good job as both a quick review and quick reference.

I have the first edition that I bought many years ago and was quite thin. I bought the third edition several years ago and now I have bought this fifth edition. You might think I find these useful, right? This edition covers both Python2 and Python3. It's a good reference. They're going to start having to come out with two different versions pretty soon because this one is getting close to the limit of a good reference book size wise.

I like this book because it provides a very succinct explanation of the features in the newest version of Python (ver 3.4 in 2014). It provides several short examples to illustrate many of its points and even offers some editorial remarks concerning various feature of the language. It is a concise reference work and not intended as a book that a reader would normally use to learn Python.

I'm learning Python but I already program in a few languages, so I wasn't sure I needed the big "Intro to this Language in great Detail!" book. I ordered this one instead and it's become my constant companion on my Python journey. It's exactly what I wanted when I need to look up the syntax or function I know exists but don't know exactly how to format in this new language. I'm learning python to play with the Raspberry Pi, not for any professional reasons, so YMMV. I can't rave about this pocket reference enough. It's the greatest. I've been through quite a few, even other O'Reilly pocket references, and while they've all been helpful to some extent, I was never able to teach myself an entire language from a pocket reference. I don't think that's a thing that would work if you've never programmed before, but if you're already a programmer and you've just decided to add Python to your repertoire, skip the big book and stick this one in your desk drawer instead. Between it and google you'll be fine.

In this book you have a fine summary of Python, with coverage of both 2.x and 3.x, to the extent that such a thing is possible in such a relatively small space. I don't know where you will find a better Python "vade mecum".

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