

# Programming Help

In this lesson we will learn what variables are and how you can assign values to variables in a program. If you want to learn more about using variables in your future programs, it's worth taking a Python programming class. As you already know in Python, you can calculate values fairly quickly. For example, writing `5**2` will give you 25 because it's a power of five. And now think about what if we constantly have to enter new data from the keyboard. After all, the user doesn't have to, and in fact shouldn't have to. For this it is better to use variables. They will allow us to organize the data input in the program, to calculate and to make a conclusion.

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To begin, here is a simple definition of a variable. A variable is a named place in computer memory that is created and used by the program itself, where that variable is described. In the Python programming language, you don't need to describe the types of variables at the beginning of the program, as you do in Pascal. Moreover, if you don't use the variable anywhere, Python will treat it as an error and suggest that you delete the variable. You have to use the operator `=` to enter data. This is not an equality, but a data transfer to a named area. A variable can be compared to a basket that stores data - apples. Each basket is designed for a certain number of apples and there will come a time when the apples don't fit, so the basket needs to be changed. In Python, variable types are defined by assigning values to them. This essentially changes things, and your basket becomes rubber-stamped. No matter how many apples you put in it, it stretches to the right amount. In a way, this is very convenient, but it's better to know exactly what's stored in each variable. You can use Latin characters, numbers and a number of other symbols to specify the name of a variable. An example of a variable name: `a1=25`

This means you put an integer value of 25 in variable `a1`. If you want to assign values to several variables at once, you have to write each one on a new line like this: `a1=25 a2=26 .... a10=29` If you want to save on code and reduce the number of lines, you can do this by listing the variables separated by a semicolon on one line, like this: `a1=25; a2=26; etc.` That's it! Let's move on to executing examples in Python.

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