

USING THE INTERPRETER PROMPT

Open the terminal in your operating system (as discussed previously in the Installation chapter) and then open the Python prompt by typing `python` and pressing `enter` key.

Once you have started Python, you should see `>>>` where you can start typing stuff. This is called the *Python interpreter prompt*.

At the Python interpreter prompt, type:

```
print "Hello World"
```

followed by the `enter` key. You should see the words Hello World printed to the screen.

Here is an example of what you should be seeing, when using a Mac OS X computer. The details about the Python software will differ based on your computer, but the part from the prompt (i.e. from `>>>` onwards) should be the same regardless of the operating system.

```
$ python
```

```
Python 2.7.6 (default, Feb 23 2014, 16:08:15)
```

```
[GCC 4.2.1 Compatible Apple LLVM 5.0 (clang-500.2.79)] on darwin
```

```
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
```

```
>>> print "hello world"
```

```
hello world
```

```
>>>
```

Notice that Python gives you the output of the line immediately! What you just entered is a single Python *statement*. We use `print` to (unsurprisingly) print any value that you supply to it. Here, we are supplying the text `hello world` and this is promptly printed to the screen.

How to Quit the Interpreter Prompt

If you are using a GNU/Linux or OS X shell, you can exit the interpreter prompt by pressing `ctrl+d` or entering `exit()` (note: remember to include the parentheses, `()`) followed by the `enter` key.

NOTE

If you are using the Windows command prompt, press `ctrl+z` followed by the `enter` key.

Source: <http://www.swaroopch.com/notes/python/>