

# What is an Identifier ? Purpose of an Identifier ?

In programming, an identifier is a name given to entities such as **variables**, **functions**, **classes**, **modules**, or any other user-defined **objects**. Identifiers are used to uniquely identify these entities within a program.

In Python, **identifiers** follow certain rules:

**1. Character Set:** Identifiers can consist of letters (both lowercase and uppercase), digits, and underscores (`_`). However, they cannot start with a digit.

**2. Case Sensitivity:** Python is case-sensitive, meaning `myVar`, `MyVar`, and `myvar` are all considered different identifiers.

**3. Reserved Keywords:** Identifiers cannot be the same as Python keywords (also known as reserved words), which have special meanings in the language. Examples of keywords include `if`, `else`, `for`, `while`, `def`, `class`, `import`, etc.

**4. Length:** There is no limit on the length of an identifier, but it's recommended to keep them reasonably short for readability.

**Convention:** While not enforced by the Python interpreter, there are conventions for naming identifiers to enhance code readability.

**For example:**

- Use descriptive names that convey the purpose or meaning of the entity.
- Use lowercase letters for variable names and function names, and separate words with underscores for readability (snake\_case).
- Use uppercase letters for constants.
- Use CamelCase for class names.
- Avoid using single-character names except for loop variables (`i`, `j`, `k`).

**Examples of valid identifiers:**

`my_var`

`variable_1`

`some_function`

`PI`

`MyClass`

### Examples of invalid identifiers:

123var      # Cannot start with a digit  
if            # Cannot use reserved keywords as identifiers  
some-var    # Hyphens are not allowed  
my\_var!     # Special characters like '!' are not allowed

Following these rules ensures that your identifiers are valid and adhere to Python's naming conventions, leading to more readable and maintainable code.