Welcome to the labs!

Tamagotchi! - Micro:bits
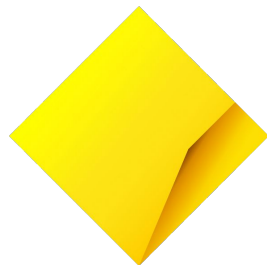
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Tech Inclusion

Who are the tutors?

Who are you?

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Get to know you BINGO

Grab a printed BINGO sheet & pen

- Read each square
- Find a new friend who can complete any of the squares
- Write their name in the square - you can only put their name in ONE box!
- TUTORS TOO!

Has been thrift shopping	Grows plants at home	Enjoys eating spicy food	First time at GPN
Writes a diary or journal	Was born in the same month as you	Has a fish as a pet	Has played pokemon
Has the same favourite ice cream flavour as you	Enjoys the beach	Has done archery	Has made their own bread
Is a fan of Kpop	Enjoys getting or creating nail art	Has been to Tasmania	Whose first name starts with the same letter as your first name

Link for printing BINGO sheet

Girls' Programming Network

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Log on

Log on and jump on the GPN website

girlsprogramming.network/workshop

Click on your location

Melbourne

Perth

Brisbane

Sydney

Burnie

Canberra

Adelaide

Tell us you're here!

Click on the
Start of Day Survey
and fill it in now!

Start of Day survey

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Click on your Room picture

You can see:

- A link to the **Workbook**

- These **Slides** (to take a look back on or go on ahead)

- Other helpful bits like a Cheatsheet to help you code

Using the workbook!

The workbooks will help you put your project together!

Each **Part** of the workbook is made of tasks!

Tasks - The parts of your project

Follow the tasks **in order** to make the project!

Hints - Helpers for your tasks!

Stuck on a task, we might have given you a hint to help you **figure it out**!

The hints have **unrelated** examples, or tips. **Don't copy and paste** in the code, you'll end up with something **CRAZY**!

Task 6.2: Add a blah to your code!

This has instructions on how to do a part of the project

1. **Start by doing this part**
2. **Then you can do this part**

Task 6.1: Make the thing do blah!

Make your project do blah ….

Hint

A clue, an example or some extra information to help you **figure out** the answer.

```
print('This example is not part of the project' )
```

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Using the workbook!

The workbooks will help you put your project together!

Check off before you move on from a **Part**! Do some bonuses while you wait!

Checklist - Am I done yet?

Make sure you can tick off every box in this section before you go to the next Part.

Lecture Markers
This tells you you'll find out how to do things for this section during the names lecture.

Bonus Activities
Stuck waiting at a lecture marker?
Try a purple bonus. They add extra functionality to your project along the way.

☑ CHECKPOINT ☑

If you can tick all of these off you're ready to move the next part!
☐ Your program does blah
☐ Your program does blob

For Loops

★ BONUS 4.3: Do something extra!

Something to try if you have spare time before the next lecture!

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Today's project!

Tamagotchi - Micro:Bit

Tamagotchi

- You're going to make your own Tamagotchi electronic pet using a micro:bit

- Tamagotchi pets were a worldwide fad created in Japan in 1996

- Give your pet a name and write some code to feed it, play with it and let it sleep

- **Don't let it get hungry, bored or sleepy!**

- **Keep it alive, watch it grow and change**
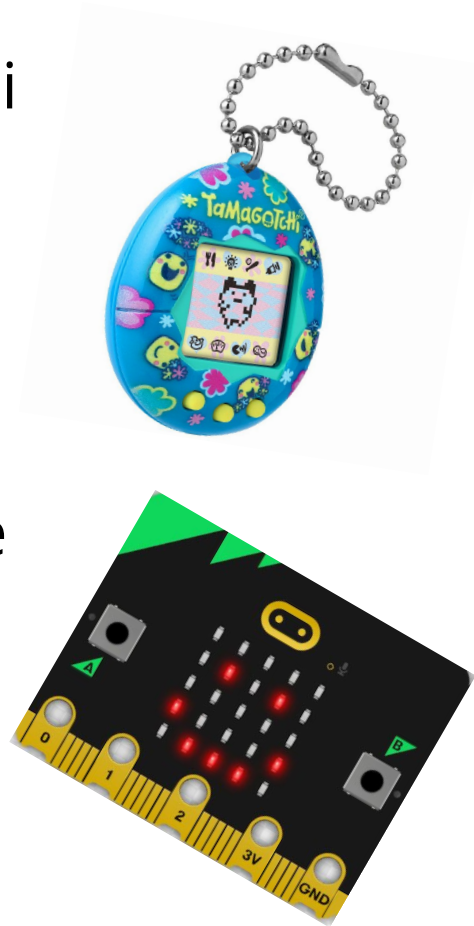
Tamagotchi

Sadly you can't keep them at the end of the day. 😥
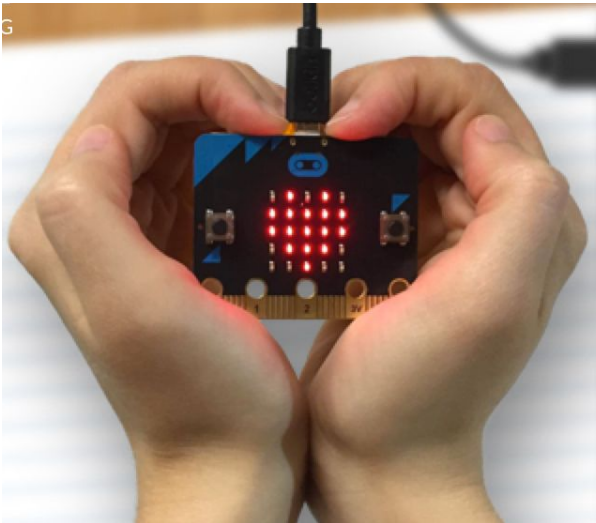
If you want one for home (maybe for christmas or your birthday!) they're about $25 .

Find out where to buy them here: https://microbit.org/

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Intro to Micro:Bit

What is a Micro:Bit?

Buttons: We can press these and tell the Micro:Bit to do different things

Lights: We can turn each light on or off to make different images

Pins: These let us connect the Micro:Bit to other devices using wires

Front

Lights!

Button A

Button B

Pins
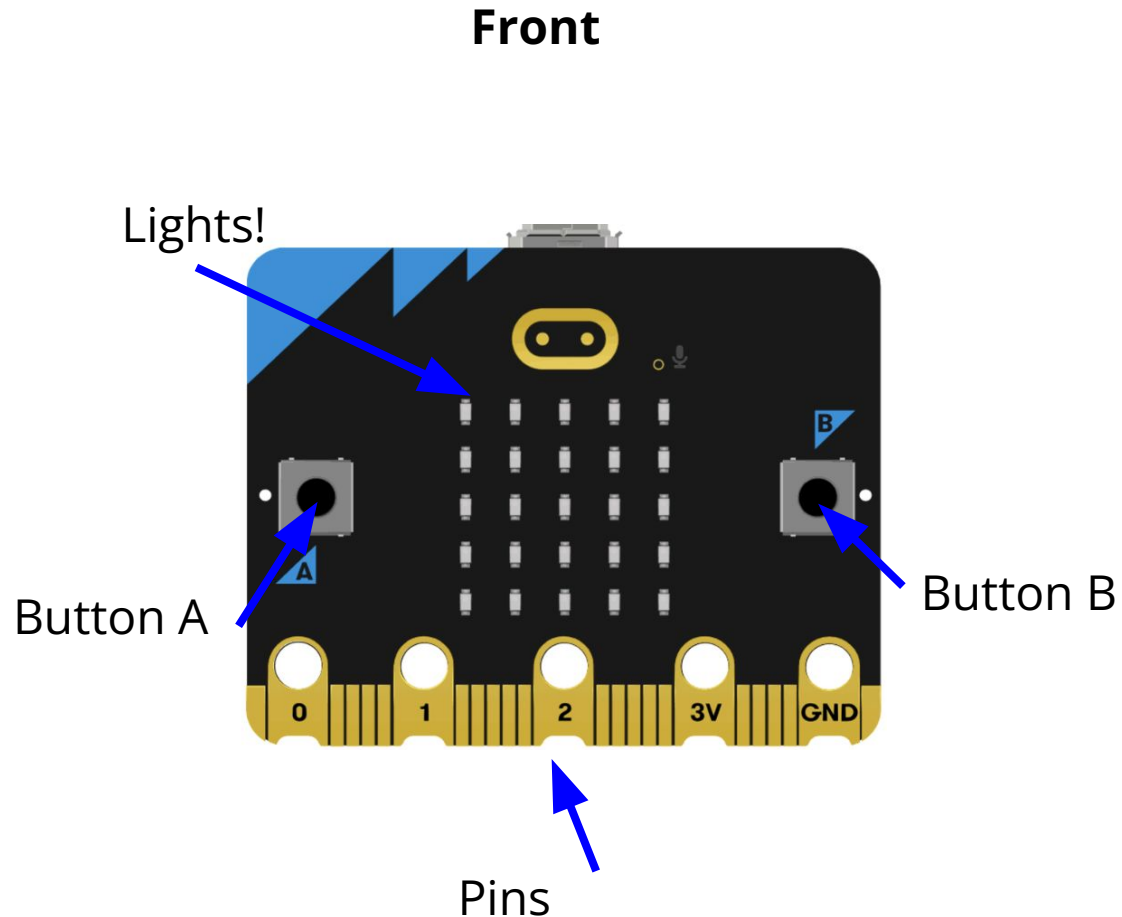
What is a Micro:Bit?

Input: Where we connect the cable from the computer to transfer our code/power to our Micro:Bit

Reset button: Let's you stop your code and starts it again

Battery connection: You can use your micro:bit even when it is not plugged into your computer! Ask you tutor for a battery pack if you need one.

Accelerometer: The Micro:bit can tell us when it is **acceler**ated - so it knows when we shake it!

Back

Reset button

Input

Battery connection

Accelerometer
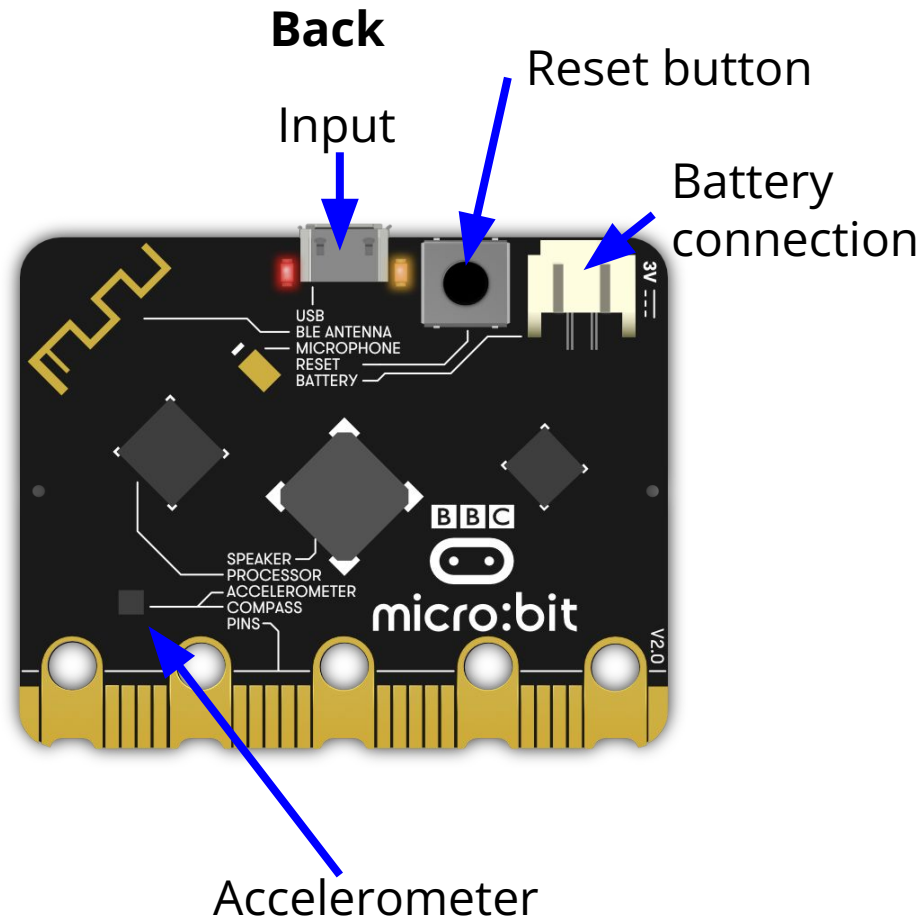
Using python.microbit.org

Today we will be using **python.microbit.org** to program our Micro:Bits.

Go to python.microbit.org
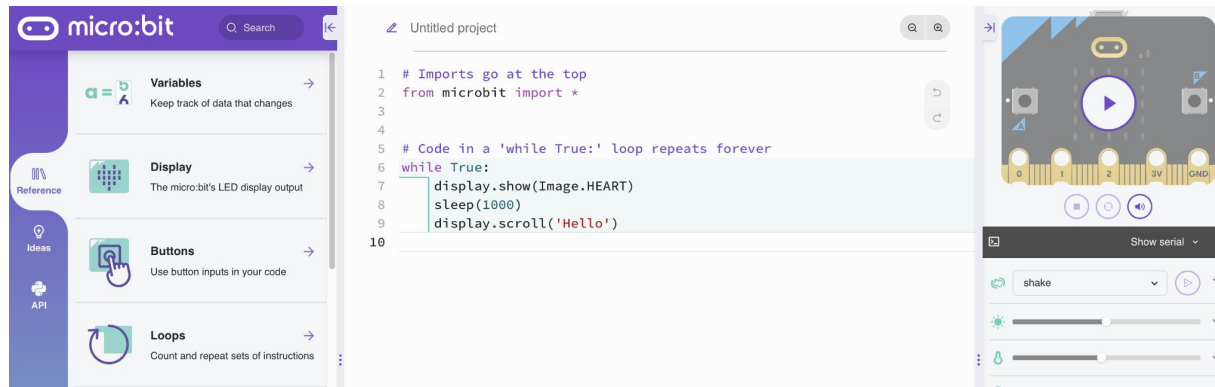
You should see this page pop up!

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python.microbit.org

This is where we code
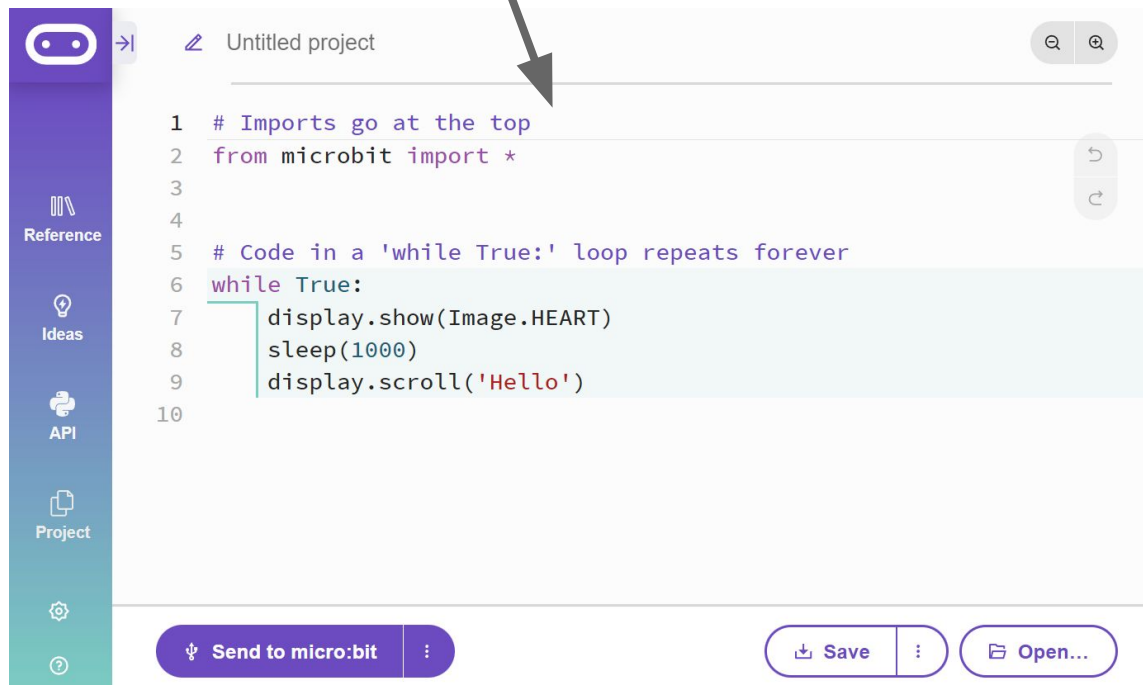
This is the simulator where we test our code

```
     Untitled project

1    # Imports go at the top
2    from microbit import *
3
4
5    # Code in a 'while True:' loop repeats forever
6    while True:
7        display.show(Image.HEART)
8        sleep(1000)
9        display.scroll('Hello')
10
```

Reference

Ideas

API

Project

Send to micro:bit   Save   Open...

Show serial

shake
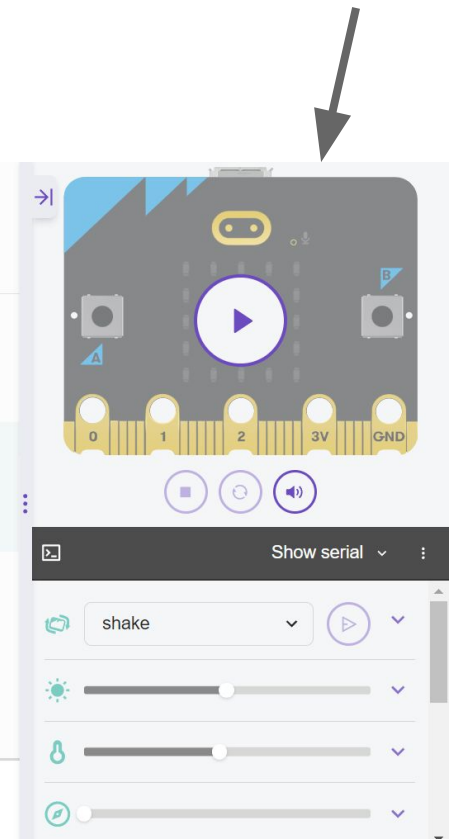
How do we write code for it?

Micro:Bits use **Python**, which is the programming language that we usually teach here at GPN!

Always make sure this line is at the top of your code!

```python
from microbit import *
```

This lets us use lights, sounds, buttons and lots of other cool in our Python code for the Micro:Bit
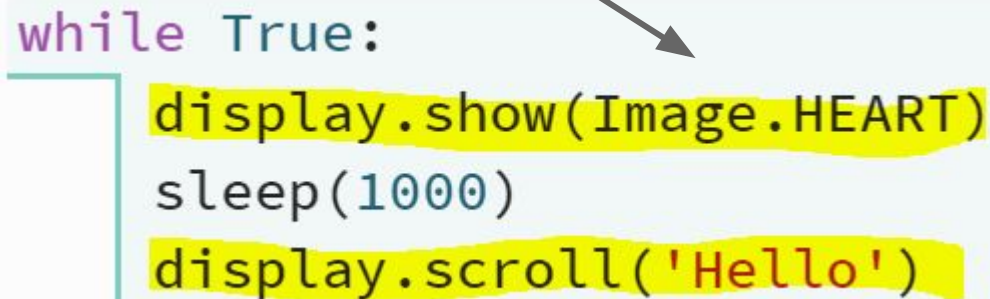
The Display

Your Micro:Bit has a 5 x 5 display grid of little red LEDs on the front!

You can do some cool stuff with the display like:

Show an image, like a heart!

```
while True:
    display.show(Image.HEART)
    sleep(1000)
    display.scroll('Hello')
```

Scroll a word across the display, like 'Hello'

This code is in your **python.makecode.org** coding space - have a look

It's indented in a while loop - so it will repeat forever

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Using the Simulator

- **Click the arrow on the Simulator to run the code**
- A heart is displayed for 1 second and then 'Hello'

```
  Untitled project
1  # Imports go at the top
2  from microbit import *
3
4
5  # Code in a 'while True:' loop repeats forever
6  while True:
7      display.show(Image.HEART)
8      sleep(1000)
9      display.scroll('Hello')
10
```
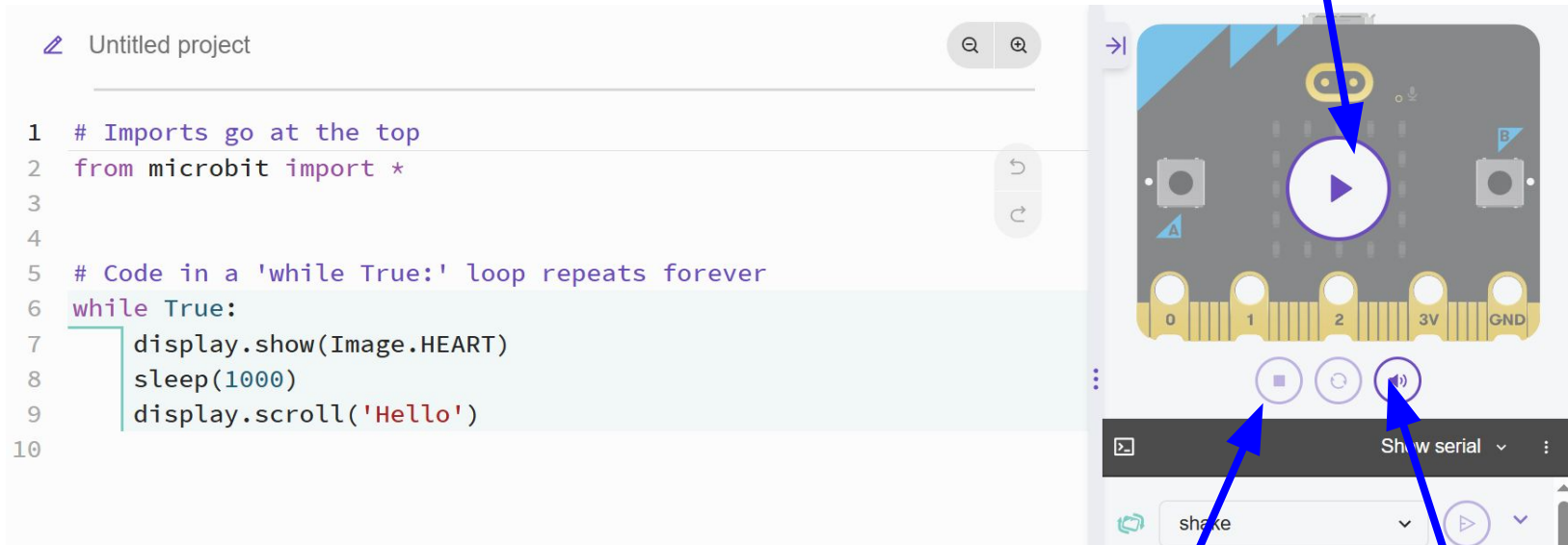
Stop   **Restart**

We can run our code on the Simulator or the real micro:bit!

Stop, Restart, Simulator settings are underneath

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Connect the Micro:Bit

- Tutors will hand out the micro:bits & cables

- Connect the small end of the cable to the top of micro:bit

- Connect the other end to computer USB port

- New micro:bits will play a "Meet the Microbit" program for you to follow:
    - Push the buttons
    - Shake
    - Tilt to catch flashing LED
    - Clap a few times
- The tutors will help you

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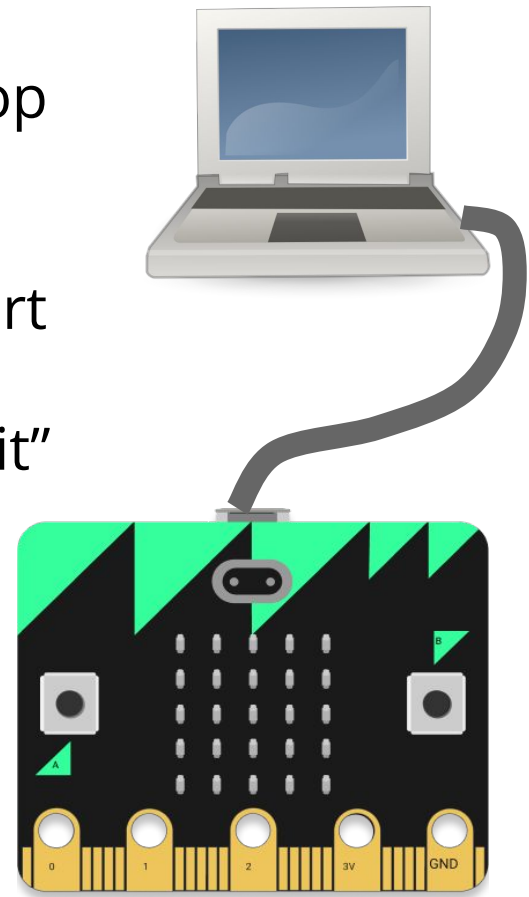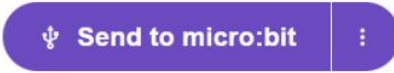
Run the code on the Micro:Bit (Chrome/Edge)

It's fun to mess around with the Micro:Bit on the simulator.

Now let's see your code on a Micro:Bit in real life!

Chrome or Edge

Run your code on your Micro:Bit like this

1. Make sure your Micro:Bit is plugged into your computer
2. Click **Send to micro:bit** bottom left
3. Follow the prompts
4. Choose your micro:bit and click CONNECT
5. **Wait for the red light** on the back of your micro:bit to stop flashing
6. Your code should be running on the micro:bit!

You should see a HEART displayed for 1 second and then HELLO

Want your code to start again? Press black "**reset**" button on the back

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Run the code on the Micro:Bit (other browser)

This is for if you don't have the Chrome or Edge browser (eg Safari)

Run your code on your Micro:Bit like this

1. Make sure your Micro:Bit is plugged into your computer
2. Click [Send to micro:bit] bottom left
3. Click Close when you get a popup
4. Name your project and click Confirm and Save
5. Follow the instructions on the popup (drag the file from your downloads folder to the MICROBIT device)
6. **Wait for the red light** on the back of your micro:bit to stop flashing
7. Your code should be running on the micro:bit!

You should see a HEART displayed for 1 second and then HELLO
Want your code to start again? Press black "**reset**" button on the back

Tech Inclusion

Scroll... Scroll... Scroll... on the micro:bit

Words are too big to display within a 5x5 grid of lights.

Remember we can display words with **display.scroll()**.

```
display.scroll('Hello World')
```

Sometimes the text scrolls across too slowly - you can speed it up with **delay.**

```
display.scroll('Hello World', delay=100)
```

A smaller delay (eg 100 results in faster scrolling).

The default speed is 150!

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Multiple Instructions

What happens if we want to change the speed **AND** join variables with strings?

This is how you would do it! :)

```python
win_count = 3
display.scroll('Wins: '+ str(win_count), delay=75)
```

Message

delay
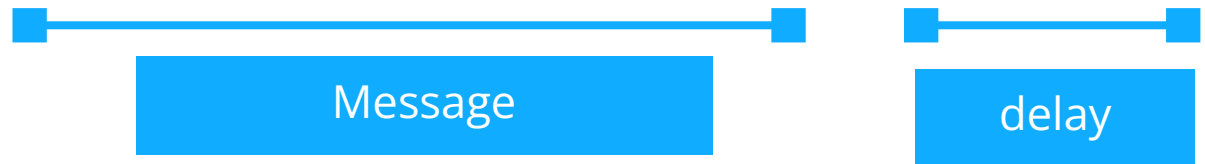
See that we need to use **str( )** to convert the number win_count to a string before we can join it (+) with the the other string!

Sleep... zzz! ... on the micro:bit

Computers are really fast, sometimes our program moves too quickly to enjoy it!

For example:

```
display.show(Image.HAPPY)
sleep(1000)
display.show(Image.SAD)
sleep(1000)
display.show(Image.CONFUSED)
sleep(1000)
```

Without a sleep, the computer will run through the code so quickly, and we will only see a CONFUSED face.

We can slow it down by using **sleep()**

Sleep is done in milliseconds (so the number of seconds x 1000)

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Comments

- We use **comments** to write things in our code for humans!
- The computer ignores comments
- Comments start with a **#**

```
# This code was written by Alex
```

- Programmers use comments to explain what their code does
- You can 'comment out' code to stop it from running

Have a look at the code in the coding space - can you see the purple comments lines starting with the #

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Mistakes are Great! Errors on the Micro:bit!

- Programmers make A LOT of errors!
- Error messages give us hints on how to fix the problem
- Mistakes don't break computers!

- Lots of unexpected words on the micro:bit is an error message
- Run on the simulator to see it better

I ❤️ errors!
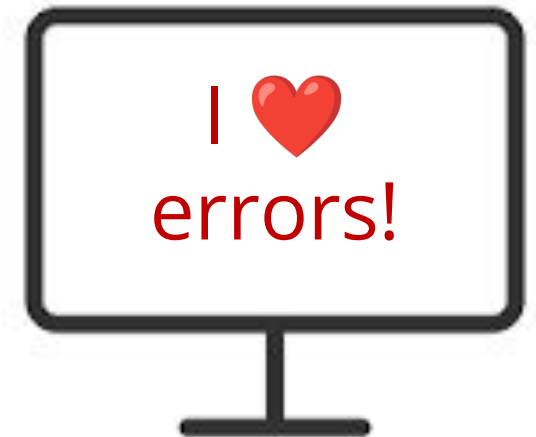
`⊡  ⊘ line 19 NameError: name 'junge`

`⊡  ⊘ line 20 IndentationError: uninde`

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We can learn from our mistakes!

⊡ ⊘ line 5 SyntaxError: invalid synta ⌄

1. Where the error is

2. What went wrong

- In your code - red dot at the start of the line
- Put the cursor over than line of code to get a hint

```
5  display.scroll('Welcome to Tamagotchi)
6  name = "zoey"      String is not closed — missing quotation mark
```

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Project Time!

Let's use our MicroBit!

Try Parts 0 & 1 of your Workbook!

The tutors will be around to help!

While Loops

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Loops

We know how to do things on repeat!

Sometimes we want to do some code on repeat!

Introducing ... `while` loops!

What do you think this does?
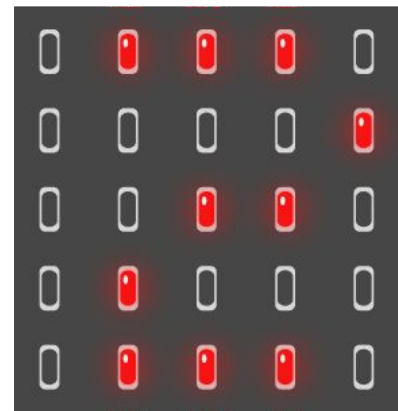
```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

What do you think this does?

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    print(i)
    i = i + 1
```
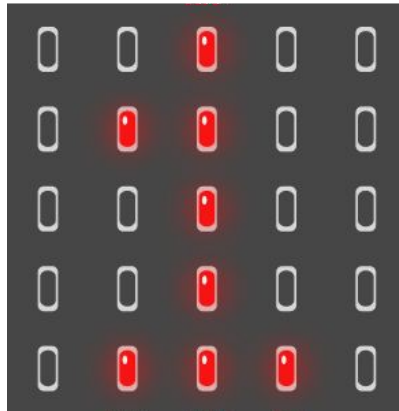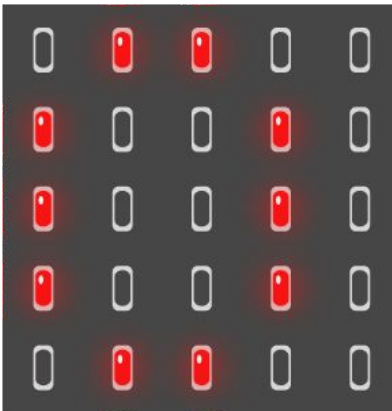
Introducing ... `while` loops!

Stepping through a while loop…

One step at a time!

MY VARIABLES

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

`i = 0`

Set the variable

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

MY VARIABLES

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

0 is less than 3!

`i = 0`

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

Print !

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

MY VARIABLES

```
i = 0
```

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Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```
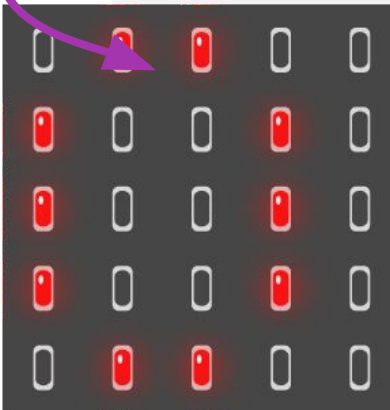
MY VARIABLES

~~i = 0~~
i = 1

UPDATE TIME !

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Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

Take it from the top!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

~~i = 0~~
i = 1

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

MY VARIABLES

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

I is less than 3 !

~~i = 0~~
i = 1

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … while loops!

One step at a time!

Print !

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

~~i = 0~~
i = 1

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Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
◆   i = i + 1
```

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
i = 2

UPDATE TIME!

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!
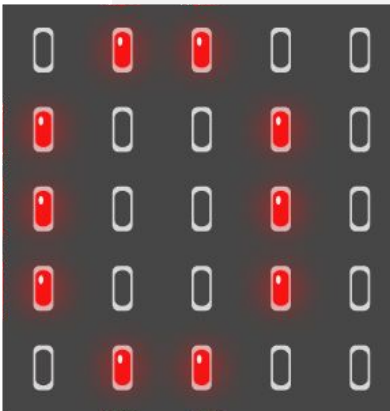
Take it from the top!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

MY VARIABLES

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
i = 2

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

2 is less than 3 !

i = 0
i = 1
i = 2

One step at a time!

Print !

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```
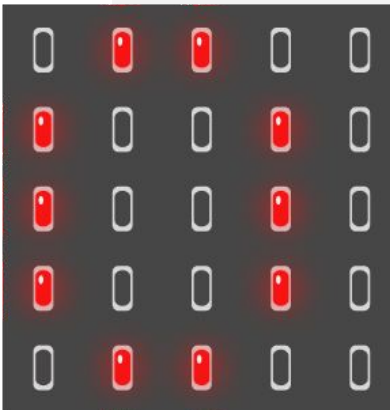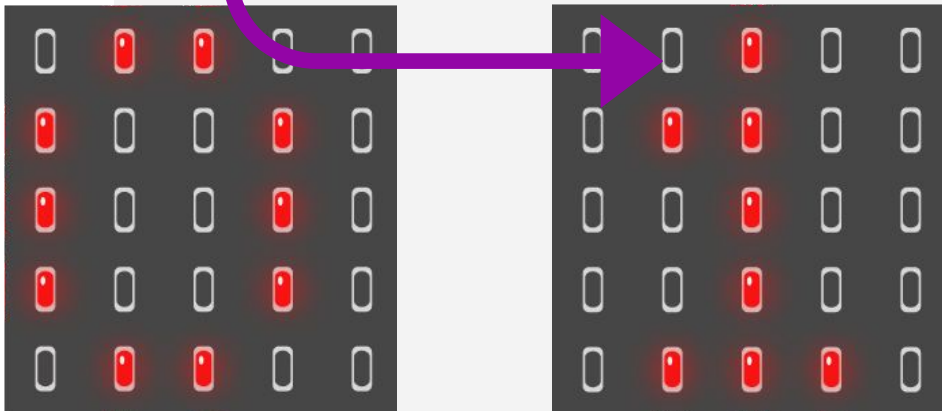
MY VARIABLES

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
i = 2

Introducing … `while` loops!

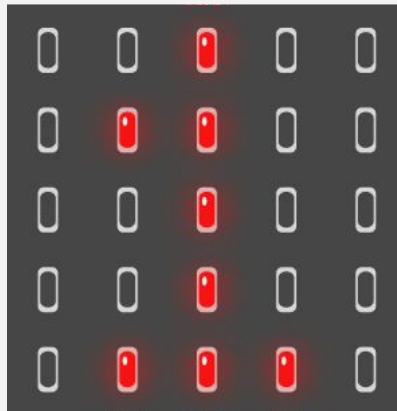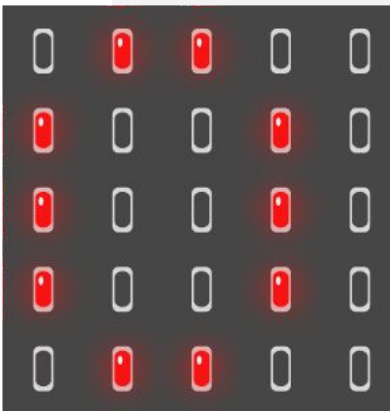## One step at a time!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    ◆ i = i + 1
```
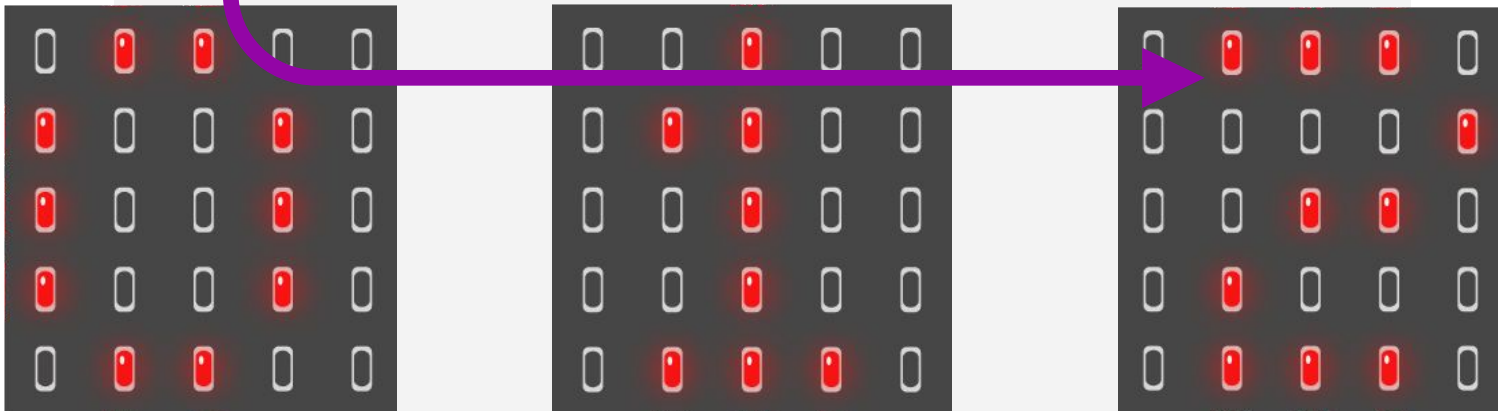
MY VARIABLES

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
~~i = 2~~
i = 3

UPDATE TIME !
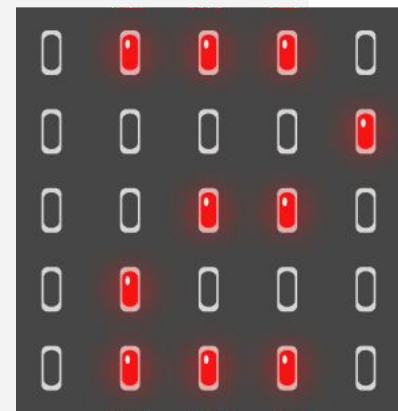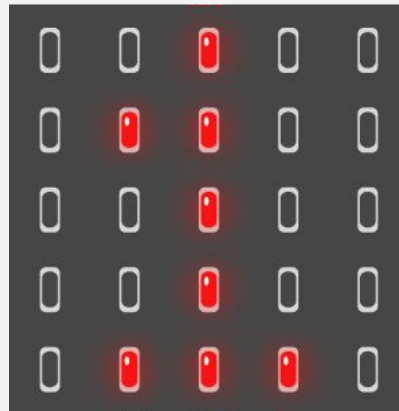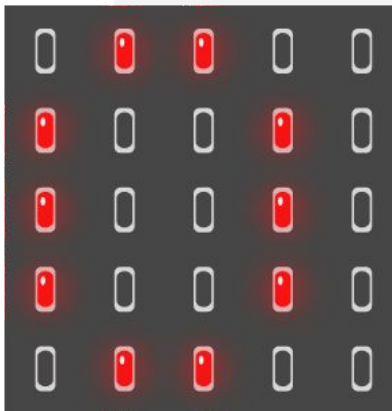
Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while` loops!

One step at a time!

Take it from the top!

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
~~i = 2~~
i = 3

Tech Inclusion

Introducing … `while loops!`

One step at a time!

MY VARIABLES

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```
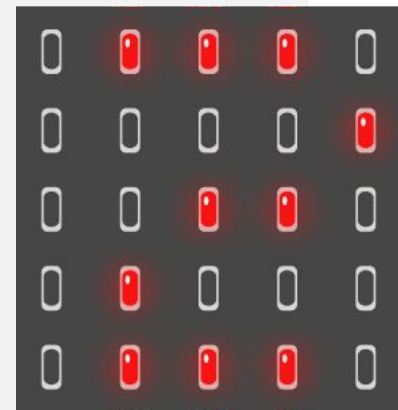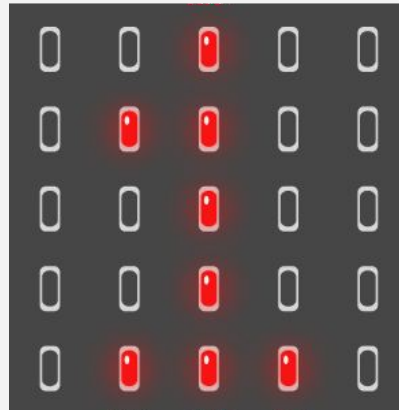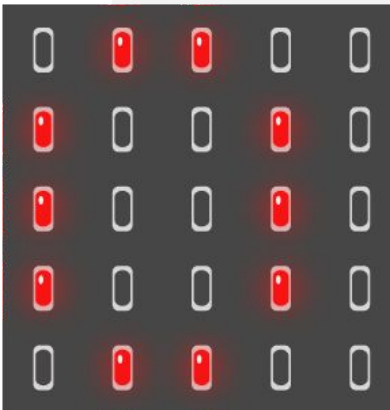
3 IS NOT less than 3!

We are are done with this loop!

~~i = 0~~
~~i = 1~~
~~i = 2~~
i = 3
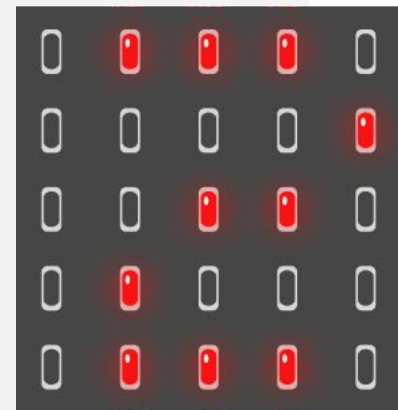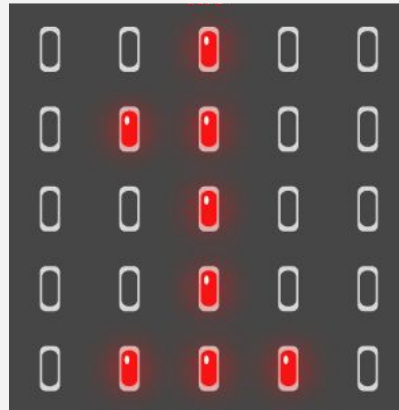
Introducing … `while` loops!

Initialise the loop variable

Loop condition

Code to repeat

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
    i = i + 1
```

Update the loop variable

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What happens when.....

What happens if we forget to update the loop variable?

```python
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
```

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What happens when…..

What happens if we forget to update the loop variable?

```
i = 0
while i < 3:
    display.scroll(i)
```
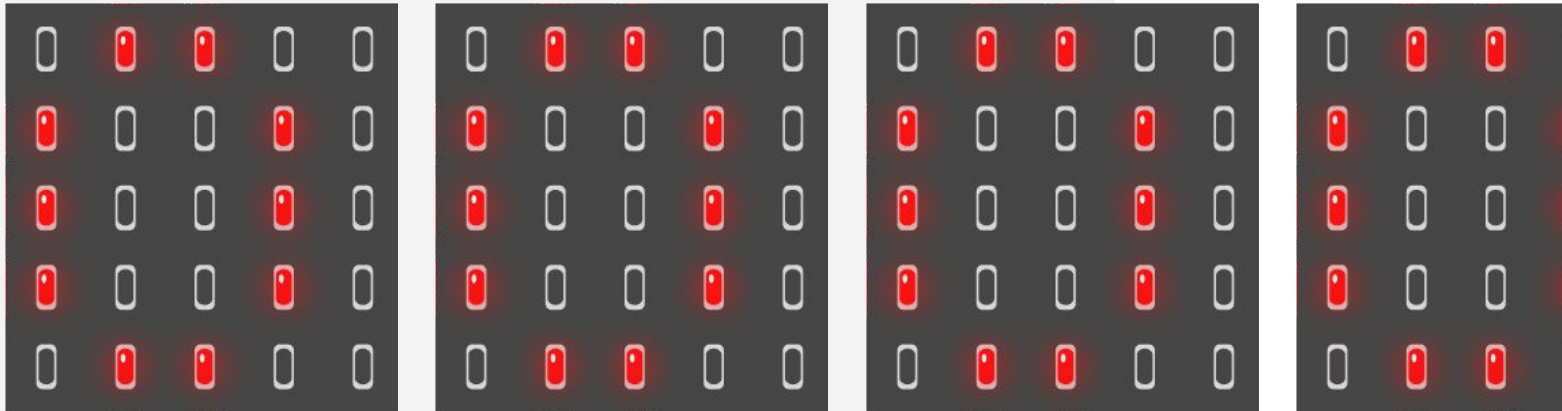
Infinite loop!

Sometimes we want our loop to go forever!

So we set a condition that is always True!

We can even just write True!

```python
while True:
    display.scroll("Are we there yet?")
```

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Infinite loop!

Sometimes we want our loop to go forever!

So we set a condition that is always True!

We can even just write True!

```python
while True:
    display.scroll("Are we there yet?")
```

Are we the

Micro:Bit Inputs

Conditions!

Conditions let us make a decision.

First we test if the condition is met!

Then maybe we'll do the thing

If it's raining take an umbrella

Yep it's raining

...... take an umbrella

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Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's True!

```
fave_num = 5
if fave_num < 10:
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's **True**!

```
fave_num = 5
if fave_num < 10:
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

That's the condition!

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Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's True!

```
fave_num = 5
if fave_num < 10:
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

That's the condition!

Is it True that fave_num is less than 10?
- Well, fave_num is 5
- And it's True that 5 is less than 10
- So it is True!

Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's **True**!

```
fave_num = 5
if True
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

Put in the answer to the question

Is it **True** that fave_num is less than 10?
- Well, fave_num is 5
- And it's **True** that 5 is less than 10
- So it is **True**!

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Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's **True**!

```
fave_num = 5
if True
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

What do you think happens?

```
>>>
```

Conditions

So to know whether to do something, they find out if it's **True**!

```
fave_num = 5
if True
    display.scroll("that's a small number")
```

What do you think happens?
```
>>> that's a small number
```

Tech
Inclusion

Buttons!

Your Micro:Bit has 2 buttons: Button A and Button B

You can use this code to check if a button is pressed:

```
if button_a.was_pressed():

If button_b.was_pressed():
```

The statement will be **TRUE** if the button is being pressed at that time and it will be **FALSE** if it is *not* being pressed

Tech
Inclusion
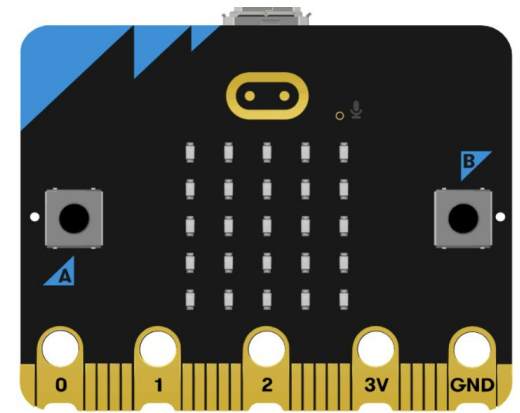
Buttons!

What do you think this code does?

```
if button_a.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.HAPPY)

if button_b.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.SAD)
```

If **button a** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens?

If **button b** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens

What do you think happens if *both* button a AND button b are being pressed?

Buttons!

What do you think this code does?

```python
if button_a.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.HAPPY)

if button_b.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.SAD)
```

If **button a** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens?

The Micro:Bit shows a Happy face

If **button b** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens

What do you think happens if *both* button a AND button b are being pressed?

Tech
Inclusion

Buttons!

What do you think this code does?

```python
if button_a.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.HAPPY)

if button_b.is_pressed():
    display.show(Image.SAD)
```

If **button a** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens?

The Micro:Bit shows a Happy face

If **button b** is pressed when the Micro:Bit gets to this line of code then what happens

The Micro:Bit shows a Sad face

What do you think happens if *both* button a AND button b are being pressed?

Pin Logo!

Your Micro:Bit has touch sensitive pin logo at the top of the Micro:bit.

You can use this code to check if the pin logo is being touched.

```
if pin_logo.is_touched():
```
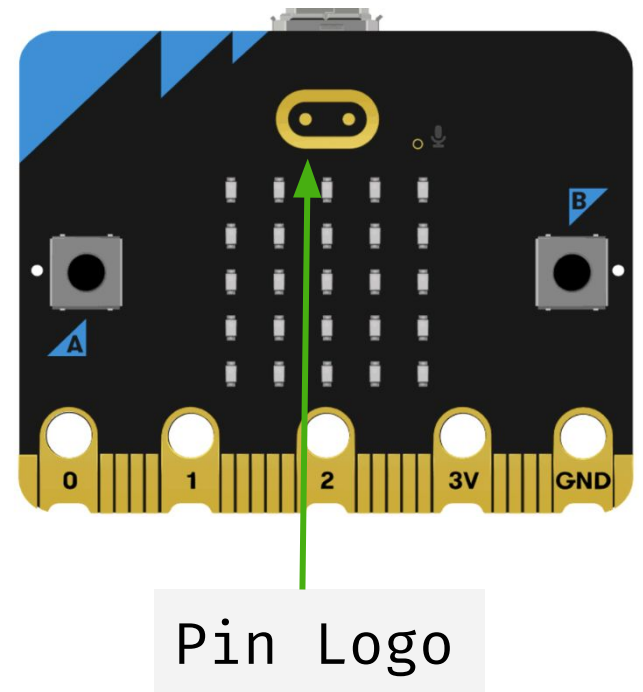
Pin Logo

Tech Inclusion

Running Time

Sometimes you want to time things. Like, for example, if you wanted to put a time limit on a game and see how many points you can get in **30 seconds**!

To figure out how long the Micro:Bit program has been running (in milliseconds) you can use this command:

```
time = running_time()
```

What would running_time() be after 4 seconds?

What about after **10 and a half** seconds?

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Running Time

Sometimes you want to time things. Like, for example, if you wanted to put a time limit on a game and see how many points you can get in **30 seconds**!

To figure out how long the Micro:Bit program has been running (in milliseconds) you can use this command:

```
time = running_time()
```

What would running_time() be after 4 seconds?

4000

What about after **10 and a half** seconds?

Tech
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Running Time

Sometimes you want to time things. Like, for example, if you wanted to put a time limit on a game and see how many points you can get in **30 seconds**!

To figure out how long the Micro:Bit program has been running (in milliseconds) you can use this command:

```
time = running_time()
```

What would running_time() be after 4 seconds?

4000

What about after **10 and a half** seconds?

10,500

Accelerometer!
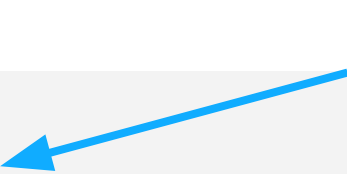
Your micro:bit has a motion sensor.

This sensor has the ability to detect when you tilt it left to right, backwards and forwards and up and down.

To use the accelerometer, we need a while loop. You can use this code to detect when the micro:bit has been shaken:

Information from the sensor

```
while True:
    if accelerometer.was_gesture('shake'):
```

Tech Inclusion

Accelerometer!

What do you think this code does?

```python
while True:
    if accelerometer.was_gesture('shake'):
        display.scroll('I'm getting dizzy')
```

Accelerometer!

What do you think this code does?

```python
while True:
    if accelerometer.was_gesture('shake'):
        display.scroll('I'm getting dizzy')
```

It will display 'I'm getting dizzy' every time the micro:bit is shaken

Functions!

Simpler, less repetition, easier to read code!

Tech Inclusion

How functions fit together!

Functions are like factories!

Metal Worker

Your main factory!

Timber Mill
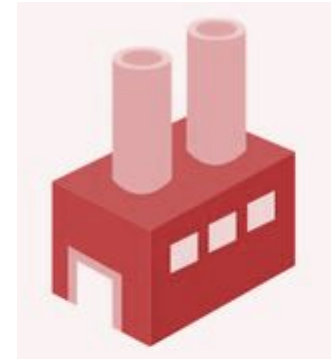
Cupcake factory

Running a factory doesn't mean doing all the work yourself, you can get other factories to help you out!

Tech Inclusion
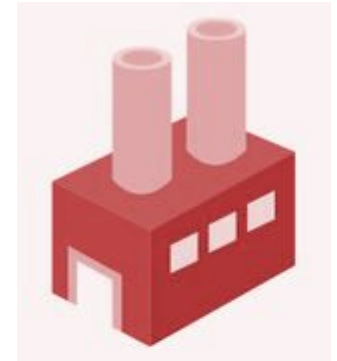
How functions fit together!

Your main code!

You can write a bunch of helpful functions to **simplify** your **main goal**!

You can **write** these **once** and then **use** them **lots** of times! They can be **anything** you like!

Helps with printing nicely

Uses stats to make decisions

Does calculations

Tech Inclusion

Don't reinvent the wheel

We're already familiar with some python in built functions like print and input!

There's lots of functions python gives us to save us reinventing the wheel!

For instance we can use len to get the length of a string, rather than having to write code to count every letter!

```
>>> len("Hello world")
```

Don't reinvent the wheel

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```
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```
>>> len("Hello world")
11
```

What do these do?:

```
>>> name = "Renee"
>>> len(name)


>>> int("6")


>>> str(6)
```

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Tech Inclusion

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Inclusion

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>>> len("Hello world")
11
```

What do these do?:

```
>>> name = "Renee"
>>> len(name)
5


>>> int("6")
6


>>> str(6)
"6"
```

Tech Inclusion

Defining your own functions

Built in functions are great! But sometimes we want custom functions!

Defining our own functions means:

- We cut down on repeated code

- Nice function names makes our code clear and easy to read

- We can move bulky code out of the way

Tech
Inclusion

Defining your own functions

Then you can use your function by calling it!

```
def cat_print():
    print("""

                        #
                         #
                         #
            ^..^ #####
            =TT=        ;
             #########
             # #   # #
             M M   M M """)


cat_print()
cat_print()
```

Which will do this!

```
                    #
                     #
                     #
        ^..^ #####
        =TT=        ;
         #########
         # #   # #
         M M   M M
                     #
                      #
                      #
        ^..^ #####
        =TT=        ;
         #########
         # #   # #
         M M   M M
```

Tech
Inclusion

Defining your own functions

Then you can use your function by calling it!

```python
def cat_print():
    print("""




                   #
                    #
                    #
          ^..^  #####
          =TT=        ;
           #########
          # #    # #
          M M    M M """)



cat_print()
cat_print()
```

Which will do this!

```
                        #
                         #
                         #
               ^..^  #####
               =TT=         ;
                #########
                # #    # #
                M M    M M
                         #
                          #
                          #
               ^..^  #####
               =TT=         ;
                #########
                # #    # #
                M M    M M
```

When using a function in a **script** make sure you define the function first.

It doesn't matter if you call it from inside another function though!

Functions often need extra information

Functions are more useful if we can change what they do

We can do this by giving them arguments (aka parameters)

```
>>> def hello(person):
...    display.scroll('Hello, ' + person + ', how
are you?')
>>> hello('Alex')
Hello, Alex, how are you?
```

Here, we give the hello() function a name

Any string will work

```
>>> hello('abcd')
Hello, abcd, how are you?
```

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Inclusion

Functions can take multiple arguments

Often we want to work with multiple pieces of information.

You can actually have as many parameters as you like!

This function takes two numbers, adds them together and prints the result.

```
>>> def add(x, y):
...     display.scroll(x + y)
>>> add(3, 4)
7
```

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Inclusion

Arguments stay inside the function

The arguments are not able to be accessed outside of the function declaration.

```python
>>> def hello(person):
...     display.scroll('Hello, ' + person + '!')
>>> display.scroll(person)
Traceback (most recent call last):
File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
NameError: name 'person' is not defined
```

Variables stay inside the function

Neither are variables made inside the function. They are **local variables**.

```
>>> def add(x, y):
...     z = x + y
...     display.scroll(z)
>>> add(3, 4)
7
>>> z
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
NameError: name 'z' is not defined
```

Global variables are not affected

Changing a variable in a function **only changes it *inside* the function.**

```
>>> z = 1
>>> def add(x, y):
...     z = x + y
...     display.scroll(z)
>>> add(3, 4)
7
```

Global variables are not affected

Changing a variable in a function **only changes it *inside* the function.**

```
>>> z = 1
>>> def add(x, y):
...     z = x + y
...     display.scroll(z)
>>> add(3, 4)
7
```

What's the value of z now?

```
>>> display.scroll(z)
```

Global variables are not affected

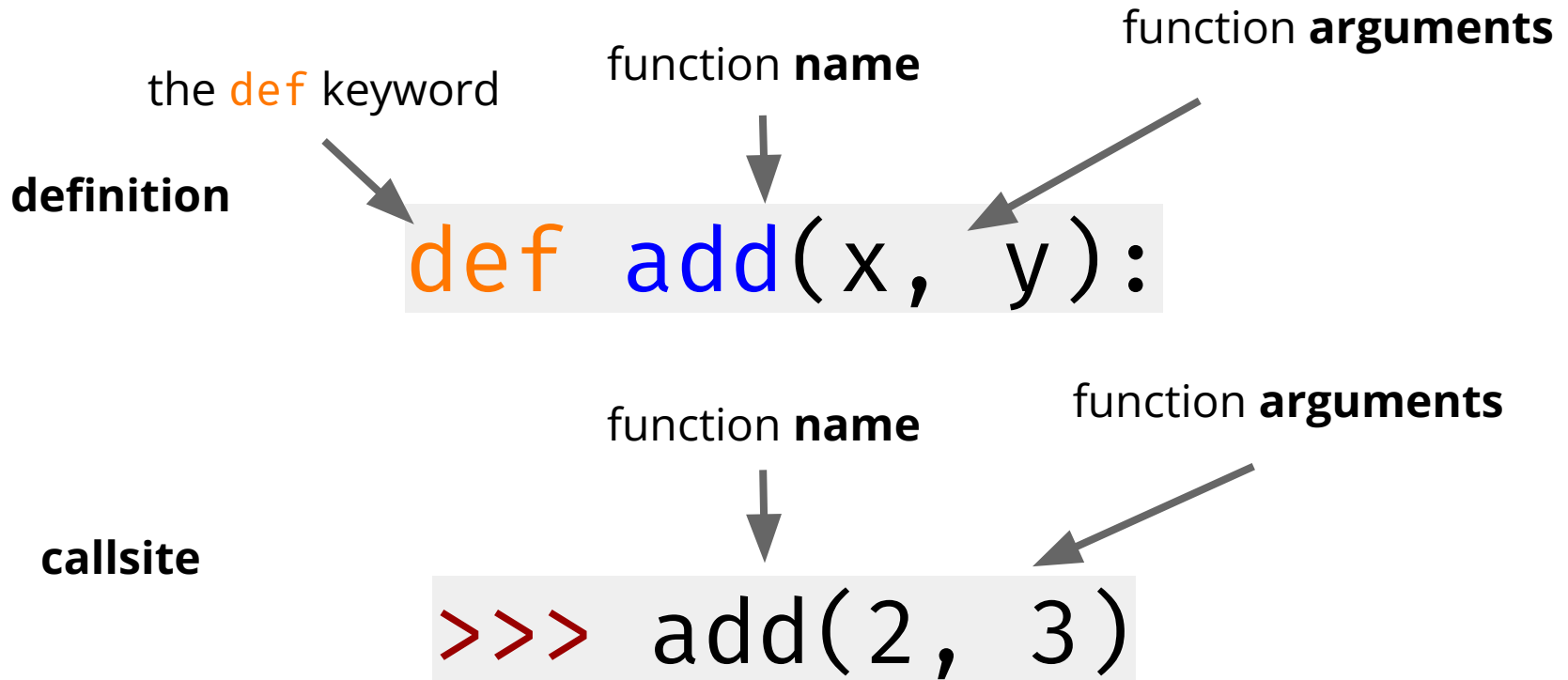Changing a variable in a function **only changes it *inside* the function.**

```
>>> z = 1
>>> def add(x, y):
...     z = x + y
...     display.scroll(z)
>>> add(3, 4)
7
```

What's the value of z now?

```
>>> display.scroll(z)
1
```

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Inclusion

Recap: A function signature

the `def` keyword

function **name**

function **arguments**

definition

```
def add(x, y):
```

function **name**

function **arguments**

callsite

```
>>> add(2, 3)
```

Tech Inclusion

Project time!

Now go be functional.

Do the next part of the project!
Try to do Part 4-6

The tutors will be around to help!

Tech
Inclusion

Micro:Bit Radio

We can use the radio to talk to each other!

All of your Micro:bits have the ability to send and receive radio messages. We are going to use this to make our Micro:bits communicate.

To send radio messages, our Micro:bits send out special invisible light waves at different times to symbolise a series of 1s and 0s, which other Micro:bits can then translate into words and information.
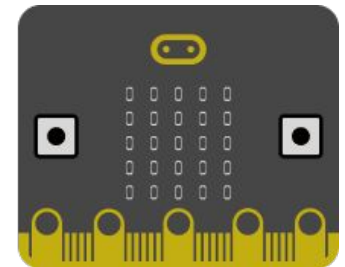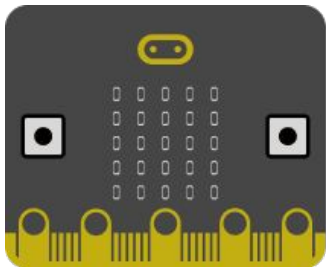
Radio

Your Micro:Bit can send messages to other Micro:Bits using radio waves!

It only takes a few lines of code to make this work!

1. We have to tell the Micro:Bit that we want to use the radio:

```
import radio
```

2. We need to turn the Radio on:

```
radio.on()
```

3. We need to send a message:

```
radio.send("Hello World")
```

4. We want to receive a message:

```
message = radio.receive()
```

Tech Inclusion

Radio Groups

We need to set our radio to communicate on a certain group, otherwise all our Micro:Bits will try to talk to each other! This will get confusing for the Micro:Bit.

After you turn the radio on, set the group channel!

```
radio.config(group=100)
```

Your tutors will give you a group number to use.

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Radio Example

What :do you think this code does?

Micro:Bit 1

```
import radio

radio.on()
radio.config(group=100)

while True:
    if button_a.is_pressed():
        radio.send("Hello!")

    if button_b.is_pressed():
        radio.send("World!")
```

Micro:Bit 2

```
import radio

radio.on()
radio.config(group=100)

while True:
    message = radio.receive()
    if message:
        display.scroll(message)
```

Why do you think it's important to check the message?