

## Get Method and Attribute Names with dir()

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There is a nice little function in Python named “dir()”. One great feature of this function is that it can produce a list of attributes associated with an object. For example if you want to see the methods on the python pickle object you can do the following:

```
import pickle  
dir(pickle)
```

You can see in the output below all the associated attributes (ie - methods, etc.). This is a great little trick when you are deep in the weeds of your code and need a quick reference. You can also use it to test items to see if a specific method exists.

For example:

```
if "dump" in dir(pickle):  
print("The dump method exists in this object.")
```

This is extremely useful if you want to test a dynamic object to determine if a method, or attribute exists.

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OUTPUT BELOW:

['ADDITEMS',  
'APPEND',  
'APPENDS',  
'BINBYTES',  
'BINBYTES8',  
'BINFLOAT',  
'BINGET',  
'BININT',  
'BININT1',  
'BININT2',  
'BINPERSID',  
'BINPUT',  
'BINSTRING',  
'BINUNICODE',  
'BINUNICODE8',  
'BUILD',  
'BYTEARRAY8',  
'DEFAULT\_PROTOCOL',  
'DICT',  
'DUP',  
'EMPTY\_DICT',  
'EMPTY\_LIST',  
'EMPTY\_SET',  
'EMPTY\_TUPLE',  
'EXT1',  
'EXT2',  
'EXT4',  
'FALSE',  
'FLOAT',  
'FRAME',  
'FROZENSET',  
'FunctionType',  
'GET',  
'GLOBAL',

'HIGHEST\_PROTOCOL',  
'INST',  
'INT',  
'LIST',  
'LONG',  
'LONG1',  
'LONG4',  
'LONG\_BINGET',  
'LONG\_BININPUT',  
'MARK',  
'MEMOIZE',  
'NEFALSE',  
'NEWOBJ',  
'NEWOBJ\_EX',  
'NEWTRUE',  
'NEXT\_BUFFER',  
'NONE',  
'OBJ',  
'PERSID',  
'POP',  
'POP\_MARK',  
'PROTO',  
'PUT',  
'PickleBuffer',  
'PickleError',  
'Pickler',  
'PicklingError',  
'PyStringMap',  
'READONLY\_BUFFER',  
'REDUCE',  
'SETITEM',  
'SETITEMS',  
'SHORT\_BINBYTES',  
'SHORT\_BINSTRING',  
'SHORT\_BINUNICODE',

'STACK\_GLOBAL',  
'STOP',  
'STRING',  
'TRUE',  
'TUPLE',  
'TUPLE1',  
'TUPLE2',  
'TUPLE3',  
'UNICODE',  
'Unpickler',  
'UnpicklingError',  
'\_Framer',  
'\_HAVE\_PICKLE\_BUFFER',  
'\_Pickler',  
'\_Stop',  
'\_Unframer',  
'\_Unpickler',  
'\_\_all\_\_',  
'\_\_builtins\_\_',  
'\_\_cached\_\_',  
'\_\_doc\_\_',  
'\_\_file\_\_',  
'\_\_loader\_\_',  
'\_\_name\_\_',  
'\_\_package\_\_',  
'\_\_spec\_\_',  
'\_compat\_pickle',  
'\_dump',  
'\_dumps',  
'\_extension\_cache',  
'\_extension\_registry',  
'\_getattr',  
'\_inverted\_registry',  
'\_load',  
'\_loads',

```
'_test',  
'_tuplesize2code',  
'bytes_types',  
'codecs',  
'compatible_formats',  
'decode_long',  
'dispatch_table',  
'dump',  
'dumps',  
'encode_long',  
'format_version',  
'io',  
'islice',  
'load',  
'loads',  
'maxsize',  
'pack',  
'partial',  
're',  
'sys',  
'unpack',  
'whichmodule']
```