Python + AI Guide 2026

Master Python basics, web development, AI tools, ChatGPT API, and Machine Learning
Everything you need to become a Python + AI expert in 2026

Python Basics AI & ML Tools Web Development Machine Learning Data Science Projects

Python Basics for Beginners

Python is the most popular language for AI and automation. Here's what you need to start.

Variables & Data Types	Lists & Loops	Functions & Modules
Strings, integers, floats, booleans, f-strings	Create, append, slice, for, while, list comprehensions	Defining functions, imports, built-in modules

Essential Python Code Examples

Variables & Data Types

```
# Variables & Data Types
name = "Python"
version = 3.12
is_awesome = True
print(f"{name} {version} is awesome: {is_awesome}")

# Lists
languages = ["Python", "JavaScript", "Rust"]
languages.append("Go")
print(languages[0])  # Python
print(len(languages))  # 4

# Dictionaries
user = {"name": "Alex", "age": 25, "city": "Berlin"}
print(user["name"])  # Alex
user["email"] = "alex@example.com"
```

Control Flow

```
# Control Flow
score = 85
if score >= 90:
    grade = "A"
elif score >= 80:
    grade = "B"
else:
    grade = "C"
print(f"Grade: {grade}")  # Grade: B

# For loop
for lang in languages:
    print(lang)

# While loop
count = 0
while count < 3:
    print(count)
    count += 1

# List comprehension
squares = [x**2 for x in range(10)]
print(squares)  # [0, 1, 4, 9, 16, 25, 36, 49, 64, 81]
```

Functions & Error Handling

```
# Functions
def greet(name, greeting="Hello"):
    return f"{greeting}, {name}!"

print(greet("World"))  # Hello, World!
print(greet("Python", "Hi"))  # Hi, Python!

# Error handling
try:
    result = 10 / 0
except ZeroDivisionError:
    print("Cannot divide by zero!")
finally:
    print("Done")

# File I/O
with open("data.txt", "w") as f:
    f.write("Hello, file!")

with open("data.txt", "r") as f:
    content = f.read()
    print(content)  # Hello, file!
```

Python Automation Scripts

Automate repetitive tasks with Python. Here are ready-to-use examples:

- **File Management** - Organize files, rename in bulk, convert formats
- **Web Scraping** - Extract data from websites using BeautifulSoup
- **Email Automation** - Send personalized emails, process attachments
- **Excel Processing** - Read, write, and analyze spreadsheets
- **Data Processing** - Clean, transform, and analyze datasets automatically

Automation Script Example

File Organizer Automation

```
# File Organizer Automation
import os
import shutil
from pathlib import Path

def organize_files(directory):
    """Organize files by extension into folders"""
    path = Path(directory)

    for file in path.iterdir():
        if file.is_file():
            # Get file extension
            ext = file.suffix[1:] if file.suffix else "no_extension"
            # Create folder for extension
            folder = path / ext
            folder.mkdir(exist_ok=True)
            # Move file
            shutil.move(str(file), str(folder / file.name))
            print(f"Moved {file.name} to {ext}/")

# Usage
organize_files("/path/to/your/folder")
```

Web Scraper Template

```
# Web Scraper Template
import requests
from bs4 import BeautifulSoup
import csv

def scrape_website(url):
    """Scrape data from a website"""
    headers = {"User-Agent": "Mozilla/5.0"}
    response = requests.get(url, headers=headers)
    soup = BeautifulSoup(response.text, "html.parser")

    # Example: Extract all headings
    data = []
    for heading in soup.find_all(["h1", "h2", "h3"]):
        data.append({
            "tag": heading.name,
            "text": heading.text.strip()
        })

    # Save to CSV
    with open("output.csv", "w", newline="") as f:
        writer = csv.DictWriter(f, fieldnames=["tag", "text"])
        writer.writeheader()
        writer.writerows(data)

    return data

# Usage
results = scrape_website("https://example.com")
print(f"Scraped {len(results)} items")
```

Email Automation

```
# Email Automation
import smtplib
from email.mime.text import MIMEText
from email.mime.multipart import MIMEMultipart

def send_email(to, subject, body):
    """Send an email"""
    msg = MIMEMultipart()
    msg["From"] = "your.email@gmail.com"
    msg["To"] = to
    msg["Subject"] = subject
    msg.attach(MIMEText(body, "plain"))

    with smtplib.SMTP("smtp.gmail.com", 587) as server:
        server.starttls()
        server.login("your.email@gmail.com", "your_password")
        server.send_message(msg)
    print(f"Email sent to {to}")

# Usage
send_email("recipient@example.com", "Hello!", "This is an automated email.")
```

Automation Tools: Use Python's schedule or cron to run automation scripts at specific times automatically.

Essential AI Tools & Libraries 2026

Definitions	Purpose	Installation
OpenAI API	ChatGPT, GPT-4, DALL-E integration	pip install openai
LangChain	Build LLM-powered applications	pip install langchain
Hugging Face	Pre-trained models & datasets	pip install transformers
TensorFlow/PyTorch	Deep learning frameworks	pip install tensorflow
scikit-learn	Traditional machine learning	pip install scikit-learn
FastAPI	Build AI API endpoints	pip install fastapi uvicorn

AI Chat Integration Example

OpenAI Chat Integration

```
# OpenAI Chat Integration
from openai import OpenAI

client = OpenAI(api_key="your-api-key")

def chat(prompt, model="gpt-4o-mini"):
    """Send a message to ChatGPT and get response"""
    response = client.chat.completions.create(
        model=model,
        messages=[
            {"role": "system", "content": "You are a helpful assistant."},
            {"role": "user", "content": prompt}
        ],
        temperature=0.7,
        max_tokens=1000
    )
    return response.choices[0].message.content

# Usage
answer = chat("Explain quantum computing in simple terms")
print(answer)
```

Streaming Responses

```
# Streaming Responses
def chat_stream(prompt):
    """Stream response for real-time output"""
    stream = client.chat.completions.create(
        model="gpt-4o-mini",
        messages=[{"role": "user", "content": prompt}],
        stream=True
    )
    for chunk in stream:
        if chunk.choices[0].delta.content:
            print(chunk.choices[0].delta.content, end="")

chat_stream("Write a haiku about coding")
```

Function Calling

```
# Function Calling
import json

tools = [{
    "type": "function",
    "function": {
        "name": "get_weather",
        "description": "Get current weather for a location",
        "parameters": {
            "type": "object",
            "properties": {
                "location": {"type": "string", "description": "City name"},
                "unit": {"type": "string", "enum": ["celsius", "fahrenheit"]}
            },
            "required": ["location"]
        }
    }
}]

response = client.chat.completions.create(
    model="gpt-4o-mini",
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "What's the weather in Tokyo?"}],
    tools=tools
)

# Check if model wants to call a function
if response.choices[0].message.tool_calls:
    tool_call = response.choices[0].message.tool_calls[0]
    print(f"Function: {tool_call.function.name}")
    print(f"Arguments: {tool_call.function.arguments}")
```

Advanced API Features

- **Function Calling** - Let AI call your functions to access real-time data
- **Vision** - Analyze images with GPT-4 Vision
- **Text-to-Speech** - Convert text to natural audio
- **Embeddings** - Create vector embeddings for semantic search

ChatGPT API Integration

Build applications with OpenAI's ChatGPT API. Here's how to integrate it effectively:

Basic ChatGPT API Setup

```
# Basic ChatGPT API Setup
import openai

openai.api_key = "your-api-key-here"

response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
    model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
    messages=[
        {"role": "system", "content": "You are a helpful assistant."},
        {"role": "user", "content": "Explain machine learning in simple terms."}
    ],
    temperature=0.7,
    max_tokens=150
)

print(response.choices[0].message.content)
```

Streaming Responses

```
# Streaming Responses
response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
    model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "Write a short story about AI."}],
    stream=True
)

for chunk in response:
    if chunk.choices[0].delta.get("content"):
        print(chunk.choices[0].delta.content, end="")
```

Function Calling

```
# Function Calling
functions = [
    {
        "name": "get_weather",
        "description": "Get the current weather in a given location",
        "parameters": {
            "type": "object",
            "properties": {
                "location": {"type": "string", "description": "City and state, e.g. San Francisco, CA"},
                "unit": {"type": "string", "enum": ["celsius", "fahrenheit"]}
            },
            "required": ["location"]
        }
    }
]

response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
    model="gpt-3.5-turbo-0613",
    messages=[{"role": "user", "content": "What's the weather like in Boston?"}],
    functions=functions,
    function_call="auto"
)

print(response.choices[0].message)
```

Token Counting & Cost Management

```
# Token Counting & Cost Management
import tiktoken

def count_tokens(text, model="gpt-3.5-turbo"):
    encoding = tiktoken.encoding_for_model(model)
    return len(encoding.encode(text))

text = "How many tokens does this have?"
print(f"Token count: {count_tokens(text)}")

# Pricing (as of 2024)
# GPT-3.5-turbo: $0.0015 / 1K tokens
# GPT-4: $0.03 / 1K tokens (input), $0.06 / 1K tokens (output)
```

Error Handling & Retry Logic

```
# Error Handling & Retry Logic
import time
from openai.error import RateLimitError, APIError

def chat_with_retry(prompt, max_retries=3):
    for attempt in range(max_retries):
        try:
            response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
                model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
                messages=[{"role": "user", "content": prompt}]
            )
            return response.choices[0].message.content
        except RateLimitError:
            wait = 2 ** attempt
            print(f"Rate limited. Waiting {wait}s...")
            time.sleep(wait)
        except APIError as e:
            print(f"API error: {e}")
            break
    return None
```

Best Practices: Use environment variables for API keys, implement rate limiting, monitor token usage to control costs, and always handle errors gracefully.

Machine Learning Roadmap 2026

Month 1-2: Foundations
Python basics → NumPy/Pandas → Data visualization (Matplotlib/Seaborn) → Statistics basics

Month 3-4: Traditional ML
Scikit-learn → Supervised learning → Model evaluation → Feature engineering

Month 5-6: Deep Learning
Neural networks basics → TensorFlow/PyTorch → CNNs for images → RNN/LSTM for text

Month 7-8: Advanced Topics
Transformers → Fine-tuning → Deployment (FastAPI/Docker)

Complete ML Project Example

Iris Classification Starter

```
# Iris Classification Starter
from sklearn.datasets import load_iris
from sklearn.model_selection import train_test_split
from sklearn.preprocessing import StandardScaler
from sklearn.ensemble import RandomForestClassifier
from sklearn.metrics import classification_report, confusion_matrix
import pandas as pd

# Load data
iris = load_iris()
X = pd.DataFrame(iris.data, columns=iris.feature_names)
y = iris.target

# Split data
X_train, X_test, y_train, y_test = train_test_split(
    X, y, test_size=0.2, random_state=42
)

# Scale features
scaler = StandardScaler()
X_train_scaled = scaler.fit_transform(X_train)
X_test_scaled = scaler.transform(X_test)

# Train model
model = RandomForestClassifier(n_estimators=100, random_state=42)
model.fit(X_train_scaled, y_train)

# Predict & evaluate
y_pred = model.predict(X_test_scaled)
print("Classification Report:")
print(classification_report(y_test, y_pred, target_names=iris.target_names))

# Feature importance
for name, importance in zip(iris.feature_names, model.feature_importances_):
    print(f"{name}: {importance:.3f}")
```

Image Classification with CNN

```
# Image Classification with CNN
import tensorflow as tf
from tensorflow.keras import layers, models
from tensorflow.keras.datasets import cifar10

# Load CIFAR-10 dataset
(X_train, y_train), (X_test, y_test) = cifar10.load_data()
X_train, X_test = X_train / 255.0, X_test / 255.0

# Build CNN model
model = models.Sequential([
    layers.Conv2D(32, (3, 3), activation='relu', input_shape=(32, 32, 3)),
    layers.MaxPooling2D((2, 2)),
    layers.Conv2D(64, (3, 3), activation='relu'),
    layers.MaxPooling2D((2, 2)),
    layers.Conv2D(64, (3, 3), activation='relu'),
    layers.Flatten(),
    layers.Dense(64, activation='relu'),
    layers.Dense(10, activation='softmax')
])

model.compile(optimizer='adam',
              loss='sparse_categorical_crossentropy',
              metrics=['accuracy'])

# Train
model.fit(X_train, y_train, epochs=10, validation_data=(X_test, y_test))
```

Sentiment Analysis with Transformers

```
# Sentiment Analysis with Transformers
from transformers import pipeline

# Load pre-trained sentiment analysis pipeline
classifier = pipeline("sentiment-analysis")

# Analyze text
results = classifier([
    "I love this product! It's amazing!",
    "This is the worst experience ever.",
    "The weather is okay, nothing special."
])

for result in results:
    print(f"{result['label']}: {result['score']:.4f}")
```

Learning Path: Start with Python basics → Build small automation scripts → Learn API integration → Once comfortable → Build full-stack AI applications

Python + AI Project Ideas

FastAPI AI Endpoint Example

```
# FastAPI AI Server
from fastapi import FastAPI, File, UploadFile, HTTPException
from pydantic import BaseModel
from typing import List, Optional
import openai
import os

app = FastAPI(title="AI API Server")

# Request/Response models
class ChatRequest(BaseModel):
    message: str
    system_prompt: Optional[str] = "You are a helpful assistant."
    temperature: Optional[float] = 0.7

class ChatResponse(BaseModel):
    response: str
    tokens_used: int

@app.post("/chat", response_model=ChatResponse)
async def chat(request: ChatRequest):
    """Chat with GPT"""
    try:
        response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
            model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
            messages=[
                {"role": "system", "content": request.system_prompt},
                {"role": "user", "content": request.message}
            ],
            temperature=request.temperature
        )
        return ChatResponse(
            response=response.choices[0].message.content,
            tokens_used=response.usage.total_tokens
        )
    except Exception as e:
        raise HTTPException(status_code=500, detail=str(e))

@app.post("/analyze-sentiment")
async def analyze_sentiment(text: str):
    """Analyze sentiment of text"""
    response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
        model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
        messages=[
            {"role": "system", "content": "Analyze sentiment. Return: positive, negative, or neutral"},
            {"role": "user", "content": text}
        ],
        temperature=0
    )
    return {"sentiment": response.choices[0].message.content.lower()}

@app.post("/summarize")
async def summarize(text: str, max_words: int = 50):
    """Summarize text"""
    response = openai.ChatCompletion.create(
        model="gpt-3.5-turbo",
        messages=[
            {"role": "system", "content": f"Summarize in {max_words} words or less."},
            {"role": "user", "content": text}
        ]
    )
    return {"summary": response.choices[0].message.content}

@app.post("/transcribe")
async def transcribe(file: UploadFile = File(...)):
    """Transcribe audio using Whisper"""
    audio_bytes = await file.read()
    # Save temporarily
    with open("temp_audio.mp3", "wb") as f:
        f.write(audio_bytes)
    with open("temp_audio.mp3", "rb") as f:
        transcript = openai.Audio.transcribe("whisper-1", f)
    os.remove("temp_audio.mp3")
    return {"text": transcript.text}

# Run with: uvicorn main:app --reload
```

Learning Path: Start with Python basics → Build small automation scripts → Learn API integration → Once comfortable → Build full-stack AI applications

Learning Resources 2026

Websites	Tools	Tutorials & Courses
Python.org Documentation	Official Docs	Python Language
Hugging Face Documentation	Official Docs	API Development
Kaggle Learn	Free Courses	Fundamentals to AI/ML
OpenAI Cookbook	GitHub Repo	API Examples
Google Colab	Free Courses	Data Science & ML
TikTok.org Python PDF	Premium Guide	Complete Python + AI

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