

Answer on Question #56262 , Programming & Computer Science / Python

Given that play_list has been defined to be a list, write a statement that sorts the list.

Solution:

Depending on the contents of list, different approaches should be used. In easiest possible case, when play_list is list of integers or strings, sorted() function should be used:

```
play_list = [3, 1, 2, 5, 4]
sorted_play_list = sorted(play_list)
print(sorted_play_list) # [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
#-----
play_list = ['cdgf', 'fs', 'aa', 'Zsdf', 'qvtr', 'fa']
sorted_play_list = sorted(play_list)
print(sorted_play_list) # ['Zsdf', 'aa', 'cdgf', 'fa', 'fs', 'qvtr']
```

If contents of play_list are complex objects (like lists or class object), the key parameter should be specified, which will be used for comparisons:

```
play_list = [[2, 'b'],[1, 'c'],[3, 'a']]
# sort by second element of netttled list
sorted_play_list = sorted(play_list, key=lambda a: a[1])
print(sorted_play_list) # [[3, 'a'], [2, 'b'], [1, 'c']]
```

Answer:

- 1) if elements are atomic, then use sorted(play_list);
- 2) if elements are complex, then use sorted(play_list, key=key)