

Python String – Check if String Starts with a Specific Prefix

Python – Check if String Starts with a Specific Substring

String is a sequential collection of characters. When working with Strings, occasionally, we may need to check if the string starts with a specific word or a substring.

In this tutorial, we shall learn how to check if a string starts with a specific word.

To check if a string starts with a given word, you can use `str.startswith()` function.

Syntax of `startswith()`

Following code snippet expresses the syntax of `startswith()` function.

```
str.startswith(prefix[, start[, end]])
```

where `prefix` is the substring we are looking to match in the main string. `start` and `end` arguments are optional.

If `start` is given, the main string from that position is considered for matching with prefix.

If `end` is given, the main string till that position is considered for matching with prefix.

`startswith()` returns **True** if the string starts with the prefix, else `startswith()` returns **False**.

Note: You can also provide multiple strings as a tuple for prefix. In that case, `startswith()` returns true if the string start with one of the string in prefix. We shall look into this scenario with an example.

Example 1 – Check if String Starts with Prefix

In this example, we have taken a website url as our main string. We shall validate the string, if it starts with prefix `http`. To validate this, we shall use `str.startswith()` function as described in the syntax.

example.py – Python Program

```
#the string
website = 'https://www.tutorialkart.com/'

#prefix
prefix = 'http'

#check if string starts with prefix
isValid = website.startswith(prefix)

print(isValid)
```

Run the program.

Output

True

Let us check for some of the negative scenarios.

example.py – Python Program

```
#the string
website = 'https://www.tutorialkart.com/'

#check if string starts with prefix
print(website.startswith('http'))
print(website.startswith('www'))
print(website.startswith('com'))
```

Run the program using Python interpreter.

True
False
False

Example 2 – Check if String Starts with any of the multiple Prefixes

We have noted in the syntax section that you can specify multiple strings for prefix.

In this example, we shall take multiple strings in prefix and use `startswith()` function. Multiple strings are provided as elements of a tuple.

example.py – Python Program

```
#the string
website = 'https://www.tutorialkart.com/'

#prefix
prefix = ('http', 'www')

#check if string starts with prefix
isValid = website.startswith(prefix)

print(isValid)
```

Run the above python program.

True

Our string starts with one of the specified strings in prefix.

Example 3 – Check if String Starts with Prefix considering [start, end]

In this example, we shall use the parameters `start` and `end` mentioned in the syntax above.

example.py – Python Program

```
#the string
website = 'https://www.tutorialkart.com/'

#check if string starts with prefix
#start specified
print(website.startswith('www', 8)) #True
#both start and end specified
print(website.startswith('www', 8, 12)) #True
print(website.startswith('www', 10, 12)) #False
```

Conclusion

In this [Python Tutorial](#), we learned how to use `str.startswith()` function to check if a string starts with a prefix using Python programs.

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