1. Given $s = 'abcdef'$, what is the value of:
   (a) $s[1:3]$  
   (b) $s[:\text{len}(s)]$

   (c) $s[3:3]$  
   (d) $s[2:]$

2. Write a function def first(s): that returns the substring of $s$ formed by the characters before the first appearance of a digit in the string $s$. So that if $s = 'abfa3g3'$, the function returns ‘abfa’.
3. Write a function with the heading `def product(n):` that returns the product of `n` random integers varying between one and four.

4. Write a function `def nCharacters(s):` that returns the last five-character substring in the string `s`. If `s` is `asdqrt52r`, the function returns `td52r`. Assume that the string consists of at least 5 characters. Do this using concatenation.

Practice Problems:

- Write a function with the heading `def equals(x, y):` that returns `true` if the two strings `x` and `y` have the same elements in the same order, or `false` if they do not.

- Write a function with the heading `def count(s):` that determines the number of times the first character in the string appears in the rest of the string.