

## Problem

How do I write a command help in Python?

## Solution

In python there are two different ways to look for command-line switches, depending on the case:

1. Examine `sys.argv` directly. This is useful when you want to look for specific command-line switches from a Python module (as opposed to a stand-alone script).
2. Use the `optparse` module. Useful for stand-alone scripts where you know all the command-line switches that will be used ahead of time.

Here a brief example of both cases:

```
#####--Case 1--#####
from sys      import argv

if len(sys.argv) < 1:
    printUsage();

for i in range(0, len(argv) - 1):
    if argv[i] == '-option' or argv[i] == '-o':
        #Found it!  OK to set now.
        OPTION_ARG = argv[i + 1]
    if argv[i] == '-help' or argv[i] == '-h':
        printUsage()

#####--Case 2--#####
```

Take a look to the example of this page: <http://www.python.org/doc/current/lib/module-optparse.html>

## Related articles

- [How can more people do development with ACS on the same machine without disturbing each other?](#)
- [Which ports are used by ACS?](#)
- [Problems connecting to ACS servers on a remote machine: bad /etc/hosts](#)
- [Why does the `getComponent` method of `ZLegacy/ACS.ContainerServices` return an object of type `None`?](#)
- [Why are some of my print statements not showing up in the container output section of `acscommandcenter`?](#)