

MUTATION AND ITERATION

Try this in Python Tutor!

- **avoid** mutating a list as you are iterating over it

```
def remove_dups(L1, L2):  
    for e in L1:  
        if e in L2:  
            L1.remove(e)
```



```
L1 = [1, 2, 3, 4]  
L2 = [1, 2, 5, 6]  
remove_dups(L1, L2)
```

- L1 is [2, 3, 4] not [3, 4] Why?

- Python uses an internal counter to keep track of index it is in the loop
- mutating changes the list length but Python doesn't update the counter
- loop never sees element 2

```
def remove_dups(L1, L2):  
    L1_copy = L1[:]  
    for e in L1_copy:  
        if e in L2:  
            L1.remove(e)
```



*clone list first, note
that L1_copy = L1
does NOT clone*