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If you use two words to name your variable and do not connect them with an underscore, you will get an error. Take a look at the following screenshot and see where it says `SyntaxError: invalid syntax`. Notice this error occurred because the `height centimeters` variable did not have an underscore to connect the words:

What can variables remember?

Python variables can be programmed to remember all kinds of information! You will notice in our original example that we stored a word and then a number. There are three different kinds of information that we will be using to build our calculator in Chapter 3, *Calculate This!*, strings, integers, and floats. Each bit of information is input and output a little differently.

Strings

In Python, a string is any piece of data that's captured between two single quote marks, that is, these symbols `'`. Sometimes, double quotation marks are used. For example, I can have a string variable that looks like this:

```
sentence = 'This is a sentence about Python.'
```

This string variable contains letters and words. Most string variables do. However, you can store a number as a string also as long as that number is in single quotes:

```
number_string = '40'
```

If we can store all kinds of information as strings, why do we need other data types? Well, when we store numbers as strings, we cannot do math with the numbers! Type this and then you will see why we need data types besides strings:

```
first_number = '10'  
second_number = '20'  
print(first_number + second_number)
```

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