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# PyJSON5 Documentation

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A JSON5 serializer and parser library for Python 3.4 and later.

The serializer returns ASCII data that can safely be used in an HTML template. Apostrophes, ampersands, greater-than, and less-than signs are encoded as unicode escaped sequences. E.g. this snippet is safe for any and all input:

```
"<a onclick='alert(" + encode(data) + ")">show message</a>"
```

Unless the input contains infinite or NaN values, the result will be valid **JSON** data.

All valid **JSON5 1.0.0** and **JSON** data can be read, unless the nesting level is absurdly high.



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**CHAPTER  
ONE**

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**INSTALLATION**

```
$ pip install pyjson5
```



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### 2.1 Serializer / Encoder

The serializer returns ASCII data that can safely be used in an HTML template. Apostrophes, ampersands, greater-than, and less-than signs are encoded as unicode escaped sequences. E.g. this snippet is safe for any and all input:

```
"<a onclick='alert(" + encode(data) + ")"'>show message</a>"
```

Unless the input contains infinite or NaN values, the result will be valid JSON data.

#### 2.1.1 Quick Encoder Summary

<code>encode(data, *[, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<code>encode_bytes(data, *[, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible bytes string.
<code>encode_callback(data, cb[, supply_bytes, ...])</code>	Serializes a Python object into a callback function.
<code>encode_io(data, fp[, supply_bytes, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object into a file-object.
<code>encode_noop(data, *[, options])</code>	Test if the input is serializable.
<code>dump(obj, fp, **kw)</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<code>dumps(obj, **kw)</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<code>Options</code>	Customizations for the <code>encoder_*(...)</code> function family.
<code>Json5EncoderException</code>	Base class of any exception thrown by the serializer.
<code>Json5UnstringifiableType([message, ...])</code>	The encoder was not able to stringify the input, or it was told not to by the supplied Options.

## 2.1.2 Full Encoder Description

`pyjson5.encode(data, *, options=None, **options_kw)`  
Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.

```
encode(['Hello', 'world!']) == '["Hello", "world!"']
```

### Parameters

- `data (object)` – Python object to serialize.
- `options (Optional[Options])` – Extra options for the encoder. If `options` and `options_kw` are specified, then `options.update(**options_kw)` is used.
- `options_kw` – See Option's arguments.

### Raises

- `Json5EncoderException` – An exception occurred while encoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.

### Returns

Unless `float('inf')` or `float('nan')` is encountered, the result will be valid JSON data (as of RFC8259).

The result is always ASCII. All characters outside of the ASCII range are encoded.

The result safe to use in an HTML template, e.g. `<a onclick='alert({{ encode(url) }})'>show message</a>`. Apostrophes ' ' are encoded as "\u0027", less-than, greater-than, and ampersand likewise.

### Return type str

`pyjson5.encode_bytes(data, *, options=None, **options_kw)`  
Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible bytes string.

```
encode_bytes(['Hello', 'world!']) == b'["Hello", "world!"']
```

### Parameters

- `data (object)` – see ``encode(...)`` <`pyjson5.encode_`>
- `options (Optional[Options])` – see ``encode(...)`` <`pyjson5.encode_`>
- `options_kw` – see ``encode(...)`` <`pyjson5.encode_`>

### Raises

- `Json5EncoderException` – An exception occurred while encoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.

### Returns see ``encode(...)`` <`pyjson5.encode_`>

### Return type bytes

`pyjson5.encode_callback(data, cb, supply_bytes=False, *, options=None, **options_kw)`  
Serializes a Python object into a callback function.

The callback function `cb` gets called with single characters and strings until the input `data` is fully serialized.

```
encode_callback(['Hello', 'world!'], print)
#prints:
# [
# "
# Hello
# "
# ,
# "
# world!
# "
# ]
"
```

**Parameters**

- **data** (*object*) – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``
- **cb** (*Callable[[Union[bytes|str]], None]*) – A callback function. Depending on the truthyness of `supply_bytes` either `bytes` or `str` is supplied.
- **supply\_bytes** (*bool*) – Call `cb(...)` with a `bytes` argument if true, otherwise `str`.
- **options** (*Optional[Options]*) – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``
- **options\_kw** – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``

**Raises**

- **Json5EncoderException** – An exception occured while encoding.
- **TypeError** – An argument had a wrong type.

**Returns** The supplied argument `cb`.**Return type** `Callable[[Union[bytes|str]], None]`**pyjson5.encode\_io**(*data, fp, supply\_bytes=True, \*, options=None, \*\*options\_kw*)

Serializes a Python object into a file-object.

The return value of `fp.write(...)` is not checked. If `fp` is unbuffered, then the result will be garbage!**Parameters**

- **data** (*object*) – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``
- **fp** (*IOBase*) – A file-like object to serialize into.
- **supply\_bytes** (*bool*) – Call `fp.write(...)` with a `bytes` argument if true, otherwise `str`.
- **options** (*Optional[Options]*) – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``
- **options\_kw** – see `encode(...)` `<pyjson5.encode_>``

**Raises**

- **Json5EncoderException** – An exception occured while encoding.
- **TypeError** – An argument had a wrong type.

**Returns** The supplied argument `fp`.**Return type** `IOBase`

`pyjson5.encode_noop(data, *, options=None, **options_kw)`

Test if the input is serializable.

Most likely you want to serialize data directly, and catch exceptions instead of using this function!

```
encode_noop({47: 11}) == True
encode_noop({47: object()}) == False
```

### Parameters

- `data (object)` – see ``encode(...)` <`pyjson5.encode_>``
- `options (Optional[Options])` – see ``encode(...)` <`pyjson5.encode_>``
- `options_kw` – see ``encode(...)` <`pyjson5.encode_>``

**Returns** True iff data is serializable.

**Return type** `bool`

`class pyjson5.Options`

Customizations for the `encoder_*(...)` function family.

Immutable. Use `Options.update(**kw)` to create a new Options instance.

### Parameters

- `tojson (str/False/None)` –
  - `str`: A special method to call on objects to return a custom JSON encoded string. Must return ASCII data!
  - `False`: No such member exists. (Default.)
  - `None`: Use default.
- `posinfinity (str/False/None)` –
  - `str`: String to represent positive infinity. Must be ASCII.
  - `False`: Throw an exception if `float('+inf')` is encountered.
  - `None`: Use default: "Infinity".
- `neginfinity (str/False/None)` –
  - `str`: String to represent negative infinity. Must be ASCII.
  - `False`: Throw an exception if `float('-inf')` is encountered.
  - `None`: Use default: "-Infinity".
- `nan (str/False/None)` –
  - `str`: String to represent not-a-number. Must be ASCII.
  - `False`: Throw an exception if `float('NaN')` is encountered.
  - `None`: Use default: "NaN".
- `intformat (str/False/None)` –
  - `str`: Format string to use with `int`.
  - `False`: Throw an exception if an `int` is encountered.
  - `None`: Use default: "%d".

- **floatformat** (*str/False/None*) –
  - **str:** Format string to use with float.
  - **False:** Throw an exception if a float is encountered.
  - **None:** Use default: "%.6e".
- **decimalformat** (*str/False/None*) –
  - **str:** Format string to use with Decimal.
  - **False:** Throw an exception if a Decimal is encountered.
  - **None:** Use default: "%s".
- **mappingtypes** (*Iterable[type]/False/None*) –
  - **Iterable[type]:** Classes the should be encoded to objects. Must be iterable over their keys, and implement `__getitem__`.
  - **False:** There are no objects. Any object will be encoded as list of key-value tuples.
  - **None:** Use default: [collections.abc.Mapping].

**decimalformat**

The creation argument `decimalformat`. None if `False` was specified.

**floatformat**

The creation argument `floatformat`. None if `False` was specified.

**intformat**

The creation argument `intformat`. None if `False` was specified.

**mappingtypes**

The creation argument `mappingtypes`. () if `False` was specified.

**nan**

The creation argument `nan`. None if `False` was specified.

**neginfinity**

The creation argument `neginfinity`. None if `False` was specified.

**posinfinity**

The creation argument `posinfinity`. None if `False` was specified.

**tojson**

The creation argument `tojson`. None if `False` was specified.

**update(*self, \*\*kw*)**

Creates a new Options instance by modifying some members.

### 2.1.3 Encoder Compatibility Functions

**pyjson5.dump(*obj, fp, \*\*kw*)**

Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.

Use ``encode_io(...)`` instead!

```
dump(obj, fp) == encode_io(obj, fp)
```

**Parameters**

- **obj (object)** – Python object to serialize.

- **fp** (*IOWrapper*) – A file-like object to serialize into.
- **kw** – Silently ignored.

`pyjson5.dumps(obj, **kw)`

Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.

Use ``encode(...)` <pyjson5.encode_`_` instead!

`dumps(obj) == encode(obj)`

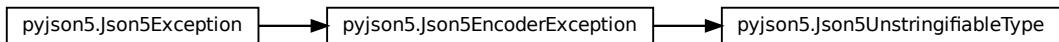
#### Parameters

- **obj** (*object*) – Python object to serialize.
- **kw** – Silently ignored.

**Returns** see `encode(data)`

**Return type** unicode

### 2.1.4 Encoder Exceptions



**class** `pyjson5.Json5EncoderException`

Base class of any exception thrown by the serializer.

**message**

Human readable error description

**with\_traceback()**

`Exception.with_traceback(tb)` – set `self.__traceback__` to `tb` and return `self`.

**class** `pyjson5.Json5UnstringifiableType(message=None, unstringifiable=None)`

The encoder was not able to stringify the input, or it was told not to by the supplied Options.

**message**

Human readable error description

**unstringifiable**

The value that caused the problem.

**with\_traceback()**

`Exception.with_traceback(tb)` – set `self.__traceback__` to `tb` and return `self`.

## 2.2 Parser / Decoder

All valid JSON5 1.0.0 and JSON data can be read, unless the nesting level is absurdly high.

### 2.2.1 Quick Decoder Summary

<code>decode(data[, maxdepth, some])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an <code>str</code> object.
<code>decode_buffer(obj[, maxdepth, some, wordlength])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an object that supports the buffer protocol, e.g.
<code>decode_callback(cb[, maxdepth, some, args])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data by invoking a callback.
<code>decode_io(fp[, maxdepth, some])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.
<code>load(fp, **kw)</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.
<code>loads(s, *[, encoding])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a string.
<code>Json5DecoderException([message, result])</code>	Base class of any exception thrown by the parser.
<code>Json5NestingTooDeep</code>	The maximum nesting level on the input data was exceeded.
<code>Json5EOF</code>	The input ended prematurely.
<code>Json5IllegalCharacter([message, result, ...])</code>	An unexpected character was encountered.
<code>Json5ExtraData([message, result, character])</code>	The input contained extraneous data.
<code>Json5IllegalType([message, result, value])</code>	The user supplied callback function returned illegal data.

### 2.2.2 Full Decoder Description

`pyjson5.decode(data, maxdepth=None, some=False)`  
Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an `str` object.

```
decode('["Hello", "world!"]') == ['Hello', 'world!']
```

#### Parameters

- `data (unicode)` – JSON5 serialized data
- `maxdepth (Optional[int])` – Maximum nesting level before parsing is aborted.
  - If `None` is supplied, then the value of the global variable `DEFAULT_MAX_NESTING_LEVEL` is used instead.
  - If the value is `0`, then only literals are accepted, e.g. `false`, `47.11`, or `"string"`.
  - If the value is negative, then any nesting level is allowed until Python's recursion limit is hit.
- `some (bool)` – Allow trailing junk.

#### Raises

- `Json5DecoderException` – An exception occurred while decoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.

**Returns** Deserialized data.

**Return type** `object`

### pyjson5.decode\_buffer(*obj*, *maxdepth=None*, *some=False*, *wordlength=None*)

Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an object that supports the buffer protocol, e.g. bytearray.

```
obj = memoryview(b'["Hello", "world!"]')

decode_buffer(obj) == ['Hello', 'world!']
```

#### Parameters

- **data** (*object*) – JSON5 serialized data. The argument must support Python’s buffer protocol, i.e. `memoryview(...)` must work. The buffer must be contiguous.
- **maxdepth** (*Optional[int]*) – see `decode(...) <[pyjson5.decode\\_>](#)`
- **some** (*bool*) – see `decode(...) <[pyjson5.decode\\_>](#)`
- **wordlength** (*Optional[int]*) – Must be 1, 2, 4 to denote UCS1, USC2 or USC4 data. Surrogates are not supported. Decode the data to an `str` if need be. If `None` is supplied, then the buffer’s `itemsize` is used.

#### Raises

- `Json5DecoderException` – An exception occurred while decoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.
- `ValueError` – The value of `wordlength` was invalid.

**Returns** see `decode(...) <[pyjson5.decode\\_>](#)`

**Return type** `object`

### pyjson5.decode\_callback(*cb*, *maxdepth=None*, *some=False*, *args=None*)

Decodes JSON5 serialized data by invoking a callback.

```
cb = iter('["Hello","world!"]').__next__

decode_callback(cb) == ['Hello', 'world!']
```

#### Parameters

- **cb** (`Callable[Any, Union[str/bytes/bytarray/int/None]]`) – A function to get values from. The function is called like `cb(*args)`, and it returns:
  - **str, bytes, bytarray:** `len(...)` == 0 denotes exhausted input. `len(...)` == 1 is the next character.
  - **int:** < 0 denotes exhausted input. >= 0 is the ordinal value of the next character.
  - **None:** input exhausted
- **maxdepth** (*Optional[int]*) – see `decode(...) <[pyjson5.decode\\_>](#)`
- **some** (*bool*) – see `decode(...) <[pyjson5.decode\\_>](#)`
- **args** (*Optional[Iterable[Any]]*) – Arguments to call `cb` with.

#### Raises

- `Json5DecoderException` – An exception occurred while decoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.

**Returns** see `decode(...)`

**Return type** object

`pyjson5.decode_io(fp, maxdepth=None, some=True)`  
Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.

```
fp = io.StringIO('"\n    ['Hello', /* TODO look into specs whom to greet */]\n    'Wolrd' // FIXME: look for typos\n")\n\ndecode_io(fp) == ['Hello']\ndecode_io(fp) == 'Wolrd'\n\nfp.seek(0)\n\ndecode_io(fp, some=False)\n# raises Json5ExtraData('Extra data U+0027 near 56', ['Hello'], "")
```

#### Parameters

- `fp (IOBase)` – A file-like object to parse from.
- `maxdepth (Optional[int] = None)` – see `decode(...)` <pyjson5.decode>`\_
- `some (bool)` – see `decode(...)` <pyjson5.decode>`\_

#### Raises

- `Json5DecoderException` – An exception occurred while decoding.
- `TypeError` – An argument had a wrong type.

**Returns** see decode(...)

**Return type** object

### 2.2.3 Decoder Compatibility Functions

`pyjson5.load(fp, **kw)`  
Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.

Use `decode\_io(...)` <pyjson5.decode\_io>`\_ instead!

```
load(fp) == decode_io(fp, None, False)
```

#### Parameters

- `fp (IOBase)` – A file-like object to parse from.
- `kw` – Silently ignored.

**Returns** see decode(...)

**Return type** object

`pyjson5.loads(s, *, encoding='UTF-8', **kw)`  
Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a string.

Use `decode(...)` <pyjson5.decode>`\_ instead!

```
loads(s) == decode(s)
```

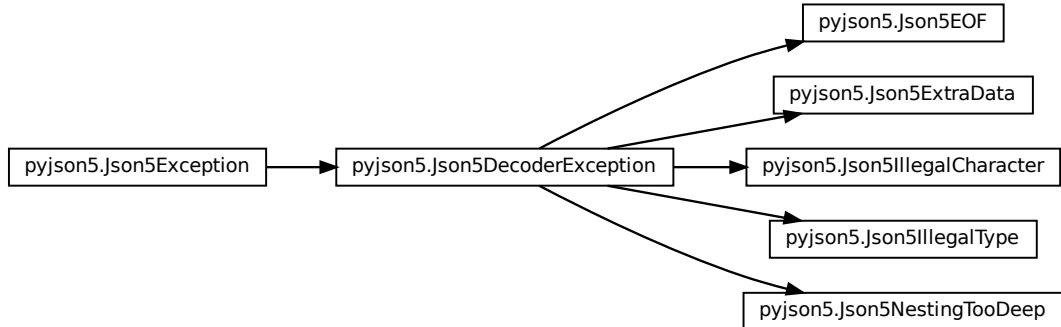
#### Parameters

- **s** (*object*) – Unless the argument is an `str`, it gets decoded according to the parameter `encoding`.
- **encoding** (`str`) – Codec to use if `s` is not an `str`.
- **kw** – Silently ignored.

**Returns** see `decode(...)`

**Return type** `object`

## 2.2.4 Decoder Exceptions



**class** `pyjson5.Json5DecoderException`(*message=None*, *result=None*, \**args*)

Base class of any exception thrown by the parser.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

**with\_traceback()**

`Exception.with_traceback(tb)` – set `self.__traceback__` to `tb` and return `self`.

**class** `pyjson5.Json5NestingTooDeep`

The maximum nesting level on the input data was exceeded.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

**with\_traceback()**

`Exception.with_traceback(tb)` – set `self.__traceback__` to `tb` and return `self`.

**class** pyjson5.Json5EOF

The input ended prematurely.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

**with\_traceback()**

Exception.with\_traceback(tb) – set self.\_\_traceback\_\_ to tb and return self.

**class** pyjson5.Json5IllegalCharacter(*message=None, result=None, character=None, \*args*)

An unexpected character was encountered.

**character**

Extraneous character.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

**with\_traceback()**

Exception.with\_traceback(tb) – set self.\_\_traceback\_\_ to tb and return self.

**class** pyjson5.Json5ExtraData(*message=None, result=None, character=None, \*args*)

The input contained extraneous data.

**character**

Extraneous character.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

**with\_traceback()**

Exception.with\_traceback(tb) – set self.\_\_traceback\_\_ to tb and return self.

**class** pyjson5.Json5IllegalType(*message=None, result=None, value=None, \*args*)

The user supplied callback function returned illegal data.

**message**

Human readable error description

**result**

Deserialized data up until now.

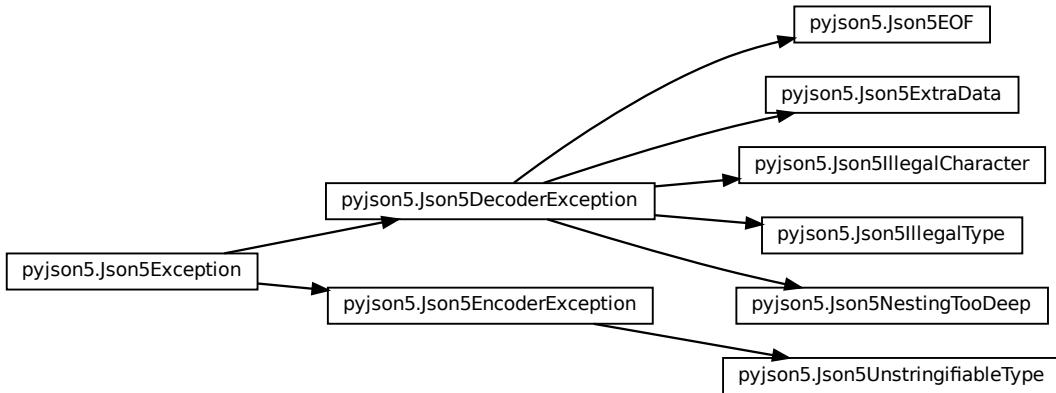
**value**

Value that caused the problem.

**with\_traceback()**

Exception.with\_traceback(tb) – set self.\_\_traceback\_\_ to tb and return self.

## 2.3 Exceptions



```
class pyjson5.Json5Exception(message=None, *args)
```

Base class of any exception thrown by PyJSON5.

### message

Human readable error description

### with\_traceback()

`Exception.with_traceback(tb)` – set `self.__traceback__` to `tb` and return `self`.

## 2.4 Performance

This library is written in Cython for a better performance than a pure-Python implementation could give you.

### 2.4.1 Decoder Performance

The library is a bit slower than the shipped `json` module for *pure* JSON data. If you know that your input does not use JSON5 extension, then this library is probably not what you need.

- Dataset: <https://github.com/zemirco/sf-city-lots-json>
- CPU: Core i7-3770 @ 3.40GHz
- `pyjson5.decode()`: **4.58** s ± 68.6 ms per loop (*lower is better*)
- `json.loads()`: **3.27** s ± 27.7 ms per loop
- The decoder works correctly: `json.loads(content) == pyjson5.loads(content)`

## 2.4.2 Encoder Performance

The encoder generates pure JSON data if there are no infinite or NaN values in the input, which are invalid in JSON. The serialized data is XML-safe, i.e. there are no cheverons <>, ampersands &, apostrophes ' or control characters in the output. The output is always ASCII regardless if you call `pyjson5.encode()` or `pyjson5.encode_bytes()`.

- Dataset: <https://github.com/zemirco/sf-city-lots-json>
- CPU: Core i7-3770 @ 3.40GHz
- `pyjson5.encode()`: **8.54** s ± 29.3 ms per loop (*lower is better*)
- `json.dumps()`: **4.68** s ± 20.4 ms per loop
- `json.dumps() + xml.sax.saxutils.escape()`: **5.02** s ± 141 ms per loop
- The encoder works correctly: `obj == json.loads(pyjson5.encode(obj, floatformat='%.16e'))`

Unless you need the advanced settings in `pyjson5.Options`, most likely don't benefit from using this library as an encoder.



---

CHAPTER  
THREE

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## QUICK SUMMARY

<code>decode(data[, maxdepth, some])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an <code>str</code> object.
<code>decode_buffer(obj[, maxdepth, some, wordlength])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from an object that supports the buffer protocol, e.g.
<code>decode_callback(cb[, maxdepth, some, args])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data by invoking a callback.
<code>decode_io(fp[, maxdepth, some])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.
<code>load(fp, **kw)</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a file-like object.
<code>loads(s, *[, encoding])</code>	Decodes JSON5 serialized data from a string.
<code>encode(data, *[, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<code>encode_bytes(data, *[, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible bytes string.
<code>encode_callback(data, cb[, supply_bytes, ...])</code>	Serializes a Python object into a callback function.
<code>encode_io(data, fp[, supply_bytes, options])</code>	Serializes a Python object into a file-object.
<code>encode_noop(data, *[, options])</code>	Test if the input is serializable.
<code>dump(obj, fp, **kw)</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<code>dumps(obj, **kw)</code>	Serializes a Python object to a JSON5 compatible unicode string.
<i>Options</i>	Customizations for the <code>encoder_*(...)</code> function family.
<code>Json5EncoderException</code>	Base class of any exception thrown by the serializer.
<code>Json5DecoderException([message, result])</code>	Base class of any exception thrown by the parser.



---

**CHAPTER  
FOUR**

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## **COMPATIBILITY**

At least CPython 3.4, and a C++14 compatible compiler (such as GCC 5.2+) is needed.

Other interpreters such as Pypy and older CPython versions are not supported.

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