



Django for Absolute Beginners – Free eBook

Start Building with Django in Under 1 Hour



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<https://www.codecademyonline.com/>

Start building real web apps with Python & Django today!



Welcome Note

Welcome to your first real experience with Django! This short eBook gives you everything you need to go from zero to launching your very first Django app. You'll build hands-on, see Django in action, and walk away feeling confident in your ability to build something real.

By the end, you'll have built a functional homepage and be ready to go deeper with our full 4-week Django Modular Program.

What You'll Learn

Here's what you'll be able to do after going through this free eBook:

- ✓ Set up your Python and Django development environment
- ✓ Create your very first Django project from scratch
- ✓ Understand the core architecture: Models, Views, and Templates (MVT)
- ✓ Build and run your own Django app (homepage)
- ✓ Display dynamic content using Python and HTML
- ✓ Style your pages with simple CSS
- ✓ Build a mini-project that shows a welcome message with the current date
- ✓ Get a teaser of how powerful Django can be — and where to go next



What is Django?

Django is a high-level Python web framework that allows you to build secure, maintainable websites quickly.

- Developed for speed, scalability, and security
- Used by companies like Instagram, Pinterest, Mozilla
- Includes built-in tools for routing, forms, security, and templates

Django follows the principle: “Don’t Repeat Yourself (DRY)”

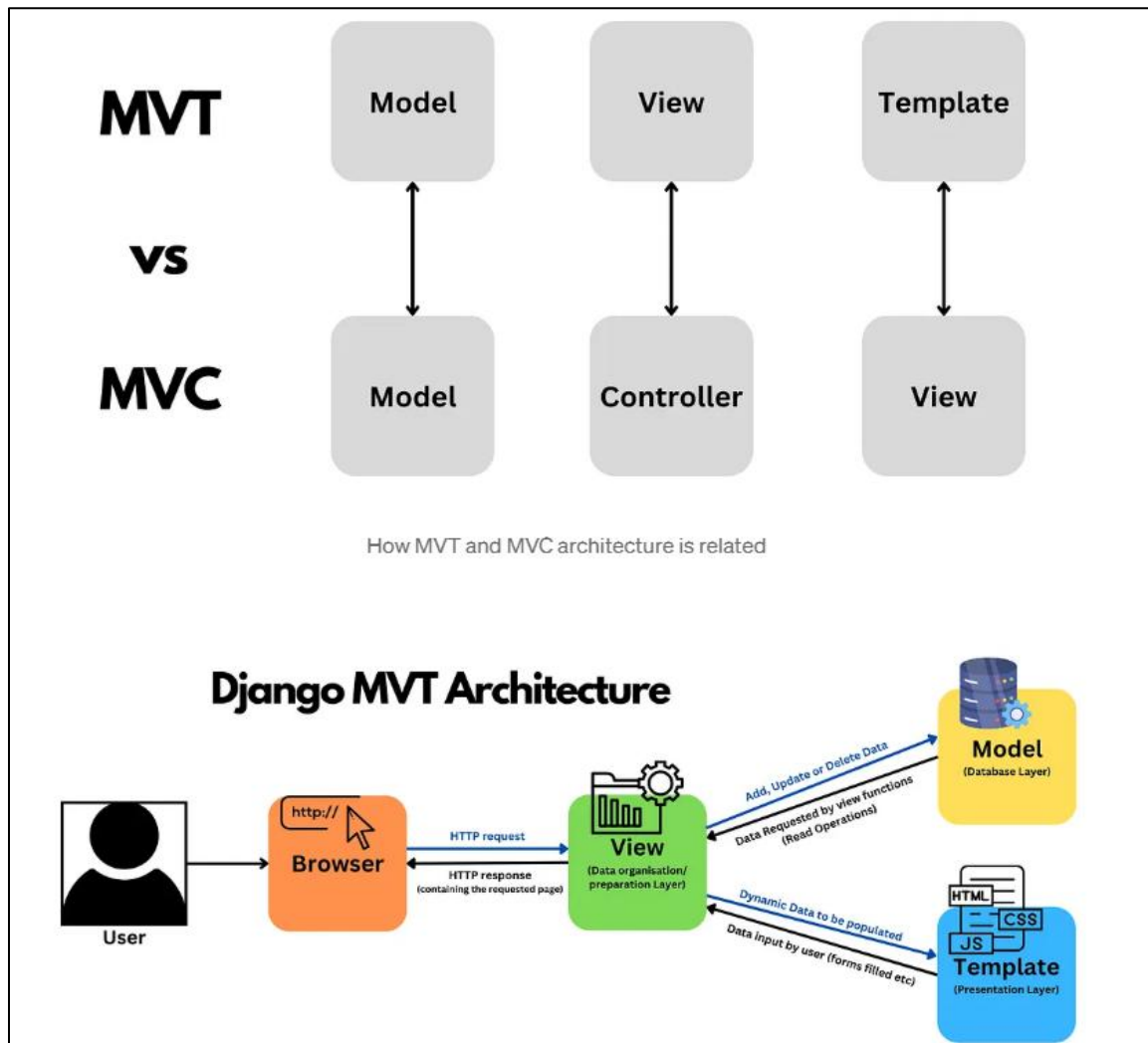
Django Architecture Basics

Django follows the MVT architecture:

- Model – Handles data
- View – Processes logic
- Template – Displays content

Project vs App:

- A Project is your full website (like 'mysite').
- An App is a component (like blog, homepage, user system).



Django File Structure



Installing Django & Creating Your First Project

Step 1: Install Python & pip

Make sure Python 3.10+ is installed. Then run:

```
pip install django
```

Step 2: Create your Django project

```
Windows PowerShell
(base) PS D:\sale_contents\for AD codecademyonline\e-book for marketing\django\django_lab> django-admin startproject mysite
(base) PS D:\sale_contents\for AD codecademyonline\e-book for marketing\django\django_lab> cd mysite
(base) PS D:\sale_contents\for AD codecademyonline\e-book for marketing\django\django_lab\mysite> python manage.py runserver
```

```
Watching for file changes with StatReloader
Performing system checks...

System check identified no issues (0 silenced).

You have 18 unapplied migration(s). Your project may not work properly until you apply the migrations for app(s): admin, auth, contenttypes, sessions.
Run 'python manage.py migrate' to apply them.
May 06, 2025 - 09:32:01
Django version 5.0.2, using settings 'mysite.settings'
Starting development server at http://127.0.0.1:8000/
Quit the server with CTRL-BREAK.

[06/May/2025 09:32:32] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 10629
Not Found: /favicon.ico
[06/May/2025 09:32:32] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 2110
```

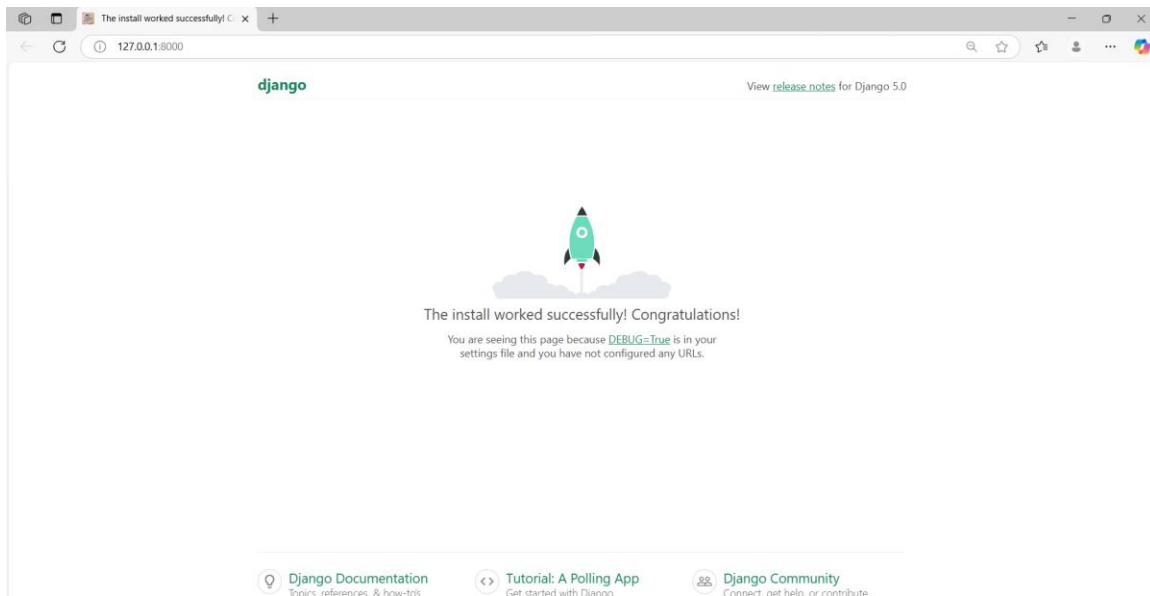
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```
django-admin startproject mysite  
cd mysite  
python manage.py runserver
```

Visit: <http://127.0.0.1:8000>

You'll see the Django welcome page!





Hands-On Task – Your First App

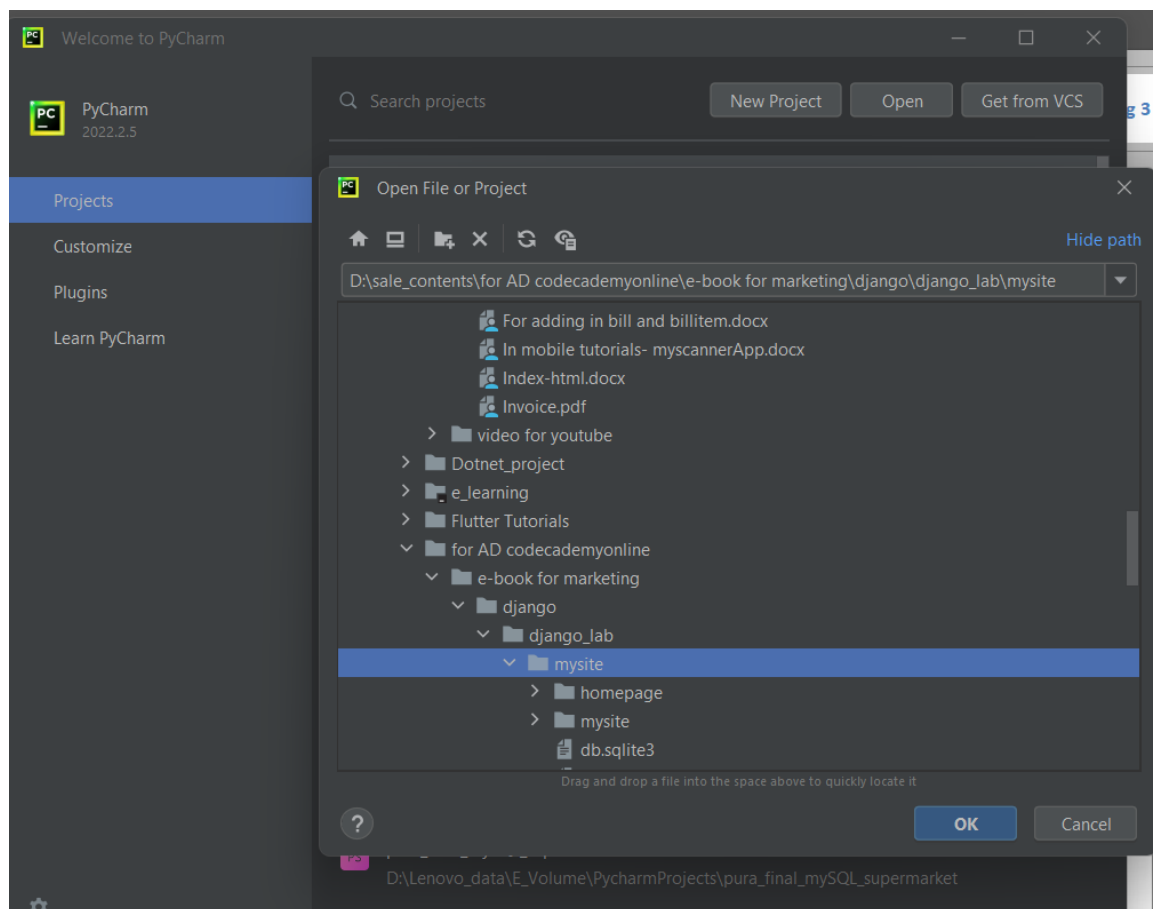
```
(base) PS D:\sale_contents\for AD codecademyonline\e-book for marketing\django\django_lab\mysite> python manage.py start  
app homepage  
(base) PS D:\sale_contents\for AD codecademyonline\e-book for marketing\django\django_lab\mysite> |
```

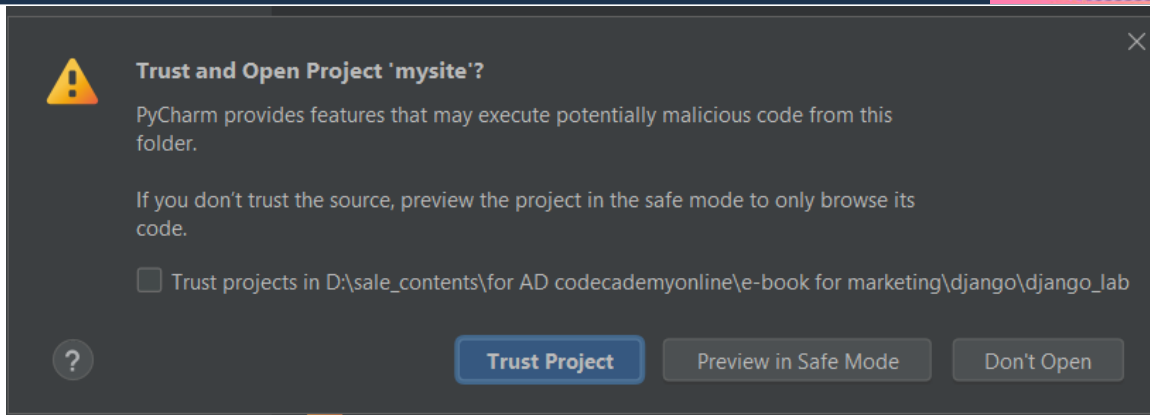
Before- use Ctrl+c

Let's create a simple homepage with a welcome message.

[python manage.py startapp homepage](#)

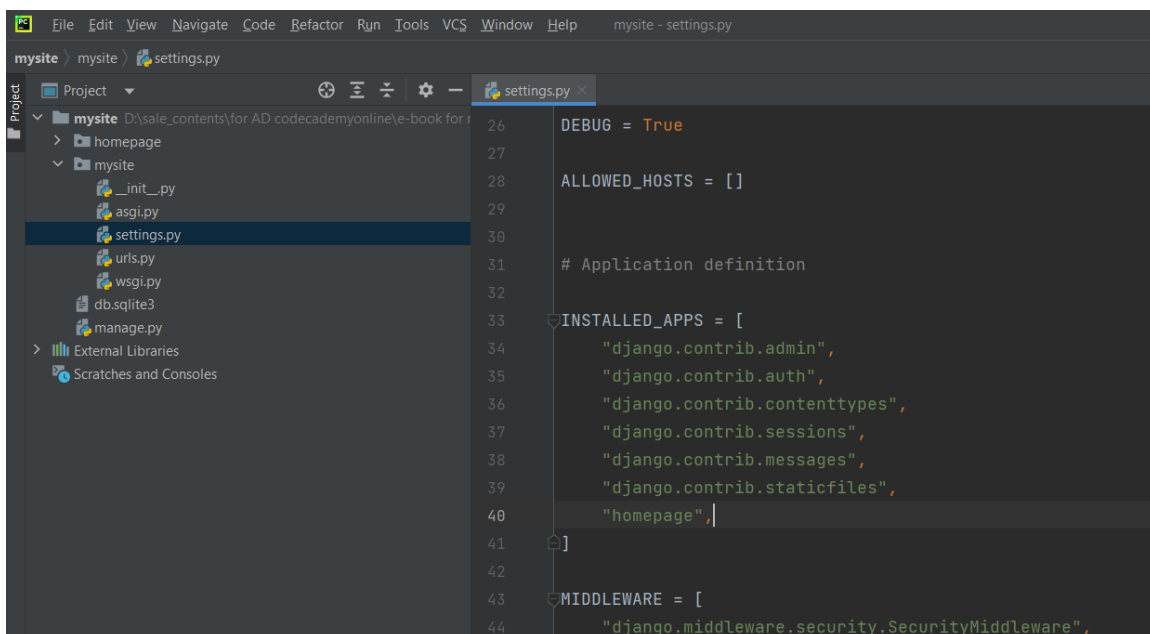
Install, if not installed already- pycharm community editor- open your project





Click on Trust Project

Edit mysite/settings.py and add 'homepage' to INSTALLED_APPS.



Create your first view in homepage/views.py:

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```
from django.http import HttpResponse
```

```
def home(request):  
    return HttpResponse("Welcome to Django!")
```

Configure URL in homepage/urls.py:

create a new file -homepage -right click-new file- python file-as urls.py

```
from django.urls import path  
from . import views
```

```
urlpatterns = [  
    path("", views.home),  
]
```

Link the app in mysite/urls.py:

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```
from django.contrib import admin
from django.urls import path, include
```

```
urlpatterns = [
    path('', include('homepage.urls')),
    path('admin/', admin.site.urls),
]
```

The screenshot shows a code editor with a project named 'mysite'. The file 'urls.py' is open, displaying the following code:

```
1 from django.contrib import admin
2 from django.urls import path, include
3
4 urlpatterns = [
5     path('', include('homepage.urls')),
6     path('admin/', admin.site.urls),
7 ]
8
```

Below the code editor, a terminal window shows the command `python manage.py runserver` being executed. The output indicates that the system check passed and that there are 18 unapplied migrations. It also shows the Django version (5.0.2) and the starting development server URL (`http://127.0.0.1:8000/`).

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar set to `127.0.0.1:8000`. The page displays the message "Welcome to Django!"

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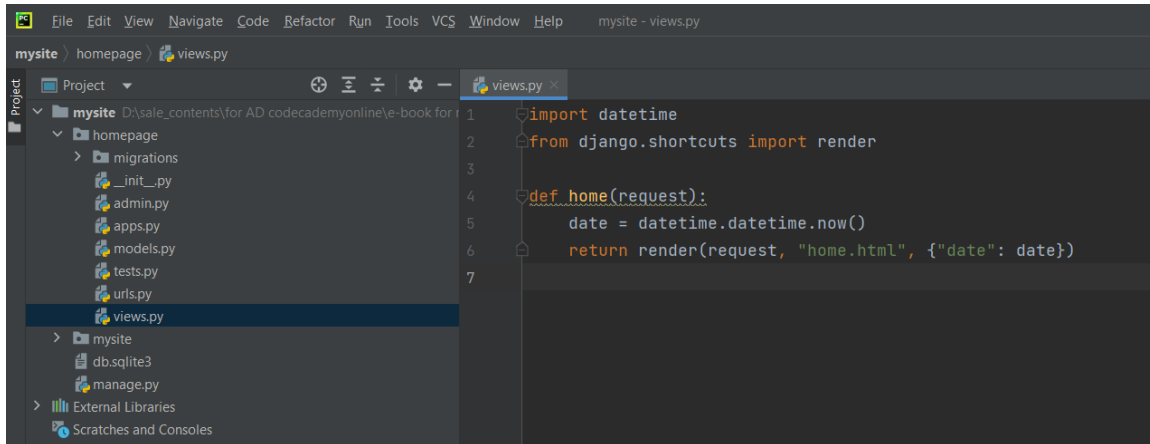


Mini-Project – Personal Homepage App

Let's expand your homepage:

- Show: Welcome message + your name + today's date
- Use HTML + Python logic
- Add simple CSS

views.py: update-



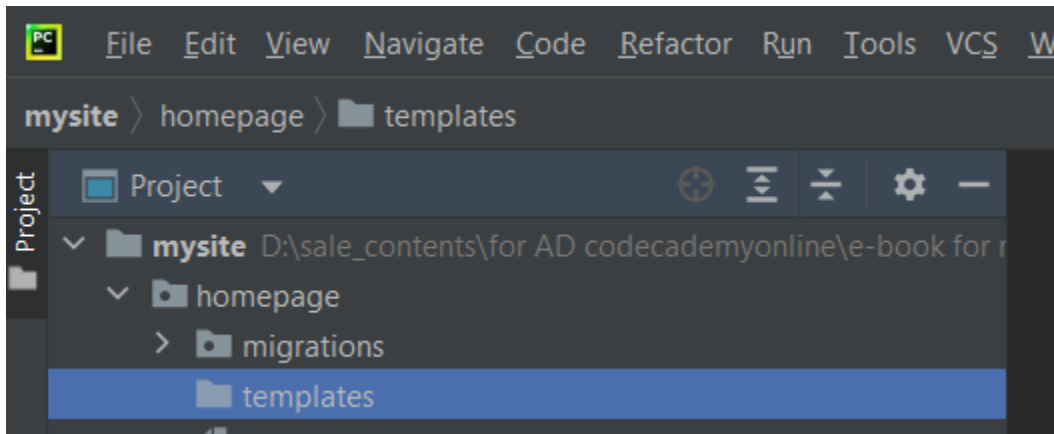
```
1 import datetime
2 from django.shortcuts import render
3
4 def home(request):
5     date = datetime.datetime.now()
6     return render(request, "home.html", {"date": date})
7
```

import datetime
from django.shortcuts import render

def home(request):
 date = datetime.datetime.now()
 return render(request, "home.html", {"date": date})

✓ Step-by-Step: Creating and Connecting home.html

1 Create a templates folder in your app



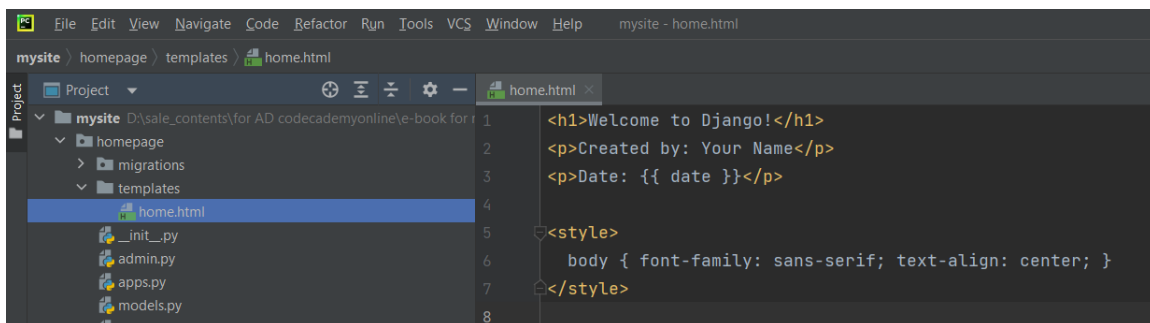
Assuming your app is named homepage, your folder structure should look like this:

```
homepage/  
├── templates/  
│   └── home.html  
├── views.py  
├── urls.py  
...
```

✳ Important: templates must be inside your app folder.

2 Create home.html inside the templates/ folder

Path: homepage/templates/home.html



```
<h1>Welcome to Django!</h1>  
<p>Created by: Your Name</p>  
<p>Date: {{ date }}</p>
```

```
<style>
```



```
body { font-family: sans-serif; text-align: center; }
</style>
```

3 Update your views.py to use the template

Path: homepage/views.py

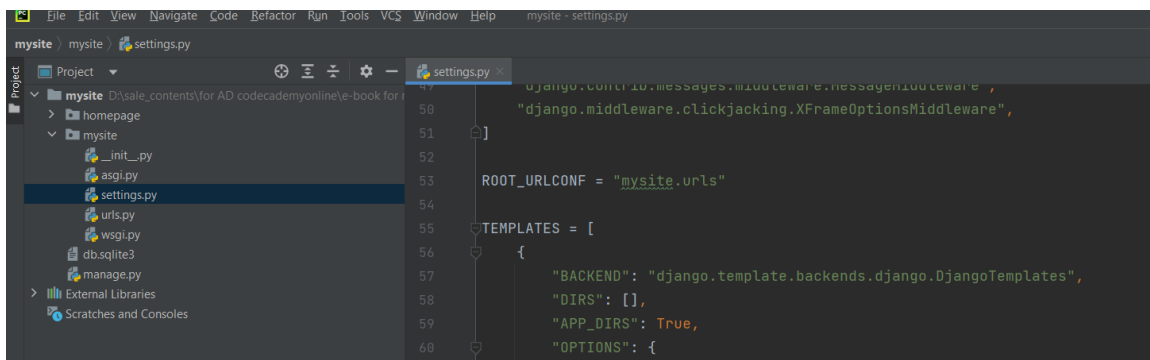
```
import datetime
from django.shortcuts import render

def home(request):
    date = datetime.datetime.now()
    return render(request, "home.html", {"date": date})
```

4 Make sure Django knows where to look for templates

Usually, if your home.html is inside homepage/templates/, Django will find it. But to be safe, confirm this in your settings.py:

Path: mysite/settings.py



```
TEMPLATES = [
    {
        ...
        'DIRS': [],
        ...
        'APP_DIRS': True,
        ...
    },
]
```

Make sure 'APP_DIRS': True is set — it tells Django to look in each app's templates/ folder.

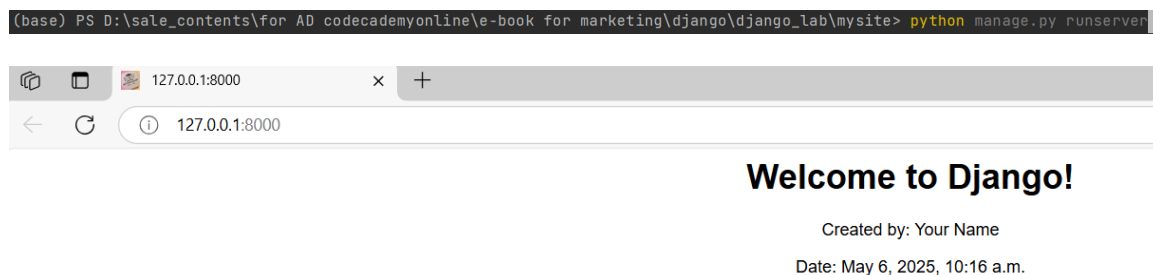
✅ Now when you visit the home page (<http://127.0.0.1:8000/>), Django will render home.html.



It this error comes-



Again run in the terminal-first stop-Ctrl+c then use -python manage.py runserver



Freebie Summary

What You've Learned:

- What Django is
- How to install and start a project
- Created your first app
- Built a personal homepage with Python + HTML



Ready to go deeper?

Build real apps with forms, databases, and deploy them online in our 4-week Django Modular Program.

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About the Full Django Modular Program

Duration: 4 Weeks

What You'll Learn:

- Models, Forms, Admin
- Authentication & User Accounts
- CRUD Operations
- Static files, templates
- Deployment to live server
- 3 Real Projects

Student Feedback:

"Best Django intro I've taken! Very practical." – Rajeev

"I built and deployed my first blog app in week 3!" – Fatim

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