`email`: Examples

Here are a few examples of how to use the `email` package to read, write, and send simple email messages, as well as more complex MIME messages.

First, let's see how to create and send a simple text message (both the text content and the addresses may contain Unicode characters):

../includes/email-simple.py

Parsing `822` headers can easily be done by the using the classes from the `~email.parser` module:

../includes/email-headers.py

Here's an example of how to send a MIME message containing a bunch of family pictures that may be residing in a directory:

../includes/email-mime.py

Here's an example of how to send the entire contents of a directory as an email message:[^1]

../includes/email-dir.py

Here's an example of how to unpack a MIME message like the one above, into a directory of files:

../includes/email-unpack.py

Here's an example of how to create an HTML message with an alternative plain text version. To make things a bit more interesting, we include a related image in the html part, and we save a copy of what we are going to send to disk, as well as sending it.

../includes/email-alternative.py

If we were sent the message from the last example, here is one way we could process it:

../includes/email-read-alternative.py

Up to the prompt, the output from the above is:

```
To: Penelope Pussycat <penelope@example.com>, Fabrette Pussycat <fabrette@example.com>
From: Pepé Le Pew <pepe@example.com>
```

```
Subject: Pourquoi pas des asperges pour ce midi ?


Salut!


Cette recette [1] sera sûrement un très bon repas.
```

Footnotes

[^1]: Thanks to Matthew Dixon Cowles for the original inspiration and examples.

□□□ #2
□ □□□ □□□ 2026-10-31 17:09:01 UTC
□ □□□ □□□ 2026-10-31 17:09:02 UTC