a = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5]]
b = a[:]
b.append(8)

After the code above executes, what is the value of a?

A. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5]]
B. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5], 8]
C. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5], 8]
D. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5], [8]]

Answer: A
The slice creates a “deep-ish” copy of a, so that a and b are no longer aliases. This appending to b does not change a.
a = [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5]]
b = a[:]
b[1].append(8)

After the code above executes, what is the value of a?

A. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5]]
B. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5], 8]
C. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5, 8]]
D. [[1, 2, 3], [4, 5], [8]]

Answer: C
Slicing does not copy any nested lists and so modifying the nested list pointed to by b[1] is visible via a and b.