Provide, in your own words, a description of dictionaries within Python.  Use an example application of your choosing to explain how the dictionary data type could be used within a Python program.

A dictionary is a data structure which pairs two pieces of data (which can be any type, such as string, integer, float etc etc) together to form an item. A dictionary can contain any number of items. One example of this could be to create a counter that assigns a number to a value (creating an item) and increments the number for each time it appears in another object. An example program could be creating a dictionary of capital cities mapped to each country for the world (or capital mapped to each state or province within a country). Then you could search within your dictionary to find the capital using value = my\_dict[‘key’].