

## Exercise 39: Dictionaries, Oh Lovely Dictionaries

You are now going to learn about the Dictionary data structure in Python. A Dictionary (or "dict") is a way to store data just like a `list`, but instead of using only numbers to get the data, you can use almost anything. This lets you treat a `dict` like it's a database for storing and organizing data.

Let's compare what can dicts can do to what lists can do. You see, a list lets you do this:

### Ready To Learn To Code?

If you enjoyed the sample so far, then you can continue learning by purchasing Learn Python 2 The Hard Way (<http://bit.ly/buypython>), or Buying Learn Python 3 The Hard Way for 29.99 (<http://bit.ly/buylp3thw>). You'll receive all 52 exercises in PDF and HTML formats, plus videos teaching you each exercise. This course has helped **12 million** people learn to code since 2010, so it can help you too. If you want to see more samples then try the Appendix A: Command Line Crash Course (</python3/appendixa.html>). **If you already purchased this book then you can download the videos at account page**

**(<https://shop.learncodethehardway.org/customers/>)**  
**or view the paid HTML version**  
**(<https://shop.learncodethehardway.org/paid/python2/>)**.

## Need To Learn For Free?

My Learn Ruby The Hard Way  
(<https://learnrubythehardway.org/book/>) is still free to read for anyone who needs to learn to code. Ruby is a perfectly fine alternative to Python, and works just as well as a first language. If you can't afford Learn Python The Hard Way  
(<https://learnpythonthehardway.org/book/>) then read Learn Ruby The Hard Way for free  
(<https://learnrubythehardway.org/book/>).

---

## Buy The Python 2 Course

When you buy directly from the author, Zed A. Shaw, you'll get a professional quality PDF and hours of HD Video, all DRM-free and yours to download.

\$ 29.<sup>99</sup>

BUY THE PYTHON 2 COURSE

([HTTPS://SHOP.LEARNCODETHEHARDWAY.ORG/ACCESS/BUY/2/](https://shop.learncodethehardway.org/access/buy/2/))

BUY THE PYTHON 3 COURSE INSTEAD

([HTTPS://SHOP.LEARNCODETHEHARDWAY.ORG/ACCESS/BUY/9/](https://shop.learncodethehardway.org/access/buy/9/))

TRY A FREE SAMPLE OF LEARN PYTHON THE HARD WAY ([HTTPS://LEARNPYTHONTHEHARDWAY.ORG/BOOK/](https://learnpythonthehardway.org/book/))

RIGHT HERE, VIDEO LECTURES NOT INCLUDED.

## Other Buying Options

**BUY ON AMAZON ([HTTP://BIT.LY/AMZNLPTHW](http://bit.ly/amznlpthw))**

**BUY A HARD COPY FROM THE PUBLISHER ([HTTP://BIT.LY/INFORMITLPTHW](http://bit.ly/informitlpthw))**

**BUY A HARD COPY FROM BARNES & NOBLE ([HTTP://BIT.LY/BNLPTHW](http://bit.ly/bnlpthw))**

[Previous \(ex38.html\)](#)

[Next > \(ex40.html\)](#)

**HOME**  
(/)

**ABOUT**  
([HTTPS://LEARNCODETHEHARDWAY.ORG/ABOUT/](https://learncodethehardway.org/about/))

**CONTACT**  
([HTTPS://LEARNCODETHEHARDWAY.ORG/CONTACT/](https://learncodethehardway.org/contact/))

© 2016 ZED A. SHAW. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

 (<https://twitter.com/lzsthw>)