**What are they?**

Dictionaries (or Dictionary<TKey, TValue>, as you will encounter them) are collections of (key, value) pairs, in which the keys are unique. Think of the Address Book in your mobile phone, where each name has corresponding data (phone number(s), email).

The data types for both keys and values have to be chosen when the variable is declared. Data types in Dictionaries can be any of the supported variables (including Dictionaries, for example).

The operations that are most often associated with Dictionaries are:

* Adding and deleting (key, value) pairs.
* Retrieving the value associated with a key.
* Re-assigning new values to existing keys.