C# collection variants cheat sheet Text (CC BY-SA 4.0) 2021 Matej Jan, The Indie Quest		Add				Remove			Access			
List Used to store multiple values. Easiest to use/most universal. Fast access of items. Slow when adding/removing from the middle. Slow lookup whether an item is contained in the list.	Insert/InsertRange	slow	middle slow	end fast	start slow	slow	end fast	start fast	middle fast	end fast	foreach fast	slow
LinkedList Used to store multiple values. Fast when adding/removing at any position. Requires creation of nodes to add items. Slow to access a specific item in the middle. Slow lookup whether an item is contained in the list.	AddFirst AddBefore/AddAfter AddLast First Last Count a b b z Remove RemoveFirst RemoveLast	fast	fast	fast	fast	fast	fast	fast	slow	fast	fast	slow
Queue → Used for first-in-first-out storage (FIFO). — No general list functionality.	Peek() a b b c d z Dequeue	/	/	fast	fast	/	I	fast	/	/	fast	/
Stack Used for last-in-first-out storage (LIFO) No general list functionality.	Push Peek() Count a b b c d z Pop	1	/	fast	1	/	fast	1	/	fast	fast	/
HashSet Used to store unique values. Prevents duplicates. Offers set operations (union, intersection, difference). Fast lookup whether an item is contained in the set. Does not allow duplicates. Items have undefined order. No access by index.	Add a b c d z Remove		fast			fast			/		fast	fast
SortedSet Used to store unique values. Items are sorted. Prevents duplicates. Offers set operations (union, intersection, difference). Can retrieve a range of items between two values. Does not allow duplicates. Slower adding and lookup whether an item is contained in the set. No access by index.	Min Max 1 2 3 4 5 10 Remove Remove	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	/	/	/	fast	medium fast
Dictionary Used to store values by unique keys. Prevents duplicate keys. Allows duplicate values. Fast lookup whether a key is contained in the dictionary. Does not allow duplicate keys. Items have undefined order. No access by index. Slow lookup whether a value is contained in the dictionary	Add A B C D Z a b c d z Remove	fast			fast			fast			fast	key: fast value: slow
SortedDictionary Used to store values by unique keys. Items are sorted by key. Prevents duplicate keys. Allows duplicate values. Consistent speed of adding, removal, and retrieval. Does not allow duplicate keys. Slower adding, removal, and retrieval. Slower lookup whether a key is contained in the dictionary, slow for values. No access by index.	Add 1 2 3 4 5 10 a b b c d z Remove	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	medium fast	fast	key: medium fast value: slow
SortedList Used to store values by unique keys. Items are sorted by key. Prevents duplicate keys. Allows duplicate values. Fast retrieval of keys and values by index. Uses less memory than SortedDictionary. Does not allow duplicate keys. Slower adding of items, slow when the item added is not the biggest item Slow removing of items, Slower lookup whether a key is contained in the dictionary, slow for values.	Add [0] [1] [2] [3] [4] [Count-1] 1 2 3 4 5 10 Keys[] a b b c d z Values[] Remove/RemoveAt	slow	slow	medium fast	slow	slow	slow	fast	fast	fast	fast	key: medium fast value: slow