Writing programs (or programming) is a very creative and rewarding activity. You can write programs for many reasons ranging from making your living to solving a difficult data analysis problem to having fun to helping someone else solve a problem. This book assumes that everyone needs to know how to program and that once you know how to program, you will figure out what you want to do with your newfound skills.

We are surrounded in our daily lives with computers ranging from laptops to cell phones. We can think of these computers as our "personal assistants" who can take care of many things on our behalf. The hardware in our current-day computers is essentially built to continuously ask us the question, "What would you like me to do next?"

Our computers are fast and have vast amounts of memory and could be very helpful to us if we only knew the language to speak to explain to the computer what we would like it to do next. If we knew this language we could tell the computer to do tasks on our behalf that were repetitive. Interestingly, the kinds of things computers can do best are often the kinds of things that we humans find boring and mind-numbing.

Counting Pattern Pt. 1

```
counts = dict()
print('Enter a line of text:')
line = input('')

words = line.split()

print('Words:', words)

print('Counting...')
for word in words:
    counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1
print('Counts', counts)
```

The general pattern to count the words in a line of text is to split the line into words, then loop through the words and use a dictionary to track the count of each word independently.

```
python wordcount.py
Enter a line of text:
the clown ran after the car and the car ran into the tent
and the tent fell down on the clown and the car

Words: ['the', 'clown', 'ran', 'after', 'the', 'car',
'and', 'the', 'car', 'ran', 'into', 'the', 'tent', 'and',
'the', 'tent', 'fell', 'down', 'on', 'the', 'clown',
'and', 'the', 'car']
Counting…

Counts {'the': 7, 'clown': 2, 'ran': 2, 'after': 1, 'car':
3, 'and': 3, 'into': 1, 'tent': 2, 'fell': 1, 'down': 1,
'on': 1}
```

http://www.flickr.com/photos/71502646@N00/2526007974/

```
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line = input('Enter a line of text:')
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print('Words:', words)
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for word in words:
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Counting...

Counts {'the': 7, 'clown': 2, 'ran': 2, 'after': 1, 'car': 3, 'and': 3, 'into': 1, 'tent': 2, 'fell': 1, 'down': 1, 'on': 1}
```

Definite Loops and Dictionaries

Even though dictionaries are not stored in order, we can write a for loop that goes through all the entries in a dictionary - actually it goes through all of the keys in the dictionary and looks up the values

```
>>> counts = { 'chuck' : 1 , 'fred' : 42, 'jan': 100}
>>> for key in counts:
...     print(key, counts[key])
...
chuck 1
fred 42
jan 100
>>>
```

Retrieving lists of Keys and Values

You can get a list of keys, values, or items (both) from a dictionary

```
>>> jjj = { 'chuck' : 1 , 'fred' : 42, 'jan': 100}
>>> print(list(jjj))
['chuck', 'fred', 'jan']
>>> print(list(jjj.keys()))
['chuck', 'fred', 'jan']
>>> print(list(jjj.values()))
[1, 42, 100]
>>> print(list(jjj.items()))
[('chuck', 1), ('fred', 42), ('jan', 100)]
>>>
```

What is a “tuple”? - coming soon...

Bonus: Two Iteration Variables! Pt. 1

- We loop through the key-value pairs in a dictionary using *two* iteration variables

- Each iteration, the first variable is the key and the second variable is the corresponding value for the key

```
jjj = { 'chuck' : 1 , 'fred' : 42, 'jan': 100}
for aaa,bbb in jjj.items() :
    print(aaa, bbb)
```

```
chuck 1
fred 42
jan 100
```

aaa	bbb
[chuck]	1
[fred]	42
[jan]	100

```
name = input('Enter file:')
handle = open(name)

counts = dict()
for line in handle:
    words = line.split()
    for word in words:
        counts[word] = counts.get(word,0) + 1

bigcount = None
bigword = None
for word,count in counts.items():
    if bigcount is None or count > bigcount:
        bigword = word
        bigcount = count

print(bigword, bigcount)
```

```
python words.py
Enter file: words.txt
to 16
```

```
python words.py
Enter file: clown.txt
the 7
```

Using two nested loops

Summary

- What is a collection
- Lists versus dictionaries
- Dictionary Constants
- The most common word
- Using the get() method
- Writing dictionary loops
- Sneak peek: Tuples

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… Insert new Contributors or translation credits here