9 – Working with Dictionaries (part of Python collection types)

(Course: Python Programming)

A Story of Two Collections..

- List

  - A linear collection of values that stay in order

- Dictionary

  - A “bag” of values, each with its own label

Dictionaries

- Dictionaries are Python’s most powerful data collection
- Dictionaries allow us to do fast database-like operations in Python
- Dictionaries have different names in different languages
  - Associative Arrays - Perl / PHP
  - Properties or Map or HashMap - Java
  - Property Bag - C# / .Net

Dictionaries

- Lists index their entries based on the position in the list
- Dictionaries are like bags - no order
- So we index the things we put in the dictionary with a “lookup tag”

```
>>> purse = dict()
>>> purse['money'] = 12
>>> purse['candy'] = 3
>>> purse['tissues'] = 75
>>> print(purse)
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 3}
>>> print(purse['candy'])
3
>>> purse['candy'] = purse['candy'] + 2
>>> print(purse)
{'money': 12, 'tissues': 75, 'candy': 5}
```

Comparing Lists and Dictionaries

Dictionaries are like lists except that they use keys instead of numbers to look up values

```
>>> lst = list()
>>> lst.append(21)
>>> lst.append(183)
>>> print(lst)
[21, 183]
>>> lst[0] = 23
>>> print(lst)
[23, 183]
```

```
>>> ddd = dict()
>>> ddd['age'] = 21
>>> ddd['course'] = 182
>>> print(ddd)
{'course': 182, 'age': 21}
>>> ddd['age'] = 23
>>> print(ddd)
{'course': 182, 'age': 23}
```

```
>>> lst = list()
>>> lst.append(21)
>>> lst.append(183)
>>> print(lst)
[21, 183]
>>> lst[0] = 23
>>> print(lst)
[23, 183]
```

List

Key	Value
[0]	21
[1]	183

lst

```
>>> ddd = dict()
>>> ddd['age'] = 21
>>> ddd['course'] = 182
>>> print(ddd)
{'course': 182, 'age': 21}
>>> ddd['age'] = 23
>>> print(ddd)
{'course': 182, 'age': 23}
```

Dictionary

Key	Value
['course']	182
['age']	21

ddd

Dictionary Literals (Constants)

- Dictionary literals use curly braces and have a list of key : value pairs

- You can make an empty dictionary using empty curly braces

```
>>> jjj = { 'chuck' : 1 , 'fred' : 42, 'jan': 100}
>>> print(jjj)
{'jan': 100, 'chuck': 1, 'fred': 42}
>>> ooo = { }
>>> print(ooo)
{}
>>>
```

Dictionary Tracebacks

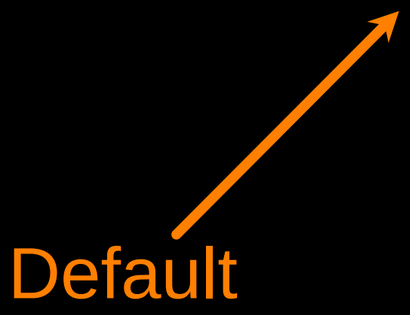
- It is an error to reference a key which is not in the dictionary
- We can use the in operator to see if a key is in the dictionary

```
>>> ccc = dict()
>>> print(ccc['csev'])
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'csev'
>>> 'csev' in ccc
False
```

Simplified Counting with get()

We can use get() and provide a default value of zero when the key is not yet in the dictionary - and then just add one

```
counts = dict()
names = ['csev', 'cwen', 'csev', 'zqian', 'cwen']
for name in names :
    counts[name] = counts.get(name, 0) + 1
print(counts)
```



{'csev': 2, 'zqian': 1, 'cwen': 2}

Counting Pattern

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

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

```
counts = dict()
line = input('Enter a line of text:')
words = line.split()

print('Words:', words)
print('Counting...’)

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

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

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])
...
jan 100
chuck 1
fred 42
>>>
```

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

What is a “tuple”? - coming soon...

Summary

- What is a collection?
- Lists versus Dictionaries
- Dictionary constants
- The most common word
- Using the get() method
- Hashing, and lack of order
- Writing dictionary loops
- Sneak peek: tuples
- Sorting dictionaries