

Dictionaries are used to store data values in key:value pairs.

A dictionary is a collection which is ordered*, changeable and do not allow duplicates.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964,  
    "age": 20  
}  
  
print(type(thisdict))
```

Ordered

When we say that dictionaries are ordered, it means that the items have a defined order, and that order will not change.

Changeable

Dictionaries are changeable, meaning that we can change, add or remove items after the dictionary has been created.

Duplicates Not Allowed

Dictionaries cannot have two items with the same key:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964,  
    "year": 2020  
}
```

```
print(thisdict)
```

"year": 1964 — this is added first

"year": 2020 — this overwrites the earlier value

Dictionary Length

To determine how many items a dictionary has, use the len() function:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964,  
    "year": 2020  
}
```

```
print(len(thisdict))
```

Dictionary Items - Data Types

The values in dictionary items can be of any data type:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "electric": False,  
    "year": 1964,  
    "colors": ["red", "white", "blue"]  
}  
  
print(thisdict)
```

type()

From Python's perspective, dictionaries are defined as objects with the data type 'dict':

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
  
print(type(thisdict))
```

The dict() Constructor

It is also possible to use the dict() constructor to make a dictionary.

```
thisdict = dict(name = "John", age = 36, country = "Norway")  
  
print(thisdict)
```

Accessing Items

You can access the items of a dictionary by referring to its key name, inside square brackets:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
  
x = thisdict["model"]  
  
print(x)
```

There is also a method called get() that will give you the same result:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
x = thisdict.get("model")  
print(x)
```

Add a new item to the original dictionary, and see that the keys list gets updated as well:

```
car = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
x = car.keys()  
print(x) #before the change
```

```
car["color"] = "white"  
print(x) #after the change
```

Get Values

The values() method will return a list of all the values in the dictionary.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
x = thisdict.values()  
  
print(x)
```

Get Items

The items() method will return each item in a dictionary, It returns all the key-value pairs as tuples inside a list.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
x = thisdict.items()  
  
print(x)
```

Check if Key Exists

To determine if a specified key is present in a dictionary use the in keyword:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964}
```

if "model" in thisdict:

```
print("Yes, 'model' is one of the keys in the thisdict dictionary")
```

Change Values

You can change the value of a specific item by referring to its key name:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
thisdict["year"] = 2018
```

```
print(thisdict)
```

Update Dictionary

The update() method will update the dictionary with the items from the given argument.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
  
thisdict.update({"year": 2020})  
  
print(thisdict)
```

Adding Items

Adding an item to the dictionary is done by using a new index key and assigning a value to it:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}
```

```
thisdict["color"] = "red"  
print(thisdict)
```

Update Dictionary

The update() method will update the dictionary with the items from a given argument. If the item does not exist, the item will be added.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
  
thisdict.update({"color": "red"})  
print(thisdict)
```

Removing Items

There are several methods to remove items from a dictionary:

The popitem() method removes the last inserted item (in versions before 3.7, a random item is removed instead):

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",
```

```
"year": 1964  
}
```

```
thisdict.popitem()  
print(thisdict)
```

The del keyword removes the item with the specified key name:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
del thisdict["model"]  
print(thisdict)
```

The clear() method empties the dictionary:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
thisdict.clear()  
print(thisdict)
```

Loop Through a Dictionary

Print all key names in the dictionary, one by one:

```
thisdict = {
```



```
"brand": "Ford",  
"model": "Mustang",  
"year": 1964  
}  
for x in thisdict:  
    print(x)
```

Print all values in the dictionary, one by one:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
for x in thisdict:  
    print(thisdict[x])
```

You can also use the values() method to return values of a dictionary:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
for x in thisdict.values():  
    print(x)
```

you can use the keys() method to return the keys of a dictionary:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",
```

```
"model": "Mustang",  
"year": 1964  
}  
for x in thisdict.keys():  
    print(x)
```

Loop through both keys and values, by using the items() method:

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
for x, y in thisdict.items():  
    print(x, y)
```

There are ways to make a copy, one way is to use the built-in Dictionary method `copy()`.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",  
    "model": "Mustang",  
    "year": 1964  
}  
mydict = thisdict.copy()  
print(mydict)
```

Another way to make a copy is to use the built-in function `dict()`.

```
thisdict = {  
    "brand": "Ford",
```

```
"model": "Mustang",  
"year": 1964  
}  
mydict = dict(thisdict)  
print(mydict)
```

Nested Dictionaries

A dictionary can contain dictionaries, this is called nested dictionaries.

```
myfamily = {  
    "child1" : {  
        "name" : "Emil",  
        "year" : 2004  
    },  
    "child2" : {  
        "name" : "Tobias",  
        "year" : 2007  
    },  
    "child3" : {  
        "name" : "Linus",  
        "year" : 2011  
    }  
}  
print(myfamily)
```

Access Items in Nested Dictionaries

To access items from a nested dictionary, you use the name of the dictionaries, starting with the outer dictionary:

```
myfamily = {  
    "child1" : {  
        "name" : "Emil",  
        "year" : 2004  
    },  
    "child2" : {  
        "name" : "Tobias",  
        "year" : 2007  
    },  
    "child3" : {  
        "name" : "Linus",  
        "year" : 2011  
    }  
}  
  
print(myfamily["child2"]["name"])
```

Loop Through Nested Dictionaries

You can loop through a dictionary by using the items() method like this:

```
myfamily = {  
    "child1" : {  
        "name" : "Emil",  
        "year" : 2004  
    },  
    "child2" : {
```

```
"name" : "Tobias",  
"year" : 2007  
,  
"child3" : {  
    "name" : "Linus",  
    "year" : 2011  
}  
}
```

```
for x, items in myfamily.items():
```

```
    print(x)
```

```
for y in items:
```

```
    print(y + ': ', items[y])
```