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dictionary = {}           # instantiate dictionary (to hold all words)

# assume we are reading line-by-line of a text file

for line in INPUT:

    # "chomp" line -> remove endlines
    line = line.rstrip()

    # format line -> remove other unwanted characters

    line = formatLine(line)
    # (this function actually does these two lines)
    #      puncList = re.compile('[^A-Za-z0-9&#;#]')
    #      line = puncList.sub(' ', line)

    # ----- SPLIT line into LIST of individual words
    listOfWords = line.split()

    # ----- FOREACH word (one at a time) -----
    for word in listOfWords:

        if word in dictionary:
            # increment that word's count
            dictionary[word] = dictionary[word] + 1

        else: # first time we've seen this word
            dictionary[word] = 1

    # ----- END FOREACH word in this line

# ----- END foreach LINE in this file

```