

Dealing with Hands

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****Please read this problem entirely!!**** The majority of this problem consists of learning how to read code, which is an incredibly useful and important skill. At the end, you will implement a short function. Be sure to take your time on this problem - it may seem easy, but reading someone else's code can be challenging and this is an important exercise.

Representing hands

A **hand** is the set of letters held by a player during the game. The player is initially dealt a set of random letters. For example, the player could start out with the following hand: **a, q, l, m, u, i, l**. In our program, a hand will be represented as a dictionary: the keys are (lowercase) letters and the values are the number of times the particular letter is repeated in that hand. For example, the above hand would be represented as:

```
hand = {'a':1, 'q':1, 'l':2, 'm':1, 'u':1, 'i':1}
```

Notice how the repeated letter 'l' is represented. Remember that with a dictionary, the usual way to access a value is `hand['a']`, where 'a' is the key we want to find. However, this only works if the key is in the dictionary; otherwise, we get a `KeyError`. To avoid this, we can use the call `hand.get('a', 0)`. This is the "safe" way to access a value if we are not sure the key is in the dictionary. `d.get(key, default)` returns the value for `key` if `key` is in the dictionary `d`, else `default`. If `default` is not given, it returns `None`, so that this method never raises a `KeyError`. For example:

```
>>> hand['e']
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "<stdin>", line 1, in <module>
KeyError: 'e'
>>> hand.get('e', 0)
0
```

Converting words into dictionary representation

One useful function we've defined for you is `getFrequencyDict`, defined near the top of `ps4a.py`. When given a string of letters as an input, it returns a dictionary where the keys are letters and the values are the number of times that letter is represented in the input string. For example:

```
>>> getFrequencyDict("hello")
{'h': 1, 'e': 1, 'l': 2, 'o': 1}
```

As you can see, this is the same kind of dictionary we use to represent hands.

Displaying a hand

Given a hand represented as a dictionary, we want to display it in a user-friendly way. We have provided the implementation for this in the `displayHand` function. Take a few minutes right now to read through this function carefully and understand what it does and how it works.

Generating a random hand

The hand a player is dealt is a set of letters chosen at random. We provide you with the implementation of a function that generates this random hand, `dealHand`. The function takes as input a positive integer `n`, and returns a new object, a hand containing `n` lowercase letters. Again, take a few minutes (right now!) to read through this function carefully and understand what it does and how it works.

Removing letters from a hand (you implement this)

The player starts with a hand, a set of letters. As the player spells out words, letters from this set are used up. For example, the player could start out with the following hand: `a, q, l, m, u, i, l`. The player could choose to spell the word `quail`. This would leave the following letters in the player's hand: `l, m`. Your task is to implement the function `updateHand`, which takes in two inputs - a hand and a word (string). `updateHand` uses letters from the hand to spell the word, and then returns a copy of the hand, containing only the letters remaining. For example:

```
>>> hand = {'a':1, 'q':1, 'l':2, 'm':1, 'u':1, 'i':1}
>>> displayHand(hand) # Implemented for you
a q l l m u i
>>> hand = updateHand(hand, 'quail') # You implement this function!
>>> hand
{'a':0, 'q':0, 'l':1, 'm':1, 'u':0, 'i':0}
>>> displayHand(hand)
l m
```

Implement the `updateHand` function. Make sure this function has no side effects: i.e., it must not mutate the hand passed in. Before pasting your function definition here, be sure you've passed the appropriate tests in `test_ps4a.py`.

Hints

Testing

Testing: Make sure the `test_updateHand()` tests pass. You will also want to test your implementation of `updateHand` with some reasonable inputs.

Copying Dictionaries

You may wish to review the `".copy"` method of Python dictionaries (review this and other Python dictionary methods [here](#)).

Your implementation of `updateHand` should be short (ours is 4 lines of code). It does not need to call any helper functions.

Canopy specific instructions: If you modify code in `ps4a.py` go to

Run -> Restart Kernel (or hit the CTRL with the dot on your keyboard)

before running `test_ps4a.py`. **You have to do this every time you modify the file `ps4a.py` and want to run the file `test_ps4a.py`**, otherwise changes to the former will not be incorporated in the latter.

Test 1

Function call: `updateHand({'a': 1, 'i': 1, 'm': 1, 'l': 2, 'q': 1, 'u': 1}, quail)`

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'q': 0, 'u': 0, 'i': 0, 'm': 1, 'l': 1}
```

Test 2

Function call: `updateHand({'a': 2, 'c': 2, 'l': 2, 'p': 3, 'r': 2, 't': 2}, claptrap)`

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'p': 1, 'c': 1, 'r': 1, 't': 1, 'l': 1}
```

Test 3

Function call: `updateHand({'g': 1, 'd': 1, 'o': 1}, dog)`

Output:

```
{'o': 0, 'd': 0, 'g': 0}
```

Test 4

Re-testing last test to see if you mutate the original hand

Output:

```
{'o': 0, 'd': 0, 'g': 0}
```

Test 4

Function call: `updateHand({'q': 3, 'i': 3, 'r': 3, 'e': 3, 't': 3, 'w': 3, 'p': 3, 'y': 3, 'u': 3, 'o': 3}, typewriter)`

Output:

```
{'e': 1, 'i': 2, 'o': 3, 'q': 3, 'p': 2, 'r': 1, 'u': 3, 't': 1, 'w': 2, 'y': 2}
```

Random Test 1

Function call: `updateHand({'a': 1, 'c': 1, 'd': 1, 'g': 1, 'k': 2, 'p': 2, 'u': 1}, duck)`

Output:

```
{'a': 1, 'p': 2, 'c': 0, 'u': 0, 'd': 0, 'g': 1, 'k': 1}
```

Random Test 2

Re-testing last test to see if you mutate the original hand

Output:

```
{'a': 1, 'p': 2, 'c': 0, 'u': 0, 'd': 0, 'g': 1, 'k': 1}
```

Random Test 3

Function call: updateHand({'a': 1, 'd': 1, 'i': 1, 'k': 2, 'o': 1, 'n': 2, 'w': 1, 'y': 1, 'x': 1}, daikon)

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'd': 0, 'i': 0, 'k': 1, 'o': 0, 'n': 1, 'w': 1, 'y': 1, 'x': 1}
```

Random Test 4

Re-testing last test to see if you mutate the original hand

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'd': 0, 'i': 0, 'k': 1, 'o': 0, 'n': 1, 'w': 1, 'y': 1, 'x': 1}
```

Random Test 5

Function call: updateHand({'a': 1, 'b': 1, 'i': 1, 'h': 1, 'o': 1, 'q': 1, 'r': 1, 'v': 1, 'z': 1}, boar)

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'b': 0, 'i': 1, 'h': 1, 'o': 0, 'q': 1, 'r': 0, 'v': 1, 'z': 1}
```

Random Test 6

Re-testing last test to see if you mutate the original hand

Output:

```
{'a': 0, 'b': 0, 'i': 1, 'h': 1, 'o': 0, 'q': 1, 'r': 0, 'v': 1, 'z': 1}
```

Random Test 7

Function call: updateHand({'a': 2, 'e': 2, 'h': 2, 'o': 1, 's': 1, 'r': 1}, shoe)

Output:

```
{'a': 2, 's': 0, 'r': 1, 'e': 1, 'h': 1, 'o': 0}
```

Random Test 8

Re-testing last test to see if you mutate the original hand

Output:

```
{'a': 2, 's': 0, 'r': 1, 'e': 1, 'h': 1, 'o': 0}
```