Hi Karen and Abdul, we have an answer on our [FAQ page](http://www.dukelearntoprogram.com/course3/faq.php) about this. In a little more detail, the typical thing to do with this type of problem (where you have an arraylist as the value for each key and want to update the arraylist as you iterate over something) is (this code would go inside the loop):

if (!myMap.containsKey(key)){

ArrayList<String> value = new ArrayList<String>();

value.add(thingToAdd);

myMap.put(key, value);

}

else {

ArrayList<String> value = myMap.get(key);

value.add(thingToAdd);

myMap.put(word, value);

}

So what this does is it checks if the map already contains the key. If it doesn't, it creates an arraylist to be the value, adds the thing you want to add to the arraylist, and then puts the key and the value in the map.

Otherwise, if it does already contain the key, it gets the current value (the arraylist which will have some things in), adds the thing you want to add to the arraylist, and then puts the key and the updated value in the map. Each key in the hashmap will only occur once - this doesn't add another key, it updates the existing value. Each key in the hashmap will still be unique.

Note that I used the variable names key and value for the HashMap keys and values and the variable name thingToAdd for whatever you are adding to the arraylist. You might want to use something more descriptive, such as 'word', 'files', 'filename', or whatever makes sense depending on what problem you are working on.

Also note that you can add more code depending on what you want to do. For example, if you didn't want the arraylist values to contain duplicates, you could add an if statement to only add thingToAdd to values if values doesn't already contain thingToAdd.

I hope that helps, feel free to ask more questions if anything is unclear!