Python - Dictionary

Each key is separated from its value by a colon (:), the items are separated by commas, and the whole thing is enclosed in curly braces. An empty dictionary without any items is written with just two curly braces, like this: {}.

Keys are unique within a dictionary while values may not be. The values of a dictionary can be of any type, but the keys must be of an immutable data type such as strings, numbers, or tuples.

## Properties of Dictionary Keys

Dictionary values have no restrictions. They can be any arbitrary Python object, either standard objects or user-defined objects. However, same is not true for the keys.

There are two important points to remember about dictionary keys −

1. More than one entry per key not allowed. Which means no duplicate key is allowed. When duplicate keys encountered during assignment, the last assignment wins. For example –

dict = {'Name': 'Harry', 'Age': 7, 'Name': 'Manni'}

print "dict['Name']: ", dict['Name']

## Built-in Dictionary Functions & Methods

Python includes the following dictionary functions −

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| **Sr.No.** | **Function with Description** |
| 1 | [**cmp(dict1, dict2)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_cmp.htm)  Compares elements of both dict. |
| 2 | [**len(dict)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_len.htm)  Gives the total length of the dictionary. This would be equal to the number of items in the dictionary. |
| 3 | [**str(dict)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_str.htm)  Produces a printable string representation of a dictionary |
| 4 | [**type(variable)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_type.htm)  Returns the type of the passed variable. If passed variable is dictionary, then it would return a dictionary type. |

Python includes following dictionary methods −

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Sr.No.** | **Methods with Description** |
| 1 | [**dict.clear()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_clear.htm)  Removes all elements of dictionary *dict* |
| 2 | [**dict.copy()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_copy.htm)  Returns a shallow copy of dictionary *dict* |
| 3 | [**dict.fromkeys()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_fromkeys.htm)  Create a new dictionary with keys from seq and values *set* to *value*. |
| 4 | [**dict.get(key, default=None)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_get.htm)  For *key* key, returns value or default if key not in dictionary |
| 5 | [**dict.has\_key(key)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_has_key.htm)  Returns *true* if key in dictionary *dict*, *false* otherwise |
| 6 | [**dict.items()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_items.htm)  Returns a list of *dict*'s (key, value) tuple pairs |
| 7 | [**dict.keys()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_keys.htm)  Returns list of dictionary dict's keys |
| 8 | [**dict.setdefault(key, default=None)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_setdefault.htm)  Similar to get(), but will set dict[key]=default if *key* is not already in dict |
| 9 | [**dict.update(dict2)**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_update.htm)  Adds dictionary *dict2*'s key-values pairs to *dict* |
| 10 | [**dict.values()**](https://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/dictionary_values.htm)  Returns list of dictionary *dict*'s values |