

## 09. More data structures

October 1, 2025

### 1 9. More data structures

#### 1.1 9.1. Dictionaries (type dict)

A dictionary is a data structure used to store collections of data in the form of key-value pairs. Each element in a dictionary is represented as a key-value pair. The key is used to uniquely identify the value associated with it. Keys are typically immutable data types like strings, numbers, or tuples (containing only immutable elements). Values can be of any data type, including lists, tuples, dictionaries, or even other objects.

##### 1.1.1 9.1.1 Creating dictionaries

**The empty dictionary** Using a pair of curly braces:

```
[1]: my_dict = {}  
     type(my_dict)
```

```
[1]: dict
```

Also, calling the `dict` constructor without parameters will create an empty dictionary:

```
[2]: my_other_dict = dict()  
     my_other_dict == my_dict
```

```
[2]: True
```

**Enumerating elements between curly braces** Keys and values will be separated by a colon:

```
[3]: my_dict = {"name": "John", "age": 30, "city": "New York"}
```

##### 1.1.2 9.1.2 Manipulating dictionaries

**Getting an item from a dictionary** Items in a dictionary can be retrieved by key:

```
[4]: my_dict["name"]
```

```
[4]: 'John'
```

**Updating an item from a dictionary** In order to update an item, assign a value for a certain key:

```
[5]: my_dict["name"] = "Mike"
my_dict
```

```
[5]: {'name': 'Mike', 'age': 30, 'city': 'New York'}
```

**Adding an item to a dictionary** The same syntax we used for updating will add a new value to the dictionary, if the key doesn't exist:

```
[6]: my_dict["is_student"] = False
my_dict
```

```
[6]: {'name': 'Mike', 'age': 30, 'city': 'New York', 'is_student': False}
```

**Deleting an item from a dictionary** Items can be deleted by key, using the keyword `del`:

```
[7]: del my_dict["is_student"]
my_dict
```

```
[7]: {'name': 'Mike', 'age': 30, 'city': 'New York'}
```

**Membership testing (in and not in operators)** `in` and `not in` operators are used to check whether a key is in the dictionary or not:

```
[8]: "age" in my_dict
```

```
[8]: True
```

**Getting the length of a dictionary** Dictionaries are collections of items, so they have a length. Use `len` built-in to retrieve it.

```
[9]: len(my_dict)
```

```
[9]: 3
```

### 1.1.3 Exercises 9.1.1

1. Create a dictionary called `person` that contains the following key-value pairs: `python`  
`"name": "Jane"      "age": 32      "occupation": "teacher"      "hobbies":`  
`["reading", "hiking"]`
  - print the value for key `age`
  - update the value for key `age` to 52
  - add a new item to the dictionary with key `"friends"` and value `["Anna", "Grace", "Mike"]`
  - add `"cooking"` to the hobbies list
  - print the dictionary and its length

#### 1.1.4 9.1.2 Dictionary methods

**d.get(key[, default])** Return the value for **key** if **key** is in the dictionary, else **default**. If **default** is not given, it defaults to **None**, so that this method never raises a **KeyError**.

```
[10]: my_dict.get("occupation", "N/A")
```

```
[10]: 'N/A'
```

**d.pop(key[, default])** If **key** is in the dictionary, remove it and return its value, else return **default**. If **default** is not given and **key** is not in the dictionary, a **KeyError** is raised.

```
[11]: city = my_dict.pop("city")
```

```
[12]: city
```

```
[12]: 'New York'
```

```
[13]: my_dict
```

```
[13]: {'name': 'Mike', 'age': 30}
```

**d.update(other)** Update **d** using items in **other**, overwriting existing keys. **update()** accepts either another dictionary object or an iterable of key/value pairs (as tuples or other iterables of length two).

```
[14]: my_dict.update({"age": 20, "occupation": "student"})
```

```
[15]: my_dict
```

```
[15]: {'name': 'Mike', 'age': 20, 'occupation': 'student'}
```

**d.items()** Returns items in dictionary, as (**key**, **value**) tuples. Used for iterating on the dictionary:

```
[16]: for key, value in my_dict.items():  
      print(key, value)
```

```
name Mike  
age 20  
occupation student
```

**d.keys()** Returns keys in dictionary; used for iterating on the dictionary, when only keys are needed:

```
[17]: for key in my_dict.keys():  
      print(key)
```

name  
age  
occupation

**d.values()** Returns values in dictionary; used for iterating on the dictionary, when only values are needed:

```
[18]: for value in my_dict.values():  
       print(value)
```

Mike  
20  
student

### 1.1.5 Exercises 9.1.2

1. Using the **person** dictionary above:
  1. Remove key **occupation** and save its value in a variable; print the variable.
  2. Try getting value key **height** (or **None**, if key does not exist) from the dictionary and store it in a variable; print the variable.
  3. Update the dictionary with the following dictionary:  
`measurements = {"weight": 75, "height": 1.78, "name": "John"}`
  4. Iterate on the dictionary to print its keys and values.
2. Given a list of strings build a dictionary that has each unique string as a key and the number of appearances as a value. E.g. ['hello', 'hello', 'is', 'there', 'anybody', 'in', 'there'] -> {'hello': 2, 'is': 1, 'there': 2, 'anybody': 1, 'in': 1}

## 1.2 9.2 Sets (type set)

Sets are unordered collections of unique elements.

They can be constructed using their type constructors: \* Empty set: **set()**, **frozenset()** \* From an iterable: **set(iterable)**, **frozenset(iterable)** \* Using curly brackets, separating items with commas: {a, b, c}

```
[19]: s1 = set()  
      s2 = set(range(6))  
      s3 = set([1, 3, 5])  
      s4 = {4, 5, 6, 7, 8}
```

Instances of **set**:

**len(s)** Return the number of elements in set **s**.

```
[20]: len(s2)
```

```
[20]: 6
```

### Membership tests

`x in s` Test `x` for membership in `s`.

`x not in s` Test `x` for non-membership in `s`.

```
[21]: 3 in s2
```

```
[21]: True
```

```
[22]: 0 not in s1
```

```
[22]: True
```

`s.isdisjoint(other)` Return `True` if the `s` has no elements in common with `other`. Sets are disjoint if and only if their intersection is the empty set.

```
[23]: s1.isdisjoint(s2)
```

```
[23]: True
```

`s.issubset(other)`

`s <= other` Test whether every element in `s` is in `other`.

`s < other` Test whether `s` is a proper subset of `other`, that is, `s <= other` and `s != other`.

```
[24]: s2 <= s3
```

```
[24]: False
```

```
[25]: s1 < s2
```

```
[25]: True
```

`s.issuperset(other)`

`s >= other` Test whether every element in `other` is in `s`.

`s > other` Test whether `s` is a proper superset of `other`, that is, `s >= other` and `s != other`.

```
[26]: s4.issuperset(s2)
```

```
[26]: False
```

```
[27]: s2 > s3
```

```
[27]: True
```

`s.union(other)`

**s | other** Return a new set with elements from **s** and **other**.

```
[28]: s2.union(s3)
```

```
[28]: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5}
```

```
[29]: s3 | s4
```

```
[29]: {1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}
```

**s.intersection(other)**

**s & other** Return a new set with elements common to **s** and **other**.

```
[30]: s2 & s3
```

```
[30]: {1, 3, 5}
```

**s.difference(other)**

**s - other** Return a new set with elements in **s** that are not **other**.

```
[31]: s2.difference(s3)
```

```
[31]: {0, 2, 4}
```

**s.symmetric\_difference(other)**

**s ^ other**

```
[32]: s3 ^ s4
```

```
[32]: {1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8}
```

There are also some operations available for **set** that do not apply to immutable instances of **frozenset**:

**s.update(other)**

**s |= other** Update **s**, adding elements from **other**.

```
[33]: s1.update(s2)
s1
```

```
[33]: {0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5}
```

**s.intersection\_update(other)**

**s &= other** Update **s**, keeping only elements found in it and **other**.

```
[34]: s1 &= s3  
s1
```

```
[34]: {1, 3, 5}
```

`s.difference_update(other)`

`s -= other` Update `s`, removing elements found in `other`.

```
[35]: s1.difference_update(s4)  
s1
```

```
[35]: {1, 3}
```

`s.symmetric_difference_update(other)`

`s ^= other` Update `s`, keeping only elements found in either set, but not in both.

```
[36]: s1 ^= s4  
s1
```

```
[36]: {1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8}
```

`s.add(elem)` Add element `elem` to the set.

```
[37]: s1.add(9)  
s1
```

```
[37]: {1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}
```

`s.remove(elem)` Remove element `elem` from the set. Raises `KeyError` if `elem` is not contained in the set.

```
[38]: s1.remove(8)  
s1
```

```
[38]: {1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9}
```

`s.discard(elem)` Remove element `elem` from the set if it is present.

```
[39]: s1.discard(10)  
s1
```

```
[39]: {1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9}
```

`s.pop()` Remove and return an arbitrary element from the set. Raises `KeyError` if the set is empty.

```
[40]: s1.pop()
```

```
[40]: 1
```

**s.clear()** Remove all elements from the set.

```
[41]: s1.clear()  
s1
```

```
[41]: set()
```

### 1.3 Exercises 9.2

1. Create a set called **visited\_cities** that contains the names of five cities you have visited in the past. Create a second set called **bucket\_list** that contains the names of three cities you want absolutely want to visit.
  - Create the set **bucket\_list\_completed** which contains cities that are in both **visited\_cities** and **bucket\_list** (intersection).
  - Create the set **all\_cities** which contains cities that are in either **visited\_cities** or **bucket\_list** (union).
  - Create the set **must\_visit** which contains cities that are in **bucket\_list**, but not in **visited\_cities** (difference).
2. Write a Python program that counts the number of distinct words from a string. A word=a sequence of characters that is not whitespace (space, newline, tab).

E.g.     python   my\_str = """beautiful is better than ugly   explicit is better  
than implicit   simple is better than complex   complex is better than  
complicated   flat is better than nested   sparse is better than dense"""   #  
Should print: 14 distinct words