Key-Value Pairs

- The last built-in type: dictionary (or dict)
  - One of the most important in all of Python
  - Like a list, but built of key-value pairs
- **Keys:** Unique identifiers
  - Think social security number
  - At Cornell we have netids: jrs1
- **Values:** Non-unique Python values
  - John Smith (class '13) is jrs1
  - John Smith (class '16) is jrs2

**Idea:** Lookup values by keys

1

Basic Syntax

- Create with format: {k1:v1, k2:v2, ...}
  - Both keys and values must exist
  - **Ex:** d={'jrs1':'John','jrs2':'John','wmw2':'Walker'}
- **Keys** must be **non-mutable**
  - ints, floats, bools, strings, tuples
  - **Not** lists or custom objects
  - Changing a key's contents hurts lookup
- **Values** can be **anything**

2

Using Dictionaries (Type dict)

d = {'js1':'John','js2':'John', 'wmw2':'Walker'}

- Access elts. like a list
  - d['jrs1'] evals to 'John'
  - d['jrs2'] does too
  - d['wmw2'] evals to 'Walker'
  - d['abc1'] is an error
- Can test if a key exists
  - 'jrs1' in d evals to True
  - 'abc1' in d evals to False
- But cannot slice ranges!
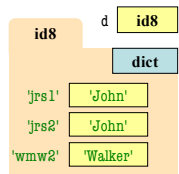
Key-Value order in folder is not important

3

Dictionaries Can be Modified

d = {'jrs1':'John','jrs2':'John', 'wmw2':'Walker'}

- Can reassign values
  - d['jrs1'] = 'Jane'
  - Very similar to lists
- Can add new keys
  - d['aaa1'] = 'Allen'
  - Do not think of order
- Can delete keys
  - del d['wmw2']
  - Deletes both key, value
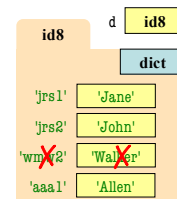
4

Dictionaries: Iterable, but not Sliceable

- Can loop over a dict
  - Only gives you the keys
  - Use key to access value

```
for k in d:
    # Loops over keys
    print(k)       # key
    print(d[k])    # value
```

- Can iterate over values
  - **Method:** d.values()
  - But no way to get key
  - Values are not unique

```
# To loop over values only
for v in d.values():
    print(v)       # value
```

5

Dictionary Loop with Accumulator

```
def max_grade(grades):
    """Returns max grade in the grade dictionary

    Precondition: grades has netids as keys, ints as values"""
    maximum = 0            # Accumulator
    # Loop over keys
    for k in grades:
        if grades[k] > maximum:
            maximum = grades[k]

    return maximum
```

6

Dictionaries and Mutable Functions

- Restrictions are different than list
  - Okay to loop over dictionary to change
  - You are looping over *keys*, not *values*
  - Like looping over positions
- But you **may not add or remove** keys!
  - Any attempt to do this will fail
  - Have to create a key list if you want this

7

But This is Okay

```python
def add_bonus(grades,bonus):
    """Gives bonus points to everyone in grades

    Precondition: grades has netids as keys, ints as values.
    bonus is an int."""
    # No accumulator.  This is a procedure

    for student in grades:
        # Modifies the dictionary, but does not change keys
        grades[student] = grades[student]+bonus
```
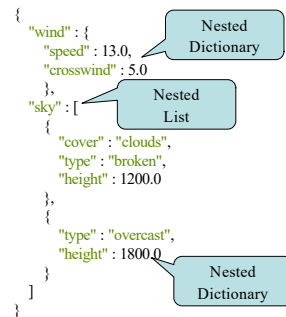
8

Nesting Dictionaries

- Remember, values can be anything
  - Only restrictions are on the keys
- Values can be lists (**Visualizer**)
  - d = {'a':[1,2], 'b':[3,4]}
- Values can be other dicts (**Visualizer**)
  - d = {'a':{'c':1,'d':2}, 'b':{'e':3,'f':4}}
- Access rules similar to nested lists
  - **Example:** d['a']['d'] = 10

9

Example: JSON File

```
{
  "wind" : {              Nested
    "speed" : 13.0,       Dictionary
    "crosswind" : 5.0
  },
  "sky" : [               Nested
    {                     List
      "cover" : "clouds",
      "type" : "broken",
      "height" : 1200.0
    },
    {
      "type" : "overcast",
      "height" : 1800.0
    }                     Nested
  ]                       Dictionary
}
```

- **JSON:** File w/ Python dict
  - Actually, minor differences
- weather.json:
  - Weather measurements at Ithaca Airport (2017)
  - **Keys**: Times (Each hour)
  - **Values**: Weather readings
- This is a *nested* JSON
  - Values are also dictionaries
  - Containing more dictionaries
  - And also containing lists

10

Dictionaries and Recursion

- Dictionaries are **not sliceable**
  - Makes it difficult to do divide and conquer
  - So rare to be used in recursion by itself
  - Often the *answer* to a recursion, not the *input*
- However, the **key list** is sliceable
  - Can recurse on key list, not the dict
  - This requires a helper function
  - Helper is recursive, not the main function

11

The Recursive Version

```python
def max_grade_helper(netids,grades):
    """Returns max grade among given netids

    Precond: netids a list of keys in grades, grades a dict w/ int values"""
    # Process small data
    if len(netids) <= 1:
        return grades[netids[0]] if len(netids) == 1 else 0

    # Break it up into left and right
    left  = grades[netids[0]]
    right = max_grade_helper(netids[1:],grades)

    # Combine the answers
    return max(left,right)
```

12