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# Pairs Language-Independent Type for YAML™ Version 1.1

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## Status

This specification is a draft reflecting consensus reached by members of the yaml-core mailing list [<http://lists.sourceforge.net/lists/listinfo/yaml-core>]. Any questions regarding this draft should be raised on this list.

URI: **tag:yaml.org,2002:pairs**

Shorthand: **!!pairs**

Kind: Sequence.

Definition: Ordered sequence of key:value pairs allowing duplicates.

A common type used for modeling is the ordered list of named values, allowing duplicates. For example, this is one of the basic constructs used to model XML data. YAML provides a shorthand notation for representing this data type as a sequence of one-key mappings.

Most programming languages do not have a built-in native data type for supporting pairs. Such data types are usually provided by libraries. If no such data type is available, an application may resort to loading **!!pairs** into a native array of hash tables containing one key each.

The **!!pairs** tag may be given explicitly. Alternatively, the application may choose to implicitly type a sequence of single-key mappings to pairs. In this case, an explicit **!!seq** transfer must be given to sequences of single-key mappings that do not represent pairs.

## Example 1. **!!pairs** Examples

```
# Explicitly typed pairs.
Block tasks: !!pairs
- meeting: with team.
- meeting: with boss.
- break: lunch.
- meeting: with client.
Flow tasks: !!pairs [ meeting: with team, meeting: with boss ]
```