

Dictionary explorer

Trainer's notes

Aims	To familiarise trainees with glossary terms related to lexis and dictionary entries To provide practice in using a dictionary to find out information about language
Syllabus area	Using reference resources for lesson materials
Timetable fit	For use in an input session on dictionaries and reference resources
Interaction pattern	Individual or pair work
Timing	45 minutes
Materials needed	One copy of the quiz (2.6A) for each trainee Range of Advanced Learner's Dictionaries* Internet access to online dictionaries, if available

* Sample entries seen in the TKT sample tests to date resemble entries in: Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary and Cambridge Dictionaries Online: www.dictionary.cambridge.org

The TKT exam often contains a sample dictionary entry for one headword which candidates have to show they can decipher. This activity allows trainees to test their dictionary skills and become familiar with the different entries and the glossary terms likely to be tested.

Instructions

1. Explain that you are going to do a quiz which is quite difficult and that you do not expect the trainees to know all the answers. Explain that the purpose of the quiz is not to test trainees' language knowledge. It is an informal diagnostic assessment to help trainees focus on their familiarity with dictionary entries and how to use them.
2. Hand out one copy of the quiz to each trainee and allow them just five minutes to read it quickly and predict the answers. They can also predict their own score out of fifteen if this quiz were to be graded now.
3. Explain that trainees are allowed to do a little more research before the quiz is graded. Write the question numbers 1–15 on the board. Ask trainees which question numbers they feel most confident about and erase between three and five of these. Of the remaining question numbers, have trainees volunteer to check the answer to one of the questions from the quiz in the dictionary (several people can check the same question).
4. Hand out the dictionaries and allow time and guidance to find the correct answers. This may involve the trainees looking up the three headwords in different dictionaries, conferring and asking for help with dictionary symbols and abbreviations. Early finishers may select another question number to research. Monitor, model and feed in.
5. Mark the quiz as a whole group. Have trainees feed in and explain as much as possible from their dictionary discoveries.

Answer key

1. Yes. All entries show stress marked on the second syllable.
comPARE conTRAST reVISE
2. No. *Suggest* and *provide* are similar in that they both can be followed by *that*, but *aim* has a completely different verb pattern.
Look for the bolded words inside square brackets in the verb entry.
[+ to INFINITIVE] [-ing VERB] [+ that]
3. No. This is how the words are pronounced:
idle /aɪdl/ idol /aɪd*l/ idyl /ɪd*l/
Look for the phonemic script to the right of each headword.
4. No. No entry can be found for 'impossible', as the prefix IM- would be used to make this antonym. Look for headword with the prefix already attached.
5. No. *Cordially* is used formally, while *gobsmacked* and *yummy* are informal.
Look for the word FORMAL or INFORMAL after the part of speech for each entry.
6. Yes. The -f changes to -ves in each case. Look for the word *plural* in brackets after the part of speech, or the example sentences using the word in plural form for this information.
7. No. You *come to a full stop*, *come up to scratch*, but *go out on a limb*.
Look for ► *Idiom* after the noun's headword entry and the verb in bold in the example sentences given.
8. No. You can *sort out* and *hold out* but not ~~*dream out*~~. You *dream up* or *hold up* but not ~~*sort up*~~.
Look for ► *phrasal verb* directly under the headword entry.
9. They are all plural nouns.
10. No. *Internet* is mentioned in the definitions for *blog* and *browse*, and COMPUTING is given as a guideword for *browse*, but there is no such connection for *blink*.
11. No. It's a *pack of wolves* but a *flock of sheep* / *seagulls*.
Look for the example sentence in italics after each headword.
Also look up *collective noun* for a definition of this term.
12. No. Although all are informal, *bud* is US English while *bloke* and *geezer* are British.
Look for the words US SLANG or UK INFORMAL after the part of speech.
13. No. *Dr* and *Mr* are given as abbreviations but *Sir* cannot be shortened.
Look for the words WRITTEN ABBREVIATION.
14. Yes. *Wireless* is an old-fashioned word for radio, but is now more commonly used to describe electronic devices without cables.
Confinement is an old-fashioned word for the late stages of pregnancy, but is now more widely used as a synonym of *imprisonment*.
Capital is an old-fashioned word for *excellent*, but is now more frequently heard to describe the main city of a country, or a large amount of money with which to start a business.
15. No. *Hop*, *laugh* and *tickle* are intransitive (having or needing no object as in *My nose started tickling horribly*), but *tickle* is also transitive (having or needing an object as in *You're tickling me!*).
Look for the symbol [I], [T] or [I or T] after the guideword.

NB These answers are based on *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, third edition.

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- Is the same syllable stressed in all of these verbs?
compare contrast revise
- Are all of these words followed by the same verb pattern?
aim suggest provide
- Do all these words have the same phonemic script in British English?
idle idol idyll
- Does the prefix IN- make the opposite meaning with all of these words?
complete possible formal
- Do all these words have the same register?
cordially gobsmacked yummy
- Is the plural form rule the same for all these nouns?
leaf half elf
- Do all these idioms collocate with *come*?
_____ to a full stop _____ up to scratch _____ out on a limb
- Do all these phrasal verbs have the same particle?
sort _____ hold _____ dream _____
- What do these three nouns all have in common?
pyjamas valuables after effects
- Do all of these verbs belong to the same lexical set?
to blog to browse to blink
- Do these groups share the same collective noun?
wolves seagulls sheep
- Could these words to describe people be regularly heard on the streets of the same country?
bud a nice bloke an old geezer
- Can all these titles be abbreviated to two letters?
Doctor Mister Sir
- Do all these words have an old-fashioned meaning different from current usage?
wireless confinement capital
- Are these verbs all intransitive?
hop laugh tickle

