Can You Use A Dictionary?

Use your dictionary to answer the following questions.

1. On what page is the word kitchen found in your dictionary? ___________________
2. How many syllables does the word horizontal have? _________________________
3. What is the pronunciation (respelling) for the word caribou? ___________________
4. What are the guide words on page 150 of your dictionary? ___________________
   __________________________
5. What is the plural of the word louse? _________________________________
6. On what page do words beginning with D start? ______________________________
7. On what page is the word pinafore? _______ Write a definition for pinafore.
   __________________________
   __________________________
8. How many definitions does the word plain have? _________________________
9. What word comes before planet in your dictionary? _________________________
10. What word comes after mail in your dictionary? ___________________________
11. What part of speech is the word futile? ________________________________
12. Write the first dictionary definition that you find for each of these words:
    bewitch: ___________________________________________________________
           _____________________________________________________________
    harvest: _________________________________________________________
**NAME** ________________________________

**NOVEL**—that’s a long, fictional story, right? Yes. Novel also means “something new or different.” The word is spelled the same, but has two completely different meanings. The dictionary will give you all the different meanings for words like this.

**nov•el**₁ (nôv’ əl), *n.* A long piece of prose writing that tells an invented story.

**nov•el**₂ (nôv’ əl), *adj.* Strikingly new or different.

The dictionary usually puts a little number (₁) next to each new entry.

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**Read the three definitions of the word duck. Then, read the sentences and put the number of the correct definition of duck as it is used in each sentence.**

₁duck (dâk), *n.* Any of various wild or domesticated water birds having a broad flat bill, short neck and legs, and webbed feet.

₂duck (dâk), *v.* To lower quickly.

₃duck (dâk), *n.* A strong cotton or linen cloth that is lighter than canvas.

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____ 1. If you’re too tall, you’d better duck when you go through the door.

____ 2. We went to the park to feed the ducks.

____ 3. My new summer dress is made of duck.

____ 4. The duck ate the bread crumbs.

____ 5. If you duck, you won’t get hit by the ball.

____ 6. I’m going to have duck at the Chinese restaurant.

____ 7. Duck would be good to use for that tent.

____ 8. The boy ducked when the paper airplane soared by.
One word with many meanings can be very confusing. It is easier to know which meaning fits when you see the word in a sentence.

Read the sentences below. Look up the underlined word in your dictionary to find out how it is used in the sentence. Write a short definition of the word on the line.

1. The sheep will need a lot of land for grazing.

2. Joe loves to watch the planes land.

3. If you need the police, call 911.

4. After the picnic, we must police the area.

5. Jane sent the package by express mail.

6. Sometimes, it is difficult to express your feelings.

7. You must take care when crossing the street.

8. I don’t really care for her cooking.

9. Jack has a terrible pain in his head.

10. He is the head cook at the restaurant.
PEAK, PEEK. Both words sound alike, but they are spelled differently, and they have different meanings. These words are called HOMOPHONES.

peak (pēk), n. The pointed top of a mountain.
peek (pēk), v. To look, peer, or glance briefly.

Select one of the homophones in parentheses to complete each sentence. Use your dictionary to help you find the correct word.

1. My voice is ____________________________ from talking too much.  (horse, hoarse)
2. Jack is going to ____________________________ a new car.  (buy, by)
3. Our boat is docked at ____________________________ nine.  (pier, peer)
4. We watched the eagle ____________________________ by.  (soar, sore)
5. The old door makes a loud ____________________________ when it is opened.  (creak, creek)
6. Which ____________________________ are you on?  (team, teem)
7. She looked very ____________________________.  (pale, pail)
8. The queen will ____________________________ for a long time.  (reign, rain)
9. Did it ____________________________ on your house last night?  (hail, hale)
10. I’m going to have to ____________________________ over that idea.  (pore, pour)
11. There’s a big ____________________________ at the store tomorrow.  (sale, sail)
12. Will you ____________________________ the cheese for me?  (great, grate)
13. How much is the bus ____________________________?  (fair, fare)
14. That ____________________________ of hay is for the elephant.  (bale, bail)
15. He delivers the ____________________________ at the same time every day.  (male, mail)
16. It took them six hours to climb that mountain ____________________________.  (peek, peak)
Obstinate—Now that’s a tough word. Do you know what it means? The dictionary sometimes gives synonyms for words in the definitions. A synonym is a word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word. A synonym often makes another word easier to understand.

**Obstinate** (ob’sta-nit), adj. 1. Stubbornly adhering to an attitude or course of action. 2. Difficult to control. *syn* see stubborn, mulish

Use your dictionary to find a synonym for each word below. Write it on the line. Use the synonym in a sentence.

1. hare ______________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

2. simple _____________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

3. lonely _____________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

4. connect ___________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

5. sorrowful _________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

6. roar _______________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

7. courteous _________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

8. renowned _________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

9. conceal ___________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________

10. combat __________________________

    __________________________________________________________________________
COOL. In American slang, we use the term cool to say something is good. “It’s cool that you went to Disneyland!” SLANG WORDS are not really correct English. They are words we use in everyday language. The dictionary will sometimes tell you if a word is a slang expression (slang).


Look up each underlined word in your dictionary and write what it means in the sentence.

1. The little monkey is really kooky.

________________________________________________________________________

2. If I win the lottery, I’ll be loaded.

________________________________________________________________________

3. The man gave Joey a few bucks for shoveling his driveway.

________________________________________________________________________

4. She is going to jazz up her new house.

________________________________________________________________________

5. It is not nice to sock your friend in the eye.

________________________________________________________________________

6. That test was a breeze.

________________________________________________________________________

7. I think I will ace this math quiz.

________________________________________________________________________

8. Paul is lucky; he gets all the breaks.

________________________________________________________________________
S T. is the abbreviation \textit{(abbr.)} for Street, Saint, Statute, and Strait. Often, you will see an abbreviation used instead of a word. For example: Barbara's address is 3648 North Bluebird Ln., Scottsdale, AZ. “Ln." is the abbreviation for \textit{lane} and “AZ” is the abbreviation for \textit{Arizona}.

\textbf{Sr. abbr.} 1. senior 2. señor 3. sister

Use your dictionary to find the meanings of these abbreviations. Write the word or words on the line.

1. hr. \underline{________________________} 8. LF \underline{________________________}
2. DOB \underline{________________________} 9. mph \underline{________________________}
3. Mt. \underline{________________________} 10. Co. \underline{________________________}
4. T \underline{________________________} 11. ant. \underline{________________________}
5. CA \underline{________________________} 12. bu. \underline{________________________}
6. COD \underline{________________________} 13. DJ \underline{________________________}
7. Sept. \underline{________________________} 14. alt. \underline{________________________}

Choose five abbreviations from above. Use each one in a sentence. Underline the abbreviations that you use.

1. \underline{________________________}
2. \underline{________________________}
3. \underline{________________________}
4. \underline{________________________}
5. \underline{________________________}
TASMANIAN DEVIL—that’s a very mean animal. The first letter of its name is capitalized because this animal is named after Tasmania, the country, where it is found. The name of a specific person, place, or thing is considered a PROPER NOUN.

The dictionary, like the encyclopedia, gives you information about some famous people, places, and things. These words are always capitalized in your dictionary.

Use your dictionary to complete each sentence below about the famous person whose name is underlined.

1. John Adams was the __________________________ president of the United States.
2. Clara Barton started the ___________________________ in 1881.
3. Rembrandt was a famous ___________________________.
4. Samuel Morse invented the _____________________________.
5. Robin Hood robbed the __________________ and gave to the __________________.
6. Paul Revere lived from _________________________ to _________________________.
7. Pocahontas was a famous American __________________________.
8. Robert Peary was the first explorer to reach the _____________________________.
9. Annie Oakley was famous for her ____________________________ skills.
10. Marie Antoinette was the queen of ____________________________.
11. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the __________________________ president of the United States.
12. Joan of Arc was thought to be a ____________________________, but she was really a heroine.
Unusual words that describe people and the things they do can be found in the dictionary. While you are probably familiar with most of these types of people, you might not know that there is a word for what they do, or how they act.

Use words from the word box to complete each sentence below.

- **numismatist**
- **envoy**
- **gossip**
- **thespian**
- **philanthropist**
- **epicurean**
- **ensign**
- **skeptic**
- **comrade**

1. A ____________________________ would usually be found working in a theatre.
2. A ____________________________ is someone who collects coins.
3. An ____________________________ might be found on a Navy ship.
4. A ____________________________ would probably not believe you if you told him you had seen a flying saucer.
5. An ____________________________ knows good food when he tastes it.
6. An ____________________________ usually works for the government.
7. Your best friend might be called your ____________________________.
8. A ____________________________ is a caring person who helps his community.
9. A ____________________________ is not a good person with whom to share a secret.

Use your dictionary to help you answer these questions.

1. Would a wrangler do his work in a suit and tie? ____________________________
2. Is a clairvoyant someone who cleans windows? ____________________________
3. Would a musketeer belong to the Mickey Mouse Club? ____________________________
VICUÑA. The dictionary describes a *vicuña* as a “mammal of the Andes mountains of South America, related to the llama.” From that description, would you be able to picture a vicuña in your mind? Probably not. That’s why the dictionary often includes pictures of different animals and objects.

**Read the definitions below. Then, try to draw a picture of the animal or object next to the description. After you have finished your drawing, check your dictionary to see how close you are.**

**bi • son** (bī’sən), *n.* A large mammal of western North America similar to an ox and having a massive head, a shaggy dark-brown mane, and short curved horns.

**hour • glass** (hōr’ glās’), *n.* An instrument for measuring time, consisting of two chambers connected by a narrow neck and containing an amount of sand or other substance that passes from the top chamber to the bottom one in a fixed amount of time, often an hour.

**gnu** (nōō), *n.* Either of two large African antelopes having a beard and mane, a long tufted tail, and curved horns.
What would you do with a goblet? Your dictionary will tell you that a goblet is a drinking glass. So, you would probably drink from a goblet.

Use your dictionary to help you find out what someone would probably do with each of the things listed below. Write your answer on the line.

1. cleaver
2. snood
3. tabard
4. hassock
5. scallion
6. kale
7. cloak
8. anklet
9. amulet
10. chalet
11. gondola
12. coronet

Use each word in a sentence.

1. feline
2. prawn
3. endive
Do you know what a xebec is? There are many new and interesting words to be found in the dictionary. It’s amazing how few words we really know. By using your dictionary, you could learn a new word every day for many years. Think how good you would be at Scrabble!

Read each sentence below. Make a guess as to what each bolded word means. Write down your guess, and then look up the word in your dictionary. If your guess is not correct, write the correct definition.

1. If you own a xebec, should you sail in it or feed it hay?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

2. If you are a younker, are you a child or a person from New York?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

3. If you hit a midge, have you swatted a fly or a small dog?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

4. If you bought a puffin, did you buy a type of bird or a sweet cake?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

5. If you caught a loggerhead, did you catch a big piece of wood or a turtle?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

6. If you bumped your patella, would your head or your kneecap hurt?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition

7. If you have ragout, are you eating stew or do you have an illness?

   Your Guess
   ____________________________
   Dictionary Definition
You do many things in a day. You have many different feelings. There are words to describe how we feel or how we act. And, of course, we probably don’t know what those words are. But, the dictionary will tell us!

Read each sentence below. Make a guess as to what each bolded word means. Write down your guess, and then look up the word in the dictionary. If the definition is different from your guess, write the definition.

1. If you are **crafty**, are you **good at fooling people** or are you **a good artist**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

2. If you **grovel**, are you **on your hands and knees** or are you **complaining**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

3. If you are **frugal**, are you **careful with money** or are you **able to play a musical instrument**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

4. If you **convalesce**, are you **talking with someone** or **getting better after an illness**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

5. If you are an **asset**, are you **someone of value** or a **type of snake**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

6. If you **regale** someone, are you **punching them** or **treating them really well**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition

7. If you are **mystified**, are you **confused** or **in trouble**?
   
   Your Guess
   
   Dictionary Definition
Would you find a zebu in a zoo, an aquarium, or a bird sanctuary? There are many, many types of wildlife that we may have seen, but we may not know what they are called.

Look up the names below in your dictionary. If it is a type of animal, put an “A” on the line. If it is a type of fish, put an “F” on the line. If it is a type of bird, put a “B” on the line.

1. pickerel
2. macaw
3. grebe
4. flounder
5. gibbon
6. coati
7. pike
8. teal
9. snipe
10. vole

Use your dictionary. Write where these birds might be found.

1. emu
2. auk

Use your dictionary. Write a short description of these words.

1. egret
2. dodo
3. dingo
4. dromedary
PAGE 13 1) cranium; the skull 2) inkling; a slight indication or hint 3) marlin; a large ocean fish 4) condone; forgive or overlook 5) docile; easy to handle 6) obvious; easily understood 7) proficient; performing skillfully 8) soggy; saturated with moisture

PAGE 14 1) 2 2) 1 3) 3 4) 1 5) 2 6) 1 7) 3 8) 2

PAGE 15 1) ground or soil 2) to set down on the ground 3) department that maintains order and enforces the law 4) to control or keep in order 5) sent by rapid transportation 6) to put into words 7) caution; avoid harm or danger 8) to have a liking 9) the top part of the body 10) a person who leads

PAGE 16 1) hoarse 2) buy 3) pier 4) soar 5) creak 6) team 7) pale 8) reign 9) hail 10) pore 11) sale 12) grate 13) fare 14) bale 15) mail 16) peak

PAGE 17 1) rabbit 2) easy 3) alone 4) join 5) sad 6) shout 7) polite 8) noted 9) hide 10) oppose (Some of these synonyms may vary.)

PAGE 18 1) crazy 2) very wealthy 3) dollar bills 4) make more lively 5) hit hard 6) easy 7) achieve a grade of A 8) unexpected chance

PAGE 19 1) hour 2) date of birth 3) mount, mountain 4) temperature, Thursday, Tuesday 5) California 6) cash on delivery 7) September 8) left field, low frequency 9) miles per hour 10) company, county 11) antonym 12) bushel 13) disc jockey 14) alternate, altitude

PAGE 20 1) second 2) American Red Cross 3) Dutch painter 4) telegraph 5) rich, poor 6) 1735 to 1818 7) Indian 8) North Pole 9) shooting 10) France 11) 35th 12) witch

PAGE 21 1) thespian 2) numismatist 3) ensign 4) skeptic 5) epicurean 6) envoy 7) comrade 8) philanthropist 9) gossip 1) no 2) no 3) no

PAGE 22 Pictures will vary, but should bear some resemblance to the description given.

PAGE 23 1) cut meat 2) wear it on the head 3) wear it 4) use as a footstool 5) eat it 6) eat it 7) wear it 8) wear it around the ankle 9) wear it around the neck 10) live in it 11) ride in it on water 12) wear it on the head 1-3) Sentences will vary.

PAGE 24 (Answers to the "guess" questions will vary.) 1) sail in it – small ship with three masts 2) a child – a youngster 3) a fly – tiny insect like a gnat 4) bird – a bird with a body like a duck 5) a turtle – a large sea turtle 6) kneecap – a small bone at the front of the knee 7) stew – a meat or fish and vegetable stew

PAGE 25 (Answers to the "guess" questions will vary.) 1) good at fooling people; skillful in deceit 2) on your hands and knees; crawl on the ground 3) careful with money; thrifty 4) getting better after an illness; to get back health and strength 5) someone of value; something of value 6) treating them really well; to entertain or amuse 7) confused; confused or bewildered

PAGE 26 1) F 2) B 3) B 4) F 5) A 6) A 7) F 8) B 9) B 10) A 11) Australia 2) northern seas 1) a wading bird with a long neck, pointed bill, and white feathers 2) a large bird with a hooked bill and short wings 3) a wolf-like, wild dog with a yellowish-brown coat 4) a one-humped camel

PRE/POST-TEST Answers will vary for questions 1, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10. 2) 4 5) lice 7) (page # will vary) a garment without sleeves; like a kind of apron 8) 9 11) adjective 12) bewitch: to cast a spell over harvest: the act of gathering a crop