

Lesson 24

Use of your Dictionary

Aims

The aims of this lesson are to enable you to

- deal with a *medium sized Dictionary*
- link the terms that you have had in the first Module of this Course, with abbreviations as shown in your dictionary

You will have a special table of these terms; e.g. n = noun; v = verb

In the accompanying Activities, you will practise these terms. The Key will give you solutions to the questions

Context

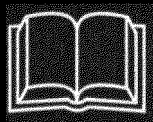
You should never under-estimate the value of a dictionary, no matter how skilled you are in the use of a language. Here we review some of the ways of getting the best out of your dictionary.

Choosing a Dictionary



If you are studying a language, your own or another, a basic necessity is a good dictionary... Not a vast one, that is too much of a good thing, but a medium size dictionary about 600 pages long or less.

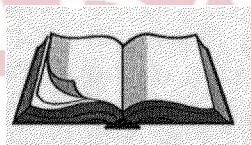
This size of dictionary should remain at home, or at least in one place, it will be too heavy to carry about.



If you want a dictionary you can check through while travelling, the *Oxford Pocket Dictionary*, (Hard back £9.99) is still very useful. But there is also the *Oxford Dictionary of Current English* (Paperback £3.99) which you may find even handier...

These will have the basic words you need for everyday, and will include spellings as well as definitions; it is the spellings of English words that are its true nightmare.

The Thesaurus



And as well as the dictionary you can also get a thesaurus, which is a very useful extra. It will not define or explain words but give you either equivalents or words with opposite meanings. This type of directory can be very useful when you are doing composition or work in a foreign language, if you are searching for the best word to put down with a particular meaning.

The *thesaurus* is somewhat underrated, not being as well known or as commonly used as the dictionary. But it can be a very handy tool for increasing your word power, and will help you avoid boring repetitions when you cannot think by yourself of another word with a similar meaning.

Preparation for using your Dictionary

So once you are equipped with your guide to language, how do you set about using it? In fact, you will be quite used to it by now, having needed to use your dictionary especially when tackling exercises in Vocabulary, Grammar, and Passages for Comprehension...

Back to Grammar

But in order to understand fully your dictionary, you have to know something about the grammar background of language. So if you are still a bit uncertain of this, now is the time to go back to Module One, and have another look at the terms presented there. What for example is: a Noun? an *Intransitive Verb*? Here are some quick definitions; and I suggest if you are still uncertain, you check back to Module One Lessons Two and Three

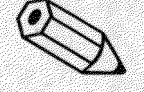
Some Important Terms

<p>Transitive Verb</p>	<p>Verb which has a Direct Object, the Direct Receiver of the Action</p> <p>e.g. In "I catch the ball", the ball is called the Receiver of the Action "catch" and therefore is the Direct Object</p>
<p>Intransitive Verb</p>	<p>This type of Verb has no Direct Object, and so is called Intransitive</p> <p>e.g. In "I went to the pictures" the action of the verb "went" is not passed on anywhere, and therefore the verb is called Intransitive.</p>

Here are some more Terms, with definitions and examples, and after that we will show you how the Dictionary expresses these with its abbreviations (shortened forms of words, the most difficult probably to understand...

TERM	DESCRIPTION	EXAMPLE
<i>Noun</i>	Name	ball
<i>Pronoun</i>	Replaces Noun	it, him, us
<i>Adjective</i>	Describes the Noun	green, big
<i>Verb</i>	"Doing" word, describing action	goes, has, is, talks
<i>Adverb</i>	Modifies verb adjective or another adverb	come here she is very tall he speaks too quickly
<i>Conjunction</i>	Links nouns ,	trains and

	adjectives	buses
	clauses (groups of words which include a Verb)	tall and strong they came but did not see us. the sun shone, although it was raining
<i>Preposition</i>		
	Locates, or positions the Noun	under the table after the meal
<i>Interjection</i>		gosh! dash!
	Exclamation, usually with an "Exclamation mark!"	

Activity 1	Now we come to Identification: here are some words with the Terms added: you must make up sentences showing how these words are used: there are some examples in the Key but it can only be used as a Guide:
	a) go: Verb b) before (Conjunction) c) there (Adverb) d) in (Preposition) e) us (Pronoun)

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