



# USING THE DICTIONARY



**Why do  
we have  
to use a  
dictionary?**

The ability to “read” a dictionary entry will help increase your command of the English language and will enable you to be more precise in your speech and writing.

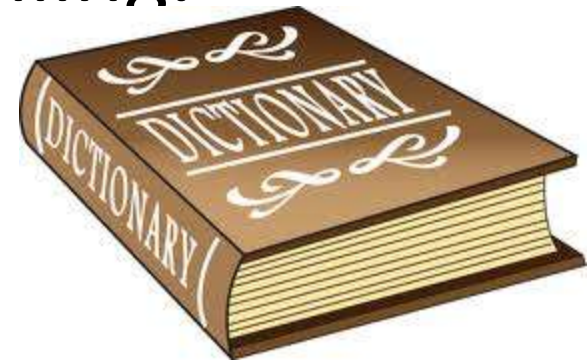


**Enhancing the vocabulary is definitely not easy...**



# ***A good dictionary ..***

- Is a very important tool in enhancing word power.
- Develops your reading and comprehension skills.
- Orients you with origins of words.
- Aids in pronunciation and spelling.



**drag'on** (drăg'ŭn), *n.* [OF., fr. L. *draco*, -onis, fr. Gr. *drakōn*.] 1. *Now Rare.* A huge serpent. 2. A fabulous animal, generally a monstrous winged scaly serpent, lizard, or saurian. 3. A fierce or very strict person, esp. a woman; a duenna. 4. Any of several plants of the arum family popularly associated with dragons. 5. A word used in the Authorized Version to translate several Hebrew forms, some of which are translated by *jackal* or *serpent* in the Revised Version. 6. Formerly, a short musket carried hooked to a soldier's belt; also, a soldier carrying such a musket. 7. An armored tractor. 8. Any of a genus (*Draco*) of small arboreal lizards of the East Indies and southern Asia. Some of the hind ribs, on each side, are prolonged and covered with weblike skin, aiding them in leaping from tree to tree; — called also *flying dragon*. 9. [cāp.] *Astron.* The constellation Draco.



Dragon, as represented in Heraldry.



# **PARTS OF A DICTIONARY ENTRY**

# **CORRECT SPELLING**

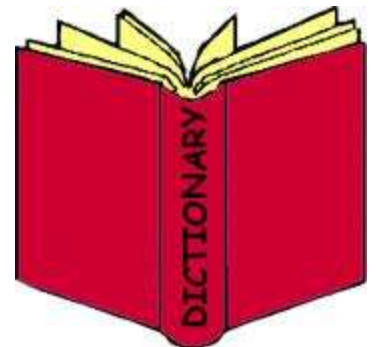
- The dictionary is the most complete spelling guide.
- The first word that is in bold print or very dark type provides the correct spelling of the word.





## **CORRECT SYLLABICATION**

- The syllabication is indicated by centered dots or hyphens.
- The dots show where to divide a word when you come to an end of the line and find it necessary to carry it over to the next line.



## **CORRECT PRONUNCIATION**

- The *International Phonetic Alphabet* (IPA) is used as pronunciation guide.
- This information is usually found immediately after the entry word surrounded by parenthesis.



# **PARTS OF SPEECH**

- **This tells you that the entry word should be used to do a certain function in a sentence.**
- **The part of speech is usually abbreviated.**

# ETYMOLOGY

- This refers to the history or derivation of the word.
- It tells us the origin of the entry word.
- This information is enclosed in brackets.





# **MEANING**

- **Refers to all the possible meanings of the entry word**
- **The meanings of the word depends on how it is used in the context.**



# Enhance Your Everyday Vocabulary





# **BEFORE YOU SPEAK** **THINK**

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**T — is it TRUE?**

**H — is it HELPFUL?**

**I — is it INSPIRING?**

**N — is it NECESSARY?**

**K — is it KIND?**



