



Dictionary Skills



Dictionary Usage

- Reference book
- Used to build vocabulary

Functions of the dictionary

1. Guide words
2. Entry word
3. Synonyms
4. Usage
5. Parts of speech
6. Pronunciation
7. Syllabication
8. Meaning
9. Etymology
10. Variants
11. Inflections



Guide Words

- These are two words.
- Are found either on top of the page or at the bottom.
- Are used to tell that all the words fall within the combination.
- The word on the left is the first word on the page.
- The word on the right is the last word on the page.

Entry Word

- All the words explained on the page are called ENTRY WORDS.
- Choice, Choir, Choke, and Chow are all entry words.

Synonyms

- These words have the same and similar meaning as the entry word.
- The synonyms for choice are: election, option, preference, and selection.
- It acts like a thesaurus at times and helps build vocabulary.

Usage

- A word can be used formally or informally.
- Choke up is an informal expression.
- Just as Chopper is the SLANG for helicopter.
- These two words are not suitable for formal situation.
- Dictionary guides the proper use of words in the proper context.



Parts of speech

1. Noun
2. Pronoun
3. Adjective
4. Verb
5. Adverb
6. Prepositions
7. Conjunctions
8. Interjection

Parts of speech

- Dictionary gives the information about the word and which part of speech it belongs.
- Chop is both a verb and a noun,
- Just as Choice is both an adjective and a noun.

Pronunciation

- The 'GH' at end of 'ENOUGH' is pronounced as 'f'
- Whereas at the beginning of 'GHOST' it has a different pronunciation.
- Sometimes 'C' is pronounced like 'S' as in CENTER and
- Sometimes like a 'K' as in 'CHORUS'.
- Pronunciation is always given in brackets usually following the entry word.

Syllabication

- Now, say your name.
- How many times did you move your tongue in your mouth?
- The sound produced by one movement of the tongue in the mouth is called a syllable.
- The syllable is identified by a little dot [.].
- Chopper has two syllables, Chop.per.

Meaning

- Most of the words have more than one meaning.
- Choke has four meanings as a verb, one as a phrasal verb and remaining two as a noun.

Etymology

- It means the study of roots.
- In language the study of roots refers to the origin of the word.
- The word Chemistry was derived from Arabic word Alchemia.
- Etymology is always given in brackets either at the end of the word or next to pronunciation of the word.

Variants

- It means different ways of saying the same word.
- It is usually in spellings or pronunciation.
- Chomp is the same word as Champ and Chorus can be spelled both with a double 's' or a single 's'.
- What are the two different ways of saying the word
- 'Vitamins'?

Inflections

- Inflections refer to the additions to a word.
- Pretty, Prettier, Prettiest.
- But can you do the same with beautiful?
- Dictionary only can provide all this information.



The End