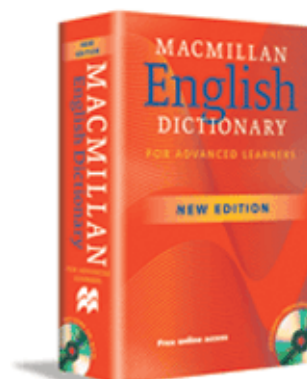


Dictionary skills: Part 1

Level 2

Author: Tim Bowen
Level: Intermediate to upper-intermediate
Age: Teenagers / adults
Time needed: 45–60 minutes (approx)
Subject: Dictionary skills / vocabulary development
Summary: These worksheets are designed for use with the <i>Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners</i> to give learners practice in using the dictionary to check meaning and for vocabulary development.



Exercise 1: Expressions with prepositions

1. This could be done as a pair or small group exercise. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Allow them to check their answers in the dictionary. They may need some brief guidance as to where to look for the answers. These are shown in **bold type** as part of the entry for the key word in each case (e.g. **result**, **due**, **view**, **reference** and so on). Note that the key word may precede the preposition (e.g. **result**) or follow it (e.g. **view**). Note also that in six they will need to look up *point of view* not *view*.

Exercise 2: Word building

2. When learners have finished this exercise, you could highlight some of the main patterns used in noun formation exemplified here, eg *-ity*, *-ness*, and ask them for more examples of each.

Exercise 3: Compounds

3. The answers to these will not be found under the entries for the nouns themselves but in the associated compound words found immediately after each entry. For example, the entry for *business* gives definitions for different uses of the word as well as idioms containing the word *business*. Compounds beginning with *business* can be found after the entry for *business*, e.g. *business card*, *business class*, *business park* and so on.

Exercise 4: Adjectives and definitions

4. Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Then ask them to check in the dictionary.

Exercise 5: British and American English

5. Check briefly that your learners know the abbreviations used in the dictionary to denote whether a lexical item is typically British English (*Br E*) or American English (*Am E*).

Exercise 6: Phrasal verbs

6. Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Check that they know that phrasal verbs are listed immediately after the main entry for the verb in question.

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1 Expressions with prepositions

Fill the gaps in these examples from the dictionary using prepositions. Then check your answers in the dictionary.

1. Colby died as a result _____ a heart attack.
2. He almost died due _____ lack of oxygen.
3. _____ view of the shortage of time, each person may only speak for five minutes.
4. He politely made no reference _____ my untidy appearance.
5. Police want to talk to him in connection _____ his wife's disappearance.
6. Looking at it _____ a scientific point of view, the discovery is extremely important.
7. The techniques used differ _____ company to company.
8. The town of Gouda is famous _____ its cheese.

2 Word building: Noun forms

What are the noun forms of these adjectives? Check your answers in the dictionary.

adjective	noun
e.g. <i>simple</i>	<i>simplicity</i>
1. electric	
2. stupid	
3. thick	
4. weak	
5. real	
6. clean	
7. tense	
8. unpleasant	

Dictionary skills: Part 1

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3 Compounds

Which nouns go with these other nouns to match the definitions? Check your answers in the dictionary.

Example: booking _____ – a place where you can buy travel tickets (booking office)

1. **business** _____ – a document giving details of a company's plans for the future
2. **market** _____ – the process of collecting information about what products people like to buy
3. **profit** _____ – the difference between how much money you get when you sell something and how much it costs you to buy or make it
4. **stock** _____ – a place where people buy and sell shares in companies
5. **check-in** _____ – a place where you go to give in your bags and have your ticket checked at an airport
6. **work** _____ – an official document that gives you permission to work in a particular foreign country
7. **smoke** _____ – a piece of equipment that makes a loud noise when there is smoke in a room
8. **taxi** _____ – a place where taxis wait for customers

4 Adjectives and definitions

In each of these examples, one definition is correct and one is incorrect. Which do you think are the correct definitions? Check your answers in the dictionary.

1. **nimble**
 - a) able to move quickly and easily
 - b) easily shocked by something unpleasant
2. **sluggish**
 - a) not performing or reacting as well as usual
 - b) covered with a thick wet unpleasant substance
3. **grumpy**
 - a) dirty and sometimes untidy or smelling bad
 - b) unhappy and dissatisfied, often for no obvious reason
4. **shabby**
 - a) old and in bad condition
 - b) long, thick and untidy
5. **gloomy**
 - a) thick, wet and sticky
 - b) feeling sad and without hope
6. **skinny**
 - a) very thin, in a way that is not attractive
 - b) tall, long and thin in an attractive way
7. **tricky**
 - a) difficult to do
 - b) not very interesting or serious
8. **weird**
 - a) with a disgusting taste
 - b) strange and unusual

Dictionary skills: Part 1

Level 2

5 British and American English

Use the dictionary to find the British or American equivalents of the words in the table and fill the gaps.

British	American
1. mobile phone	
2.	garbage can
3. tap	
4.	windshield
5. lift	
6.	eggplant
7. cashpoint	
8.	candy

6 Phrasal Verbs

Read the definitions and complete the phrasal verbs by writing one of the particles given below in the gaps. Then check your answers in the dictionary.

up over in down after off

- take _____ – look or behave like an older relative
- take _____ – take control of something
- take _____ – write down information or a statement
- take _____ – start doing something regularly as a habit, job or interest
- take _____ – to remove something, especially a piece of clothing
- take _____ – to understand and remember something that you hear or read

Dictionary skills: Part 1

Level 2

KEY

1 Expressions with prepositions

1. of
2. to
3. in
4. to
5. with
6. from
7. from
8. for

2 Word building: Noun forms

1. electricity
2. stupidity
3. thickness
4. weakness
5. reality
6. cleanliness
7. tension
8. unpleasantness

3 Collocations

1. plan
2. research
3. margin
4. exchange
5. desk
6. permit
7. alarm
8. rank

4 Adjectives and definitions

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. a
7. a
8. b

5 British and American English

1. cellphone
2. dustbin
3. faucet
4. windscreen
5. elevator
6. aubergine
7. ATM
8. sweets (confectionery – *formal*)

6 Phrasal verbs

1. after
2. over
3. down
4. up
5. off
6. in