MACMILLAN DICTIONARY BuzzWord

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary *BuzzWord*** article on ***swipe*** and the associated worksheets.

Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes

Suggested level: Upper intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.

2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.

3. Encourage students to read through the questions in Exercise 1 before they look at the *BuzzWord* article. Ask them to read through the whole article carefully and answer the questions. Tell them to compare their answers with a partner. Then check the answers as a class.

4. Ask students to complete Exercise 2 individually. When they have completed the exercise, check the answers as a class, asking students to explain each answer by identifying relevant parts of the text (see the Key for suggestions).

5. Exercise 3 highlights some verbs from the text, showing them in the context of everyday language that students are more likely to encounter. Make sure students know that the verbs needed to answer the questions follow the order in which they appear in the text, and remind them that they may need to change the verb forms to complete the sentences correctly. Ask them to complete the exercise in pairs, encouraging them to carefully read the relevant paragraph as indicated before completing each answer. Check the answers as a class.

6. If you or members of the class have access to the Macmillan Dictionary, before completing Exercise 4, ask students to take a look at the entry for *swipe* and observe the different senses as discussed in the *BuzzWord* article. Point out that the order in which meanings are presented in a dictionary can sometimes be a guide to how common they are, with the most common meaning usually listed first, and so on. Does the order here tally with the way the author instinctively interprets the word *swipe*? (= no). Would students order the meanings differently for themselves? Explain that Exercise 4 highlights some words which, like *swipe*, have new meanings in the digital era. The pairs of definitions show these new meanings and alternative senses not connected with technology (in random order). Ask students to complete the exercise and compare their answers with a partner (note that *follow, migrate, post* and *troll* are mentioned in the article). Check the answers as a class, and discuss – which of the two definitions represents the more common use of the word today? Can students find two definitions, one related to technology, for each of the extra two words? (suggested answers: *thread* = a. a long thin fibre used for sewing b. a series of electronic messages about a particular subject; *surf* = a. to ride on waves on a surf board b. to spend time looking at different websites).

7. Exercise 5 highlights some common vocabulary related to the use of computers. Complete the exercise as a class activity, and elicit descriptions (or demonstrations, if the students have computer access) of the words featured.

8. Tip: Further vocabulary in the domain could be explored in the Macmillan Dictionary thesaurus feature – to get there, look up the word *click* and at sense 2, click on the 'To use a computer keyboard or mouse' link.

9. As a wind-up discussion, draw students' attention to the opening sentence of the article and ask if they understand what is meant by the expressions digital immigrant (= someone who has not grown up with the internet but learnt to use it in later in life) and its counterpart digital native (= someone who grew up with the internet and digital technology). Do they count themselves digital natives or digital immigrants? What are the stereotypical traits of each? (e.g. digital natives are more likely to cultivate friendships online, digital immigrants are more likely to read printed books/ newspapers, etc).

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onestopenglish.com

Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary** *BuzzWord* article at:

http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/swipe.html

1 Find the information

Read the *BuzzWord* article on *Swipe* and answer these questions.

1. What part of speech is the word *like* now also used as?

2. How many meanings of the verb *swipe* does the author describe?

3. In online dating apps, what are you doing when you *swipe* left?

4. What phrase won an American Dialect Society vote in 2016?

5. What meaning of the verb *swipe* dates back to the mid 1800s?

6. What new verb describes a way of ending a relationship?

2 Comprehension check

Are these statements true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. The author has never known a time when the internet didn't exist.

2. A young person is likely to imagine a tablet or smartphone when they hear the word *swipe*.

3. If someone likes you in an online dating app, you might get right-swiped.

4. The expression swipe left/right is only used in relation to online dating.

5. The card reader sense of swipe is new in the 21st century.

6. Using existing words in new ways is an unusual process of word formation.

3 Find the verbs

Complete the sentences with verbs from the *Buzzword* article. The first letter is given for you. You may have to change the form of the verb.

1. Looking after the garden tends to o_____ most of my spare time. (paragraph 1)

2. Try to v_____ how the room will look when the work is finished. (paragraph 1)

3. He kept a_____ to the problem, but never describing exactly what it was. (paragraph 2)

4. I'm very sorry, but your application for a loan has been r_____ . (paragraph 2)

5. This type of plant needs very little water and t_____ in hot and sunny conditions. (paragraph 2)

6. Children from poor families often seem to l _____ o____ to those from wealthier backgrounds. (paragraph 3)

7. She opted for a course at Manchester University and it p_____ to be a really good choice. (paragraph 5)

8. Complete the form below if you'd like to s_____ to our monthly newsletter. (paragraph 5)

4 Complete the dictionary

Complete the dictionary entries with the words in the box; there are two words you don't need.

browse	follow	forum	migrate
post	surf	thread	troll

1. _____ *verb*

a. to receive short messages sent by someone on the Twitter social networking service

b. to move behind someone or something and go where they go

2. _____ *verb*

a. to send a letter or parcel to someone

b. to put writing or images online

3. _____ *noun*

a. an imaginary creature in Scandinavian stories

b. someone who writes negative comments on a website in order to cause trouble

4. _____ *verb*

a. to start to use a different computer system

b. to go to another place or country in order to find work

5. _____ *noun*

a. a place in ancient Roman towns used for public business

b. a website where people can express their ideas and opinions

6. _____ *verb*

a. to look at a website on the internet

b. to look at things in a shop without being sure whether you want to buy anything

5 Using a computer

Circle the best word to complete the sentences.

1. To submit your request, click/drag on the 'send' button.

2. *Drop/Enter* all your details and press 'save'.

3. You can *tap/toggle* between the two screens by pressing the escape key.

4. *Scroll/Page* down to the bottom of the screen and tick the 'accept' box.

5. It's best to *zip/secure* the files before you try emailing them.

6. *Input/Drag* the file into a new folder.

7. When you've updated the file, *delete/cut* the previous version.

8. A recent photograph is *attached/pasted* to this message.

KEY

1 Find the information

1. a (countable) noun
2. four
3. you are rejecting someone (as a potential date)
4. Netflix and chill
5. the stealing sense
6. ghost

2 Comprehension check

1. F (paragraph 1: 'We digital immigrants ... remember life before the internet all too well ...')

2. T (paragraph 2: 'Ask anyone under twenty however, and they'd instinctively think about their finger moving across the touch screen of a mobile phone or tablet ...')

3. T (paragraph 2: swiping right means liking someone ('given them the thumbs up'). The related passive form is be/get right-swiped.)

4. F (paragraph 2: 'the concept of swiping left or right is now so widely acknowledged that it's … sometimes also used as a generic reference to simply accepting or rejecting a choice on screen')

5. F (paragraph 4: 'The card-reader sense dates back to the 1990s.')

6. F (paragraph 5: 'The process of established words taking on new uses is of course a classic [=typical] pattern of word formation…')

3 Find the verbs

1. occupy
2. visualize
3. alluding
4. rejected
5. thrives
6. lose out
7. proved
8. subscribe

4 Complete the dictionary

1. follow
2. post
3. troll
4. migrate
5. forum
6. browse

5 Using a computer

1. click
2. Enter
3. toggle
4. scroll
5. zip
6. Drag
7. delete
8. attached