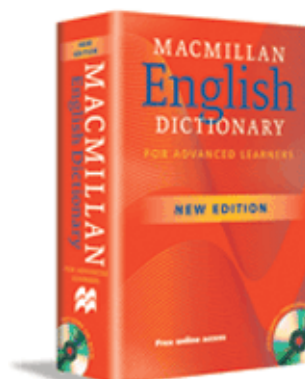


Dictionary skills: Part 3

Level 2

Author: Tim Bowen
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 (MED 2)</i> to give learners practice in using the dictionary to check meaning and for vocabulary development.



Exercise 1: Expressions with prepositions

This could be done as a pair or small group exercise. Listen to learners' 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. *course*, *danger*, *depend*, *detail* and so on). Note that the key word may precede the preposition (e.g. *depend*) or follow it (e.g. *detail*).

Exercise 2: Word building

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

Exercise 3: Compounds

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

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

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

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. The company is _____ course to make its worst-ever loss this year.
2. Landslides and falling rocks pose a serious danger _____ tourists.
3. The peace talks are now in danger _____ collapse.
4. Their future depends _____ how well they do in these exams.
5. She talked _____ detail about future plans for the school.
6. What makes him different _____ the rest of the students?
7. He claimed they had discriminated _____ him because of his nationality.
8. The duty _____ petrol has been raised.

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. greedy	
2. strong	
3. clear	
4. hot	
5. poor	
6. regular	
7. true	
8. mean	

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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. **heart** _____ – an occasion when someone suddenly has a lot of pain in their chest and their heart stops working
2. **home** _____ – a place on the Internet where a person or an organisation gives information about themselves or their business
3. **income** _____ – a percentage of your salary that you pay to the government
4. **insurance** _____ – an official document containing the details of the agreement between you and an insurance company
5. **interest** _____ – the percentage that a bank charges when you borrow money from it
6. **law** _____ – a place where legal cases are decided
7. **lecture** _____ – a large room with rows of seats where students listen to lectures
8. **leisure** _____ – a large building with a swimming pool and areas for exercising and playing different sports

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. **peculiar** a) strange, often in an unpleasant way
 b) ordinary and boring
2. **portable** a) slightly overweight but in a pleasant way
 b) easy to move or carry
3. **premature** a) behaving like an adult or more sensible as you grow older
 b) happening too soon or before the usual time
4. **prominent** a) likely to be successful or very good
 b) important and well known
5. **prosperous** a) rich and successful
 b) likely or expected to happen
6. **puzzled** a) confused because you cannot understand something
 b) confusing or difficult to understand
7. **redundant** a) no longer needed
 b) lacking important details
8. **reluctant** a) calm and not worried
 b) not willing to do something

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5 British and American English

Use these British English words to fill the gaps in the table. Check your answers in the dictionary.

dummy trainer chemist holiday flat nappy motorway post-box

	British	American
1.	apartment	
2.	freeway	
3.	sneaker	
4.	pacifier	
5.	mailbox	
6.	drugstore	
7.	diaper	
8.	vacation	

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.

out down into over through away

- run _____ – *secretly leave a place where you should stay because you are unhappy*
- run _____ – *meet someone when you did not expect to*
- run _____ – *explain or read something quickly*
- run _____ – *hit someone or something with a car and drive over them (or it)*
- run _____ – *criticise someone, especially in an unfair way*
- run _____ – *use all of something and not have any of it left*

Dictionary skills: Part 3

Level 2

KEY

1 Expressions with prepositions

1. on
2. to
3. of
4. on
5. in
6. from
7. against
8. on

2 Word building: Noun forms

1. greed
2. strength
3. clarity
4. heat
5. poverty
6. regularity
7. truth
8. meanness

3 Compounds

1. attack
2. page
3. tax
4. policy
5. rate
6. court
7. theatre
8. centre

4 Adjectives and definitions

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

5 British and American English

1. flat
2. motorway
3. trainer
4. dummy
5. post-box
6. chemist
7. nappy
8. holiday

6 Phrasal verbs

1. away
2. into
3. through
4. over
5. down
6. out