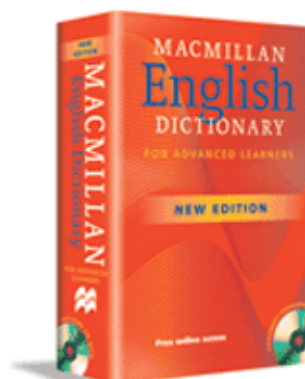


Dictionary skills: Part 4

Level 2

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|---|
| 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. *effect*) or follow it (e.g. *end*).

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: Nouns ending in *-er* or *-or*

This is an area of considerable difficulty for most learners but you could start by asking your learners to work in pairs and suggest answers for each one. They may already know some of the words. Then ask them to check their answers by looking in the dictionary. Ask them to give further examples of each ending, e.g. *director*, *editor*, *importer*, *organizer*.

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.

- Scientists are studying the chemical's effect _____ the environment.
- If you are eligible _____ financial help, we will tell you how to claim.
- We should place greater emphasis _____ staff development.
- The only door was situated _____ the end of the corridor.
- _____ the end we decided not to buy it.
- One unit of alcohol is equal _____ one small glass of wine.
- In the event _____ a crash, these added safety features may be lifesavers.
- The tokens can be exchanged _____ goods in any of our shops.

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. happy | |
| 2. scarce | |
| 3. dark | |
| 4. important | |
| 5. necessary | |
| 6. irregular | |
| 7. confusing | |
| 8. helpful | |

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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. **life** _____ – a punishment in which someone is sent to prison for the rest of their life
2. **loss** _____ – a product sold at a very low price to encourage customers to buy other products in the same shop or products made by the same company
3. **lump** _____ – money in a single large payment rather than small separate payments
4. **mail** _____ – a way of buying goods in which you order them by post or telephone and they are posted to you
5. **memory** _____ – the part of a computer where information is stored
6. **menu** _____ – a row of all the menus in a computer programme that usually appears at the top of your computer screen
7. **mind** _____ – someone who knows what someone else is thinking
8. **motor** _____ – a large road vehicle designed for living in while travelling

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. **remarkable**
 - a) something people notice even if it is not interesting
 - b) unusual in a way that surprises or impresses you
2. **remote**
 - a) far away from other cities, towns or people
 - b) slight or very small
3. **reputable**
 - a) so unpleasant that you feel ill when you think about it
 - b) generally considered to be honest and reliable
4. **ridiculous**
 - a) silly or unreasonable and deserving to be laughed at
 - b) making fun of someone in a nasty way
5. **rigorous**
 - a) thorough and careful; strict or severe
 - b) stiff; difficult and unpleasant
6. **risky**
 - a) feeling lively and full of fun
 - b) involving the possibility of danger, harm or failure
7. **run-down**
 - a) so tired that you do not feel well
 - b) behaving in a way that is not helpful
8. **ruthless**
 - a) willing to make other people suffer so you can achieve your aims
 - b) lacking basic services or amenities such as water and electricity

Dictionary skills: Part 4

Level 2

5 Nouns ending in *-er* or *-or*

Do the nouns formed from these verbs end in *-er* or *-or*? Write your answers and then check them by looking in the dictionary.

| | British | American |
|----|------------|----------|
| 1. | collect | |
| 2. | commentate | |
| 3. | conduct | |
| 4. | connect | |
| 5. | consume | |
| 6. | contain | |
| 7. | contract | |
| 8. | convert | |

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.

in down up back out off

1. cut _____ – *reduce the amount of something, especially money that you spend*
2. cut _____ – *start doing less of something, especially because it is bad for your health*
3. cut _____ – *drive past a vehicle and move quickly in front of it in a dangerous way*
4. cut _____ – *make a place difficult or impossible to enter, leave or communicate with*
5. cut _____ – *cut something into several pieces*
6. cut _____ – *remove something from a larger piece by cutting*

Dictionary skills: Part 4

Level 2

KEY

1 Expressions with prepositions

1. on
2. for
3. on
4. at
5. in
6. to
7. of
8. for

2 Word building: Noun forms

1. happiness
2. scarcity
3. darkness
4. importance
5. necessity
6. irregularity
7. confusion
8. helpfulness

3 Compounds

1. imprisonment (or sentence)
2. leader
3. sum
4. order
5. bank
6. bar
7. reader
8. home

4 Adjectives and definitions

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

5 Nouns ending in *-er* or *-or*

1. collector
2. commentator
3. conductor
4. connector
5. consumer
6. container
7. contractor
8. converter

6 Phrasal verbs

1. back
2. down
3. in
4. off
5. up
6. out