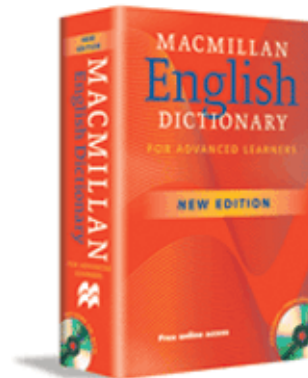


Dictionary skills: Part 5

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 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. *face*, *familiar*, *favour*, *fight* and so on). Note that the key word may precede the preposition (e.g. *file*) or follow it (e.g. *faced*).

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. *-ity*, *-ness*, 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. *instructor*, *translator*, *exporter*, *banker*.

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.

Dictionary skills: Part 5

Level 2

1 Expressions with prepositions

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

1. It would be better if we talked face _____ face.
2. The country is now faced _____ the prospect of war.
3. Are you familiar _____ Windows software?
4. I am all in favour _____ trying to find ways to save money.
5. This latest case has raised fears _____ an epidemic.
6. All teenagers have fights _____ their parents.
7. We have all your details _____ file.
8. The building was still _____ fire three hours later.

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. flexible	
2. mature	
3. dense	
4. drunk	
5. fresh	
6. active	
7. loud	
8. pure	

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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. **movie** _____ the American word for cinema
2. **mug** _____ a photograph of someone's face, taken by the police for their records
3. **mystery** _____ a short journey, usually in a bus, that people make for pleasure without knowing where they are going
4. **name** _____ the act of mentioning famous people that you know or claim to know in order to impress other people
5. **name** _____ a small flat piece of plastic, metal, etc. with your name on that you wear to show people who you are
6. **nightmare** _____ the worst possible situation that you can imagine
7. **nose** _____ a medical operation to change the appearance of someone's nose so that they look more attractive
8. **number** _____ the British English term for the American term 'license plate'

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. **sacrosanct**
 - a) suffering so that something more important can succeed
 - b) considered too important to be changed or criticized
2. **salient**
 - a) containing salt
 - b) especially noticeable or relevant
3. **sanguine**
 - a) confident and hopeful about what might happen
 - b) covered in blood
4. **saturnine**
 - a) looking serious and sad
 - b) behaving in an uncontrolled way after lots of alcohol
5. **scatty**
 - a) saying cruel and unpleasant things about other people
 - b) silly and not thinking in an organized way; forgetful
6. **scorching**
 - a) extremely attractive
 - b) extremely hot
7. **sedate**
 - a) quiet and slow, and not likely to shock people or attract attention
 - b) involving a lot of sitting
8. **seething**
 - a) feeling extremely angry without showing it much
 - b) changing from one condition to another and back many times

Dictionary skills: Part 5

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.

	verb	noun
1.	decorate	
2.	defend	
3.	demonstrate	
4.	design	
5.	detect	
6.	develop	
7.	direct	
8.	distribute	

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.

aside down up back out apart

- set _____ *delay the progress of someone or something*
- set _____ *start a journey*
- set _____ *keep or save something from a larger amount or supply in order to use it later for a particular purpose*
- set _____ *make someone or something different and special*
- set _____ *state officially how something should be done*
- set _____ *start something such as a business, organization or institution*

Dictionary skills: Part 5

Level 2

KEY

1 Expressions with prepositions

1. to
2. with
3. with
4. of
5. of
6. with
7. on
8. on

2 Word building: Noun forms

1. flexibility
2. maturity
3. density
4. drunkenness
5. freshness
6. activity
7. loudness
8. purity

3 Compounds

1. theater
2. shot
3. tour
4. dropping
5. tag
6. scenario
7. job
8. plate

4 Adjectives and definitions

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

5 Nouns ending in -er or -or

1. decorator
2. defender
3. demonstrator
4. designer
5. detector
6. developer
7. director
8. distributor

6 Phrasal verbs

1. back
2. out
3. aside
4. apart
5. down
6. up