

TEACHER'S NOTES

overvote

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *overvote* 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. Ask students to read through the whole *BuzzWord* article carefully.
4. Ask students to work in pairs to find the answers to the questions in Exercise 1. Check the answers as a class.

Look again at question 5. Explain that *over-* (meaning 'too much') is a productive prefix in English and occurs in many other words. Can they think of any other examples? (e.g. *overdo*). Mention that they will be taking a further look at *over-* in Exercise 4.

5. Exercise 3 picks up on the theme of antonyms as referenced in the penultimate paragraph. Ensure that students are familiar with the terms *synonym* and *antonym* and explore some basic examples. Then ask students to complete the exercise individually. Note that most of the words in this exercise are

'red words' in the Macmillan dictionary, which means they are very common words students ought to be familiar with. As an extension activity, you could ask students to find words or phrases which are (near) synonyms for those in the exercise (e.g. *intentional* = *deliberate*, *messy* = *dirty*, *fake* = *false*, *polite* = *well-mannered*).

Tip: Students could be encouraged to look up the words in the Macmillan Dictionary and explore the thesaurus function.

WORKSHEET

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

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/overvote.html>

1 Find the information

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

1. How does an *overvote* occur?
2. What are the consequences of an *overvote*?
3. In what year, and in which US state, was an *overvote* particularly significant?
4. What are *hanging/pregnant chads*?
5. Look at the background information. What does the prefix *over-* mean?
6. What word is the opposite of *overvote*?

2 Comprehension check

Read the article again and circle the correct answer to complete the sentences.

1. Electronic voting systems usually make it _____ to overvote.
 a. impossible b. very difficult
2. The vote in Florida was _____.
 a. recounted b. invalid
3. George Bush defeated Al Gore by _____ margins.
 a. large b. small
4. The word *overvote* is used mainly in _____ English.
 a. British b. American
5. The word *overvote* was originally a(n) _____ of *outvote*.
 a. synonym b. antonym
6. An *overvote* _____ in a cancelled vote.
 a. usually results b. doesn't usually result

3 Antonyms

Match the words on the left with their opposite meanings on the right.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. careless | a. messy |
| 2. wide | b. real |
| 3. accidental | c. frown |
| 4. present | d. pass |
| 5. minor | e. intentional |
| 6. polite | f. careful |
| 7. fail | g. absent |
| 8. smile | h. narrow |
| 9. tidy | i. major |
| 10. fake | j. rude |

WORKSHEET

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4 The prefix *over-*

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the box

estimate	cook	book	flow
sleep	eat	react	heat

1. My stomach feels really full – I think I've *over*_____.
2. There was a lot of food left because we *over*_____ how much we needed.
3. If the rain doesn't stop soon then the river is going to *over*_____.
4. I *over*_____ and was late for work this morning.
5. There weren't enough rooms because the hotel had *over*_____.
6. Don't get so upset – there's no need to *over*_____.
7. This steak tastes awful. I think you've *over*_____ it.
8. It was such a boiling hot day that the engine started to *over*_____.

5 Know your prefixes

Complete the table with the prefixes and meanings listed below. Use the Macmillan Dictionary to find one example of a word containing each prefix.

- | | |
|--------|---------------------|
| inter- | under or below |
| out- | not enough |
| post- | more or better than |
| pre- | after or later |
| sub- | across |
| under- | with or together |

prefix	meaning	example
co-		cohabit
	between or among	
	before or earlier	
trans-		



KEY

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KEY

1 Find the information

1. An *overvote* occurs when a voter votes for more candidates than they are permitted to vote for.
2. A voter's ballot paper becomes invalid, which means that their vote is cancelled.
3. 2000, in Florida
4. small pieces of paper from incorrectly-punched voting cards
5. too much
6. undervote

2 Comprehension check

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

3 Antonyms

1. f
2. h
3. e
4. g
5. i
6. j
7. d
8. c
9. a
10. b

4 The prefix over-

1. eaten
2. estimated
3. flow
4. slept
5. booked
6. react
7. cooked
8. heat

5 Know your prefixes

prefix	meaning	example (suggested answers)
co-	with or together	cohabit
inter-	between or among	international
pre-	before or earlier	pre-owned
trans-	across	transatlantic
out-	more or better than	outnumber
post-	after or later	postwar
sub-	under or below	submarine
under-	not enough	undernourished