

Grade 7 English Worksheet

Assessment Task: How to use a dictionary

Using a dictionary

Refer to the Longman South African Schools Dictionary to assist you.

GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY

Clear definitions are written using just 2,000 common words.

Different meanings are clearly differentiated, with the most common meaning first.

The part of speech indicates if the word is a noun, a verb, etc. Some words may have more than one part of speech.

Pronunciation is given for all the words and the stressed syllable is shown in black.

Irregular plurals.

Irregular verb forms.

Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives.

Phrasal verbs are shown in alphabetical order at the end of an entry.

Simple example sentences show how to use a word.

Thesaurus boxes explain words with similar meanings to the word you are looking up, and help expand your vocabulary.

ablate /uh-blayz/ **adjective** 1 burning with a lot of flames 2 very bright with colour: *The garden was ablaze with flowers.*

absorb /uhb-sawb/ **verb** 1 to take in liquid, heat, or other substances: *Plants absorb nutrients from the soil.* 2 to learn and remember information: *Small children absorb language naturally.* 3 be absorbed in something = to be very interested in something

acclaim /uh-klaym/ **noun** a lot of praise for someone or something

acclaimed /uh-klaymd/ **adjective** praised by a lot of people

acorn /'ay-kawn/ **noun** the nut of a big tree called an oak

affinity /uh-fin-it-i/ **noun** (plural **affinities**) a special feeling of understanding someone: *She felt a natural affinity for these people.*

arise /uh-riiz/ **verb** (arose, arisen) 1 to happen: *A problem has arisen.* 2 (formal) to get out of bed or stand up

bad **adjective** (worse, worst) 1 not nice or pleasant (ANTONYM **good**): *I'm afraid I have some bad news.* • a bad smell

dress² **verb** 1 to put clothes on someone or on yourself: *Hurry up and get dressed!* 2 to clean and cover a wound [Origin: 14th C Old French *dresser* meaning “to arrange”] —**dressed** **adjective**: *The men were dressed in black.*

—**dress up** to put on formal clothes or special clothes: *The children dressed up as pirates for the party.*

earn /urn/ **verb** 1 to receive money for work that you do: *She earns R200,000 a year.*

Thesaurus

make to earn or get money: *Deborah makes some money by babysitting.*

get (informal) to receive money for doing work or selling something: *How much did you get for mowing their lawns?*

be paid/get paid to be given money for

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1. Work with your partner. Help each other to understand.
 - a) Provide a definition for the word absorb.
 - b) What part of speech is the word acorn?
 - c) Refer to the word dress. From which language is it derived? (etymology)
 - d) Look at the Thesaurus box. Identify one difference between a Dictionary and a Thesaurus.
 - e) Why are some parts of the word printed in darker print?

2. Work on your own. Only ask for help if you are stuck.

Use your own dictionary to complete the following exercise.

Look up the following words:

excite, gentle, join, loyal,
number, eject, envy, serve,
wonder

- a) Provide the definition for the word.
- b) Identify the part of speech.
- c) From which language is the word derived? (etymology)
- d) Name two other words in the same word family.

Now swap scripts with your partner, use your dictionary to correct his/her work. If you come across mistakes, take the responsibility to explain to your partner.

Fill in the questionnaire below:

Checklist for using a dictionary

	Yes	No
1. I was able to find the words in the dictionary		
2. I understand how to use a dictionary		
3. I corrected my partners work.		
4. I offered to assist my partner		
5. I realise that a dictionary must be taken care of because it lasts a lifetime.		

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Suggested Solutions

No.	Solution	Marks
1. a)	To take in liquid	
b)	Noun	
c)	French	
d)	Dictionary provides a definition. Thesaurus provides a synonym.	
2. a)	Rouse up, verb, Latin, excitable, excitement	5
b)	Not severe, adjective, French, gentleman, gently	5
c)	Put together, verb, French, jointly, jointure	5
d)	True to, adjective, French, loyalty, loyalist	5
e)	Word saying how many, noun, Latin, numerate, numerical	5
f)	Bitter, noun, French, envious, enviable	5
g)	Work under another, verb, French, servant, service	5
h)	Emotion, noun, Old English, wonderful, wondrous	5
	Total	40

Appendix of Assessment Tools

- Take into account that dictionaries do differ.