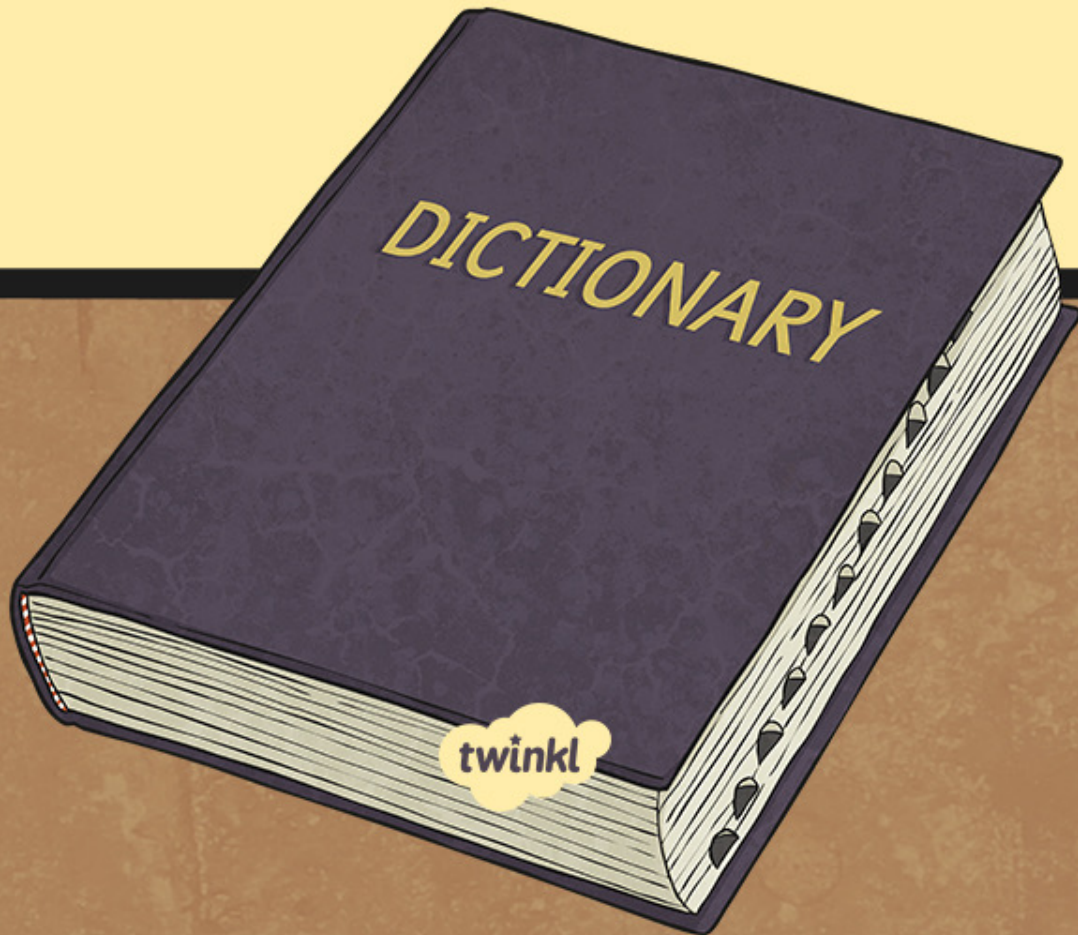


Dictionary Skills



Quick Comparison

What is a **dictionary**?



What is a **thesaurus**?



What is the difference between them?



Quick Comparison

A **dictionary** is a book which lists words and tells you what they mean.



A **thesaurus** is a book which lists words and gives alternative words which mean the same thing.



If you want to know what a word means, you would check a **dictionary**.

If you want to find a synonym for a word you already know the meaning of, you would check a **thesaurus**.

Alphabetical Order

All of the words inside a dictionary are in **alphabetical order**. This makes it a lot quicker to find the words you need.

Some dictionaries have marks along the edge of the pages. These marks show you where each new letter begins. Does your dictionary have these?

How quickly can you find the definitions of these words?

sad

lonely

excited



Using a Dictionary

Dictionaries are really useful when you're trying to find the meaning of a word you're unsure about. However, words may sometimes have more than one meaning. You will need to think carefully in order to choose the correct definition.

For example, Jenny has found this sentence in her book:

Hamish was asked to **produce** his best piece of work.

Jenny is unsure what the word **produce** means. She looks it up in the dictionary and finds two definitions:



Using a Dictionary

Hamish was asked to **produce** his best piece of work.

Produce

1. **verb** To make something using creative skills.
2. **noun** A collection of natural products.

Which definition do you think is correct in this case?



Using a Dictionary

produce

1. **verb** To make something using creative skills.
2. **noun** A collection of natural products.

Jenny tries both definitions in her sentence:

Hamish was asked to **make something using creative skills.**



Hamish was asked to **collection of natural products.**

Using a Dictionary

Hamish was asked to **make something using creative skills.**



Hamish was asked to **collection of natural products.**

Jenny decides that the first definition is correct. In her sentence, the word produce meant **to make something using creative skills.**

What else could Jenny have done to check which definition was correct in this case?

Selecting Definitions

Which of these definitions is correct in the context of this sentence?

With a flurry of signatures, the **contract** was finally signed.

contract

verb To catch or develop a disease or infection.

contract

noun A legal document.



Selecting Definitions

Which of these definitions is correct in the context of this sentence?

The seeds were planted in one long **row**.

row

verb

To move a boat using oars.

row

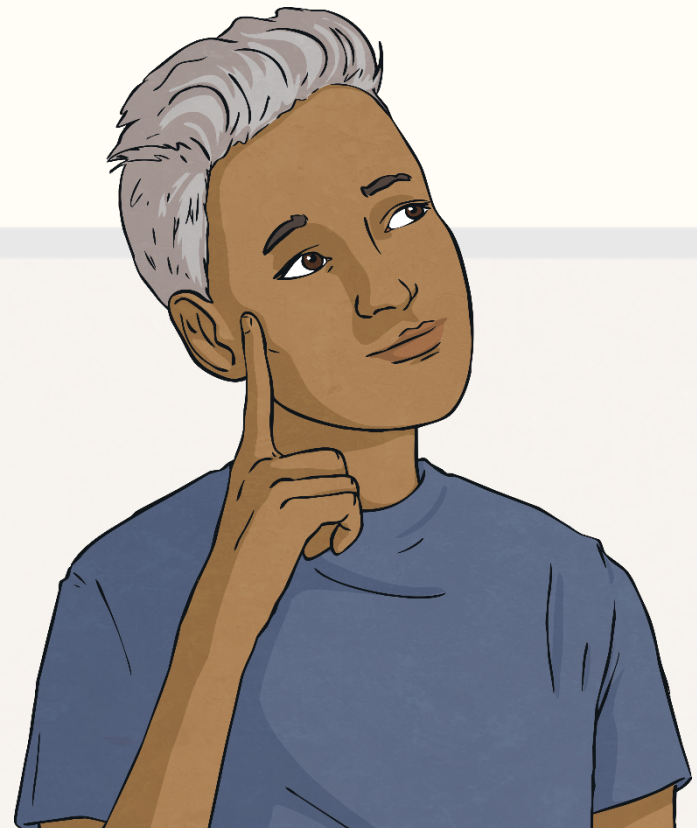
noun

A straight line.

row

noun

An argument.



It's Your Turn

On each of the following slides, a sentence will be given with one word in **bold**.

Use your dictionary to find the correct definition.

If there are multiple definitions, remember to look at the word class and check that the definition works within the sentence.

How quickly will you be able to find the word in your dictionary?



Use Your Dictionary

Find the correct definition in your dictionary.

We spent the weekend having a peaceful **amble** around the local botanical gardens.



Did you find the correct definition?

Use Your Dictionary

Find the correct definition in your dictionary.

The large, green sign warned us not to **deviate** from the set route.

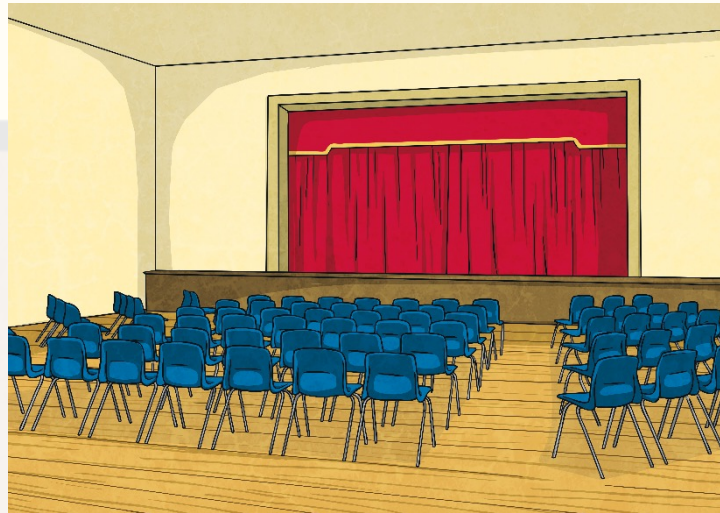


Did you find the correct definition?

Use Your Dictionary

Find the correct definition in your dictionary.

“This class has produced some **stupendous** work this week,” announced the headteacher during assembly.



Did you find the correct definition?

