



Dictionary detective



Using a dictionary is important in all your work - not just English - to help the reader understand what you mean in a precise way.

Gaining a bigger understanding of vocabulary will inevitably help you improve your overall grades.

The next few pages will help you find some exciting words to use in your work across the term, year and different subjects.

Use this booklet to create your own personal bank of ambitious vocabulary that you can use in your writing across all subjects.

Dictionary and thesaurus skills

When using a dictionary and a thesaurus it is important to know how to use it properly otherwise your sentences won't make any sense!



1. The dictionary is in alphabetical order.
2. You may need to look for the root word. (See section on root words)
3. When you find your word it will look like this

The word you are looking for.

Which word class does your word fit into?

There may be several definitions for your word, each definition starts with a new number.

abominable ► **adjective** 1 very unpleasant and causing disgust. 2 *informal* very bad.

One definition may signify if it is a formal or informal expression.

Once you have checked the definition of your word check that it fits into your sentence properly, is this what you want to show your reader? Is it the right word class? If it is not, use the thesaurus to find one that says exactly and precisely what you want to.



1. The thesaurus works the same way as a dictionary, in alphabetical order.
2. There are two sections synonyms and antonyms
3. If you are using a combined dictionary and thesaurus the synonyms will come under the dictionary definition.

SYNONYMS loathsome, detestable, hateful, obnoxious, despicable, contemptible, disgusting, revolting, repellent, repulsive, repugnant, abhorrent.

ANTONYMS good, admirable.

Remember, once you have found your new word look it up in the dictionary before you put it in your sentence to check that it really makes sense and conveys what you want to say.

Synonym - a word with similar meaning.

Antonym - a word with the opposite meaning.

Letter

Word

A

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

B

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

C

Definition

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for definition and word entry]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence entry]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

D

Definition

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for definition and word entry]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence entry]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

E

Definition

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for definition]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

F

Definition

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for definition]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

G

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

H

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

I

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

J

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word

K

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two solid horizontal lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two solid horizontal lines for sentence entry]

Synonyms
[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

Antonyms
[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

Word

L

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two solid horizontal lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two solid horizontal lines for sentence entry]

Synonyms
[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

Antonyms
[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

M

Definition

Word

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for writing]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

N

Definition

Word

[Dashed box for word entry]

[Blank lines for writing]

Sentence (using your word):

[Blank line for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

O

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

P

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Word



Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two solid black lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):

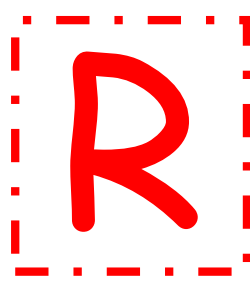
[Solid black line for sentence entry]

[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

Word



Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two solid black lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):

[Solid black line for sentence entry]

[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

S

Word

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two horizontal lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two horizontal lines for sentence entry]

Synonyms
[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

Antonyms
[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

T

Word

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two horizontal lines for definition entry]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two horizontal lines for sentence entry]

Synonyms
[Dashed blue box for synonyms entry]

Antonyms
[Dashed purple box for antonyms entry]

Letter

U

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

V

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

W

Word

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two horizontal lines for definition]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two horizontal lines for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

X

Word

Definition

[Dashed blue box for word entry]

[Two horizontal lines for definition]

Sentence (using your word):
[Two horizontal lines for sentence]

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Y

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Letter

Z

Word

Definition

Sentence (using your word):

Synonyms

Antonyms

Challenge:

Using your new learned vocabulary!

- Can you spell the word confidently?
- Can you use the word in a sentence correctly?
- Can you remember synonyms for each word?
- Can you remember antonyms for each word?