

The English dictionaries

The English dictionary plays a special role for those who study English. A dictionary is a compilation of words ranging from letters A-Z. When reading or writing an article, deciphering profound word or phrase, the use of a dictionary could be of great help. Today, there are many dictionaries, but we will highlight the most common and the best dictionaries.

If you are a beginner, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary is undoubtedly the best, because the meanings of the words are explained using the simplest words possible. This makes the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, the best choice for those who are learning English, or are in the initial stages of learning.

If you are a language learner, and if you have surpassed the beginners phase, the best choice is Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary. It is specially for the intermediate and/or the advanced learners of English Language. It is also very good for the learners of ESL (English as a Second Language) as well as EFL (English as a Foreign Language). The most prominent feature of Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary is, it has a lot of examples which will tell you clearly about how a particular word should be used. The Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary has a very important part, and that is the Common Mistakes Section. You can learn about the most common mistakes made by learners (in ESOL Exams conducted by Cambridge), and avoid those errors. So that is a very big plus! There is one more very interesting section "The Word Partner" which is designed to help the English language learners to use the words in correct manner. You will also learn how a native speaker uses the most frequently used words. Now the best feature, the Cambridge walls have highlighted the most frequently used words. Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary has also included the Let's Talk section which entirely focuses on the conversational skills.

The Oxford English Dictionary is the more popular, and is often considered the authority on the subject. Most people prefer to refer to the Oxford English Dictionary, rather than any other dictionary.

Dictionaries can tell you:

- If a verb is transitive (needs a direct object) or intransitive;
- What preposition a word takes;
- Other related word forms (e.g. the noun form of the adjective «generous» is «generosity»)
- The many different meanings and uses of prepositions;
- If the word is formal or informal;
- If the word is mainly used in the UK or US etc.

Dictionaries can serve as a great tool for students. Unfortunately, they can also be a crutch. In fact, they can be a huge crutch, one that hinders key skills in the development of the class. Although dictionaries shouldn't be banned, it's important to give students the skills they need to use successfully look up words without losing focus on the task.

Why is important to use dictionary?

Dictionary can collect and record human culture and civilization via the collection and recording of words and expressions and the exact meaning that they represent. 99% of human culture is expressed through words or is the result of words. Our thoughts are words and our words are thoughts.

Dictionary can inform scholars and interested, intelligent individuals of the exact meaning of words and expressions in any given language. The true, full, deeper meaning of most words that you use and not use, is not usually the meaning given to you by your mother, father, teacher or friend. People, who spend some time studying or reading The Dictionary, are often viewed as quasi-autistic or simply weird. The ones, who see them as such, do so because they have not been made aware of the above simple truths.