

# ROCKETSHIP

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Language Board

Focused on Language Arts Skills and aligned to the Common Core Language Standards

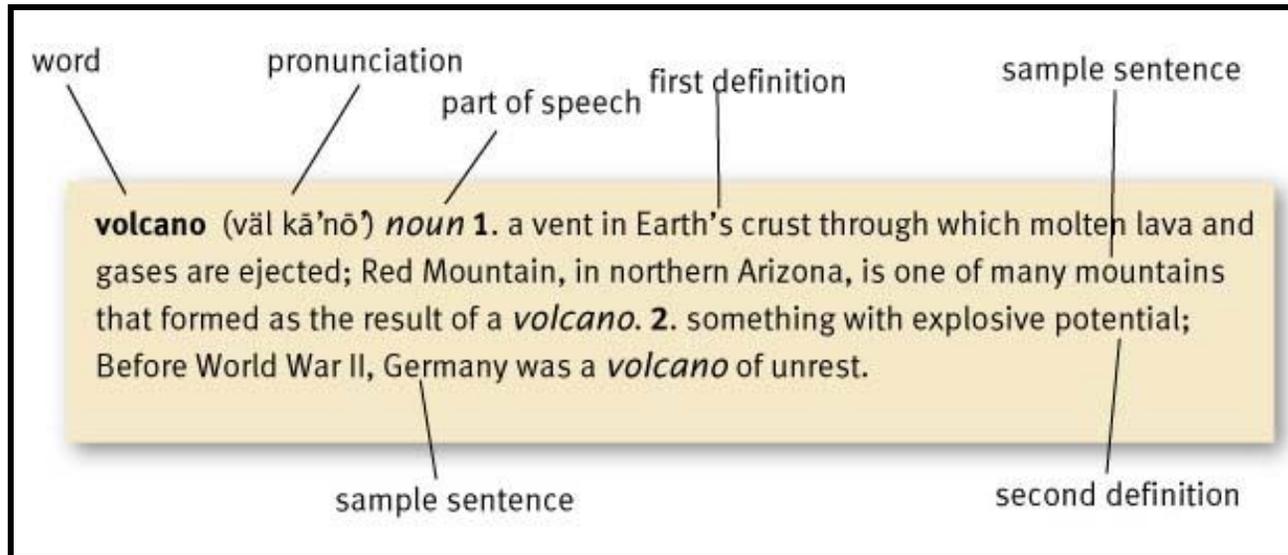
Grade 5

**Dictionaries** are reference texts that help us understand words by giving us a **dictionary entry**.

**Dictionary entries tell us:**

- The word
- How to pronounce the word
- The part of speech of the word
- Many definitions of the word

**Sometimes dictionaries also show us an example of a sentence with the word in it.**



**We can use dictionaries to learn the meaning of a word. When doing so, we must:**

- **Look at the context of the word in the sentence and ask:**
  - "What part of speech is the word being used as?"
  - "What do we think the word might mean?"
- **Look at all the definitions of the word in the dictionary.**
- **Ask ourselves, "Which definition matches best?"**

**Standard:** L.5.4.C Consult reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**Below is an entry from a dictionary.**

**spot** [ \ˈspɑt\ ] *noun, verb*

**1.** A mark that is different in color from the area around it. **2.** A place or position. **3.** A small quantity or amount. **4.** To notice or see.

**What does the word spot mean as it's used in this sentence?**

The pastry chef added a spot of salt to bring out the flavor of the lemon in the cookies.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**compact** *adj.* **1.** occupying little space compared to others. **2.** short and sturdy **3.** closely and firmly packed together **4.** brief and to the point

**Which definition from the dictionary entry gives the meaning of the word compact as it is used in this sentence?**

The compact soil made it difficult to plant a tree.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

**Read the dictionary entry**

**suspend** *verb* **1.** to hang something from above **2.** to stop something for a period of time. **3.** to force someone to give up something for a time. **4.** to keep from falling without any visible support.

**Which definition from the dictionary entry gives the meaning of the word suspend as it is used in this sentence?**

Due to traffic and road construction, the city officials had no option but to suspend bus service to the downtown area.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**slash** *v.* **1.** to cut with a sweeping motion **2.** to reduce **3.** to tear **4.** in sports, to wave a stick

**What is the *best* definition of the word slash as it is used in this sentence?**

The store manager decided to slash prices on the shirts.

- A. to cut with a sweeping motion
- B. to reduce
- C. to tear
- D. in sports, to wave a stick

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**Read the dictionary entry.**

**nerve** *n.*  
1. a bundle of fibers in the nervous system 2. a point of disagreement  
3. courage or boldness 4. a vein in a leaf

**Read the sentence.**

Tommy had the nerve to ask for another serving of food.

**What does *nerve* mean as it is used in this sentence?**

- A. a bundle of fibers in the nervous system
- B. a point of disagreement
- C. courage or boldness
- D. a vein in a leaf

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**extend** *verb* 1. To proceed on a certain course  
2. To make or become longer 3. To change within limits 4. To arrange to cover a large area.

**Read the sentence.**

The school cafeteria will extend the hours that breakfast is served.

**Which dictionary definition gives the meaning of extend as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**brilliant** *adj.* 1. shiny, glittery 2. well-lit 3. sharp and clear in tone 4. highly intelligent

**Read the sentence.**

The surface of the wood furniture was brilliant.

**Which definition entry gives the *best* definition of brilliant as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. shiny, glittery
- B. well-lit
- C. sharp and clear in tone
- D. highly intelligent

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**delicate** *adjective* 1. mild or soft 2. very sensitive 3. frail in health 4. fragile

**Read the sentence.**

There was a delicate scent of perfume in the air.

**Which definition entry gives the *best* meaning for the word delicate as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. mild or soft
- B. very sensitive
- C. frail in health
- D. fragile

**Standard:** L.5.4.C Consult reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

A **thesaurus** is a reference text that helps us improve our word choice by giving us **synonyms** and **antonyms**.

**Thesaurus entries tell us:**

- The word
- The part of speech of the word
- Synonyms and/or antonyms for a word
  - A **synonym** is a word that means the **same, or nearly the same** as another word.
  - An **antonym** is a word that means the **opposite** of another word.

More often than not, a thesaurus entry will likely give you the synonym for a given word.

**abandon** *verb* 1. ♦ **desert, forsake** ✧ **leave, reject** Brittany took home a puppy that someone had *abandoned*. 2. ♦ **cease, discontinue, give up, quit, stop** Rescuers had to *abandon* their search for the missing plane when night fell.

**wander** *verb* 1. ♦ **amble, ramble, roam, saunter, stroll** My friends and I spent the afternoon *wandering* around the neighborhood. 2. ♦ **drift, shift, stray, swerve** ✧ **become lost** The audience became restless when the speaker *wandered* from his subject.

We can use a thesaurus to learn the alternative meanings, or shades of meaning, of a word. When doing so, we must:

- Look at the context of the word in the sentence and ask:
  - "What part of speech is the word being used as?"
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- Look at all the variations of the word in the thesaurus.
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**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**fair** *adj.* **1.** pail, light **2.** okay, average **3.** fine, good **4.** beautiful, lovely **5.** just, open-minded

**Read the sentence.**

Most students at my school would agree that Mrs. Peterson is a fair principal because she always listens to both sides of an argument.

**Which word from the thesaurus entry can be used to replace the word fair in this sentence?**

- A. pale
- B. average
- C. lovely
- D. just

**Read the sentence below.**

The lawyer presented her strong case to the courtroom.

**Which thesaurus entry gives the meaning of the word case as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. container, box
- B. situation, instance
- C. argument, reason
- D. job, project

**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**model** *n.* **1.** replica, copy **2.** type, sort **3.** example  
**model** *v.* **1.** sculpt, mold **2.** display, pose

**Read the sentence.**

Class, your next social studies project is to make a clay model of the Egyptian Sphinx.

**Which word from the thesaurus entry can be used to replace the word model in this sentence?**

- A. display
- B. replica
- C. type
- D. sculpt

**A student used this sentence in a letter.**

Moving from Idaho to North Carolina and starting over at a new school was very scary.

**The student looked up the word scary in a thesaurus and found this entry.**

**scary**, *adj.* **1.** creepy **2.** eerie **3.** intimidating **4.** spine-chilling

**The student wants to place the word scary with a synonym. Which word *best* replaces the word in the sentence?**

- A. creepy
- B. eerie
- C. intimidating
- D. spine-chilling

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**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**tender** *adj.* **1.** frail, soft **2.** affectionate, loving **3.** painful, sore  
**tender** *n.* **1.** offer, request  
**tender** *v.* **1.** give, provide

**What is the meaning of the word tender as it is used in the sentence below?**

The mother bear nuzzled her baby cub with tender care.

- A. frail
- B. loving
- C. sore
- D. provide

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**resolution** \ rez-e-'lu-shen\ *n* [ME, fr. MF resolution or L resolution] (14c) **1.** the act of answering **2.** the act of making something more simple **3.** the part of a story where the main problem is worked out

**Based on the entry, which sentence is true about the word resolution?**

- A. It has three syllables
- B. It can be used as a pronoun
- C. It has only two meanings
- D. It may have come from more than one language

**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**spot** *n.* **1.** mark, dot **2.** bit, dash **3.** place, location **4.** position, job  
**spot** *v.* **1.** notice, see **2.** streak, stain

**What is the meaning of the word spot as it is used in the sentence below?**

The garden is a nice secluded spot to read.

- A. dot
- B. bit
- C. place
- D. position

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**pose** *verb* **1.** To take on a false appearance **2.** To state an idea **3.** To seek an answer **4.** To present

**What is the meaning of the word pose as it is used in the sentence below?**

The main character in the story posed as a detective.

- A. To take on a false appearance
- B. To state an idea
- C. To seek an answer
- D. To present

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**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**figure** *n.* **1.** symbol, number **2.** diagram, picture **3.** celebrity, person  
**4.** amount, total **5.** shape, form

**What is the meaning of the word figure as it is used in the sentence below?**

Abraham Lincoln was an important figure who changed the course of America's history.

- A. number
- B. picture
- C. person
- D. form

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**schooner** \ˈskü-nər\ [origin unknown] (1716) *n.* **1.** a 2-masted sailing ship **2.** a larger than usual drinking glass **3.** a covered wagon, usually called a prairie schooner

**The dictionary entry shows the word schooner came into our language:**

- A. from Latin.
- B. about 1716.
- C. from Old English.
- D. as someone's name.

**Below is an entry from a thesaurus.**

**bust** *n.* **1.** failure; disappointment **2.** raid, arrest  
**bust** *v.* **1.** hit, hurt **2.** smash, break **3.** seize, capture

**Read the sentence.**

Roger was rather upset with himself, because the surprise party he had planned for his sister was a bust.

- A. failure
- B. raid
- C. hit
- D. smash

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**keen** *adjective* **1.** Showing or having enthusiasm **2.** Extremely interested **3.** Mentally quick or original **4.** Particularly excellent

**What is the meaning of the word keen as it is used in the sentence below?**

Many animals have a keen sense of smell.

- A. Showing or having enthusiasm
- B. Extremely interested
- C. Mentally quick or original
- D. Particularly excellent

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**Read the following glossary entry from a science book.**

**channel:** a body of water that connects two larger bodies of water.

**Which sentence uses the word channel in a way that *best* fits the glossary entry above?**

- A. The crews were working to build a channel leading to the port.
- B. The rainwater washed into a drainage channel under the street.
- C. The narrow channel would prove difficult for ships to travel.
- D. The water carved a shallow channel along the river bank.

**Suppose you are reading a textbook, and a new word is introduced. Which part of the book would be *most* helpful in figuring out the meaning of the new word?**

- A. appendix
- B. table of contents
- C. glossary
- D. index

**Read the glossary definition.**

**lim-er-ick** ('li-mə-rik, 'lim-rik) *n.* **1.** a humorous poem with a strict rhythm and rhyme scheme; named after an Irish city.

**The reader can learn ALL of the following from the glossary entry EXCEPT:**

- A. an example of a limerick.
- B. what kind of poetry is called a limerick.
- C. this type of poetry was named for a real city.
- D. there are two correct pronunciations of limerick.

**Use this thesaurus entry below to answer this question.**

**brand** *n.* **1.** cast, class, grade, quality  
*n.* **2.** emblem, logo, sign, symbol  
*v.* **1.** impress, firmly, mark, stigmatize

**According to the thesaurus, another word for “logo” is brand or \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. cast
- B. grade
- C. symbol
- D. mark

**Standard:** L.5.4.C Consult reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**cast** *verb* **1.** to vote as in giving an opinion **2.** to choose as actors for a play **3.** to shed as a tree's leaves in autumn **4.** to throw as dice on a gameboard

**What is the meaning of the word cast as it is used in the sentence below?**

The children cast their fishing lines into the lake.

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

**Below is a thesaurus entry.**

**tight** *adj.* **1.** close-fitting **2.** difficult to obtain  
**3.** strongly held **4.** strictly controlled

**Read the sentence.**

Kim kept a tight grip on the ladder as she climbed.

**Which definition of the word tight would *best* fit in the sentence?**

- A. close-fitting
- B. difficult to obtain
- C. strongly held
- D. strictly controlled

**Use this thesaurus entry to answer the question.**

**dainty** *adj.* delicate, graceful, delicious, refined

**Read the sentence.**

The guests ate each and every one of the dainty snacks that Jeff made.

**Which word from the thesaurus entry gives the meaning of the word dainty as it is used in this sentence?**

- A. delicate
- B. graceful
- C. delicious
- D. refined

**Use this thesaurus entry below to answer this question.**

**finish** *n.* **1.** accomplishment, close, completion, finale, stop  
*n.* **2.** appearance, beauty, glaze, luster, polish  
*v.* achieve, cease, finalize, wrap

**According to the thesaurus, another word for “luster” is finish or \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. accomplishment
- B. glaze
- C. achieve
- D. finalize

**Standard:** L.5.4.C Consult reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**position** *noun* **1.** A location **2.** An attitude **3.** A point of view on a question **4.** A job

**Read the sentence.**

From my position in the theater, I could see the faces of the actors.

**Which dictionary entry gives the *best* meaning for the word position as it is used in the sentence?**

- A. A location
- B. An attitude
- C. A point of view on a question
- D. A job

**Read this thesaurus entry.**

**safe** *adj.* secure, protected, harmless, reliable

**Read the sentence.**

The crossing guard kept us safe as we crossed the street.

**Which definition of the word safe would *best* fit in this sentence?**

- A. secure
- B. protected
- C. harmless
- D. reliable

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**fix** *v.* **1.** to repair **2.** to decide **3.** to become steady **4.** to give attention to

**What is the meaning of the word fix as it is used in the sentence below?**

When a chameleon finds something tasty, such as a cricket, the lizard fixes both eyes on it.

- A. to repair
- B. to decide
- C. to become steady
- D. to give attention to

**Use this thesaurus entry below to answer this question.**

**train** *n.* **1.** caravan, chain, procession, row  
*2. Slang.* brainwash  
*v.* coach, develop, discipline, drill, shape

**According to the thesaurus, another word for “coach” is train or \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. chain
- B. row
- C. brainwash
- D. discipline

**Standard:** L.5.4.C Consult reference materials to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**division** *noun* **1.** the act of separating **2.** disagreement **3.** something acting as a boundary **4.** a large military unit

**Read the sentence.**

The three campers agreed to an equal division of the supplies among themselves.

**Which definition of division best fits the sentence above?**

- A. the act of separating
- B. disagreement
- C. something acting as a boundary
- D. a large military

**Use this thesaurus entry below to answer this question.**

**clear** *adj.* **1.** crystal, light, luminous, fair, shiny  
**2.** audible, coherent, legible, sharp  
*v.* **1.** break up, cleanse, purify, unload  
**2.** clarify, discharge, relieve

**According to the thesaurus, another word for “clarify” is clear or \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. luminous
- B. sharp
- C. cleanse
- D. relieve

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**notion** / 'no-shen / *noun* [L *notio*] **1.** an idea;  
**2.** a theory; **3.** a belief; **4.** *plural* small useful items

**Based on the entry, which is true of the word notion?**

- A. It can be used as a noun or an adjective
- B. Its meaning can change when it is plural
- C. It has three syllables
- D. Its second syllable is stressed

**Use this thesaurus entry below to answer this question.**

**scratch** *n.* **1.** blemish, gash, mark, scrape  
*v.* **1.** damage, lacerate, rub, scribble  
**2.** delete, eliminate, erase, strike

**According to the thesaurus, another word for “lacerate” is scratch or \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. damage
- B. scrape
- C. delete
- D. erase

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**Read the dictionary entry.**

**direct** *verb* **1.** To manage or control **2.** To aim or move toward a goal **3.** To address a specific group **4.** To identify the intended receiver of

**What is the meaning of the word direct as it is used in the sentence below?**

Crossing guards will direct traffic at the busy street corner.

- A. To manage or control
- B. To aim or move toward a goal
- C. To address a specific group
- D. To identify the intended receiver of

**Below is a thesaurus entry.**

**pass** *v.* **1.** go by, go beyond **2.** succeed, graduate **3.** deliver, hand **4.** approve, accept  
**pass** *n.* **1.** permit, license **2.** passage, route

**Which word has the same meaning as pass as it is used in the sentence below?**

The metro train that runs alongside the freeway will pass all the cars that are stuck in traffic.

- A. go by
- B. succeed
- C. deliver
- D. route

**Read the dictionary entry.**

**choice** *noun* **1.** The act or result of choosing **2.** A variety from which to choose **3.** One that is chosen **4.** The best part

**What is the meaning of the word choice as it is used in the sentence below?**

Our class was given the choice of going to the museum, the zoo, or the aquarium.

- A. The act or result of choosing
- B. A variety from which to choose
- C. One that is chosen
- D. The best part

**Below is a thesaurus entry.**

**present** *adj.* **1.** there, near  
**present** *v.* **1.** introduce **2.** give, donate  
**present** *n.* **1.** gift **2.** now, today

**Which word has the same meaning as present as it is used in the sentence below?**

At the staff meeting later today, Jonathan will present the plans to build a new playground at Mason Ridge Park.

- A. introduce
- B. give
- C. gift
- D. now