

ROCKETSHIP

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Language Board

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

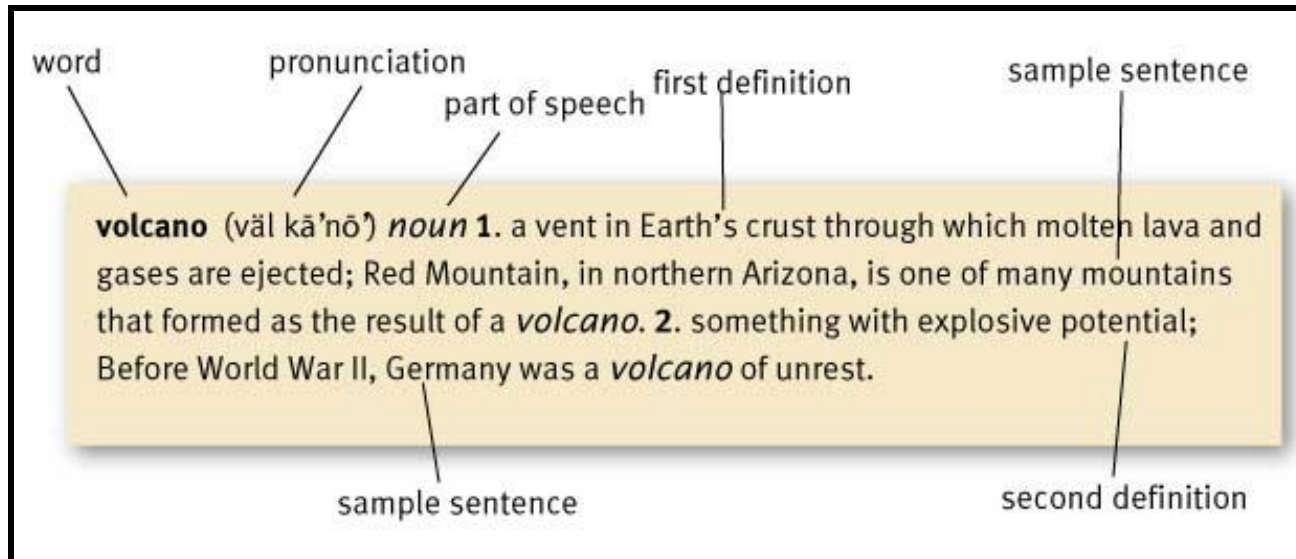
Grade 5

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

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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
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 - 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:**
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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

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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