

# Dictionary skills: Part 6

## Level 3

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**Age:** Teenagers / adults

**Time needed:** 45–60 minutes (approx)

**Subject:** Dictionary skills / vocabulary development

**Summary:** These worksheets are designed for use with the *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners (MED 2)* to give learners practice in using the dictionary to check meaning and for vocabulary development.



### Exercise 1: Expressions with prepositions

Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Ensure that your learners know which word to look up in each case (for example, in the phrase *to the point*).

### Exercise 2: Verb + noun collocations

Note that there are two ways in which the MED2 helps with collocations. Main frequent collocates are shown in **bold** within the entry (for example, *doubt: **raise doubts***). Additional collocations are given in pink collocation boxes – with the heading *Words frequently used with \_\_\_\_\_*. For example, *space: Words frequently used with **space**. Verbs: *create, fill, find, leave, make, take up*.*

### Exercise 3: Adjectives and definitions

Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Draw your learners' attention to the Metaphor boxes to be found in the MED2. Categories include *angry* and *happy* (for a full list see Language Awareness, page 11).

### Exercise 4: Word stress

Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Listen to their suggested answers but do not correct any mistakes. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Make sure they know how word stress is represented in the dictionary – with

a short vertical line above and before the stressed syllable, e.g. *'examine*.

### Exercise 5: Idioms

Before you ask your learners to do this exercise, highlight which word is underlined in each idiom and ask them what type of word it is. Note that in all the examples the colour adjectives are underlined as this is where the definitions will be found. To give learners further practice in the tricky skill of identifying which word in an idiom to look up, ask them to have a quick look at Exercise 7 (homework) and tell you which three words they will have to look up – again they will find the answers under the colour adjectives.

### Exercise 6: Phrasal verbs

Ask learners to work in pairs or small groups to discuss the possible answers. Then ask them to check in the dictionary. Highlight the importance of the order of presentation of the meanings of phrasal verbs with several meanings (for example, *put on*, where no fewer than 15 different meanings are listed), where the first meaning given is generally the most widely used and the last meaning the least used.

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### 1 Expressions with prepositions

Fill the gaps in these examples from the dictionary using prepositions. Then check your answers in the dictionary.

- I am \_\_\_\_\_ possession of some information that I think will interest you.
- Our common goal is to maximize our potential \_\_\_\_\_ economic growth.
- Guests were full of praise \_\_\_\_\_ the food.
- The government was preoccupied \_\_\_\_\_ the troubles on the border.
- The Prime Minister seemed ill prepared \_\_\_\_\_ the press conference.
- The government is putting a high priority \_\_\_\_\_ constitutional reform.
- They were \_\_\_\_\_ the process of moving their head office from Paris to London.
- A healthy diet should provide protection \_\_\_\_\_ disease.

### 2 Verb + noun collocations

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these nouns. Then check your answers in the dictionary by looking up the verbs and finding the nouns they collocate with or by looking up the nouns.

immunity	illusion	information	improvement
identity	ice	impact	illustration

- Roni told a few jokes, which helped to break the \_\_\_\_\_.
- He had managed to conceal his true \_\_\_\_\_.
- This description creates the \_\_\_\_\_ that we can solve all our environmental problems.
- The project provides a good \_\_\_\_\_ of how people can work together.
- They would be granted \_\_\_\_\_ if they gave evidence in court.
- She is an excellent athlete who is already making a real \_\_\_\_\_ in world competition.
- Sales have shown a slight \_\_\_\_\_ this year.
- They were unable to provide much \_\_\_\_\_.

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### 3 Adjectives and definitions

In each of these examples, one definition is correct and one is incorrect. Which do you think are the correct definitions? Check your answers in the dictionary.

1. **susceptible**
  - a) *easily influenced or affected by something*
  - b) *believing that someone has probably done something wrong*
2. **sweltering**
  - a) *extremely hot but in an unpleasant or uncomfortable way*
  - b) *perspiring excessively*
3. **tacky**
  - a) *understood without being said directly*
  - b) *cheap and of poor quality or showing bad taste*
4. **tattered**
  - a) *in a bad condition because parts of it are torn*
  - b) *spread in small pieces over a very large area*
5. **tedious**
  - a) *extremely academic and intelligent*
  - b) *boring and continuing for too long*
6. **temperamental**
  - a) *never extremely hot or extremely cold*
  - b) *changing from one mood to another very quickly*
7. **terrific**
  - a) *so shocking it upsets you*
  - b) *very good or interesting*
8. **thrifty**
  - a) *careful about how you spend money*
  - b) *extremely exciting*

### 4 Word stress

Use the dictionary to find how many syllables these words have and which syllable is stressed.

	no. of syllables	stressed syllable
<i>e.g. examine</i>	3	<i>second</i>
1. anniversary		
2. beautician		
3. commonplace		
4. decriminalize		
5. existential		
6. frighteningly		
7. groundbreaking		
8. heterogenous		

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### 5 Idioms

Match these idioms with their meanings. Then check your answers by looking up the underlined words in the dictionary.

1. at lightning speed
  2. with a face like thunder
  3. as right as rain
  4. under a cloud
  5. put the wind up someone
  6. get wind of something
  7. the mists of time
  8. a storm in a teacup
- a. with your reputation damaged because you may have done something wrong
  - b. find out about something secret or private
  - c. very fast
  - d. a period of time so long ago that people cannot remember it
  - e. a lot of trouble about something that is not important
  - f. looking very angry
  - g. make someone feel nervous or frightened
  - h. healthy or happy again after an illness or unpleasant experience

### 6 Phrasal verbs: go down

**A** First match the examples with the definitions.

1. He will go down as one of the best teachers this school has ever had.
2. I won't be sorry if United go down this season.
3. The family is going down to Brighton for a few days.
4. The sun went down off the coast of Africa.
5. The plan to put rents up has not gone down well with tenants.
6. No one expects petrol prices to go down in the near future.

- a. [I] to travel towards the south
- b. [I] to become less
- c. [I] to move to a lower division in a sports league
- d. [I] to produce a particular reaction
- e. [I] to sink below the surface of the water
- f. [I] to be remembered or recorded in a particular place or way

**B** Now decide which of the above definitions of *go down* is the most common and which is the least common. Rank them in order from 1 to 6 and write the letters of the definitions in the gaps. Then check in the dictionary to see the order of priority given there.

1. \_\_\_\_      2. \_\_\_\_      3. \_\_\_\_      4. \_\_\_\_      5. \_\_\_\_      6. \_\_\_\_

### 7 Homework task

Use the dictionary to find the meanings of these idioms associated with the weather.

1. in a fog
2. go down a storm
3. rain on someone's parade

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### KEY

#### 1 Expressions with prepositions

1. in
2. for
3. for
4. with
5. for
6. on
7. in
8. against (from)

#### 2 Verb + noun collocations

1. ice
2. identity
3. illusion
4. illustration
5. immunity
6. impact
7. improvement
8. information

#### 3 Adjectives and definitions

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. a
5. b
6. b
7. b
8. a

#### 4 Word stress

1. five; third
2. three; second
3. three; first
4. five; second
5. four; third
6. three; first
7. three; first
8. five; fourth

#### 5 Idioms

1. c
2. f
3. h
4. a
5. g
6. b
7. d
8. e

#### 6 Phrasal verbs: go down

A	B
1. f	1. e
2. c	2. b
3. a	3. f
4. e	4. d
5. d	5. a
6. b	6. c

#### 7 Homework task

1. *in a confused state*
2. *be very popular*
3. *do something that stops someone enjoying something good that is happening to them*