

The hunt is on!

Searching for words in an online dictionary can be confusing because the first word you see may not be the word you want. Words are divided into categories called parts of speech (e.g. noun, verb, adjective, etc.) and one word can belong to more than one category. This means one word has more than one entry in the dictionary.

Imagine you see a sign saying "Flight BA273—delayed for 3 hours" and you search for the word *delay*. You'll see the first entry is for the noun, but you need the second entry, the verb. Look at where the different entries can be found on these screenshots from a computer and a phone. Then, using a dictionary, do the activities and become an expert word hunter!



Activity 1

How many entries does each of these words have? What are the parts of speech for those entries? Use the Macmillan online dictionary.

Word	Entries	Parts of speech	Word	Entries	Parts of speech
a. delay	_____	_____	f. direct	_____	_____
b. delight	_____	_____	g. dirty	_____	_____
c. demand	_____	_____	h. display	_____	_____
d. diet	_____	_____	i. double	_____	_____
e. dilute	_____	_____	j. drop	_____	_____

Activity 2

Find the entries for *delay*, *demand* and *direct* in the Macmillan online dictionary. Complete the table with the total number of definitions for each entry and the number of the definition for the example sentences.

Word	Part of speech / Entry	Total number of definitions	Example	
			Sentence	Definition number
delay	(noun)		Please excuse my delay in replying.	
	(verb)		His plane had been delayed for five hours.	
demand	(noun)		Demand for organic food is increasing.	
	(verb)		The panel demanded that the report be made public.	
direct	(adjective)		Direct flights from Scotland to North America	
	(verb)		Could you direct me to the bus station?	
	(adverb)		You can buy direct from the manufacturer.	