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This book was designed to help children discover that a dictionary is a valuable language tool. Students will learn that a dictionary contains many different kinds of information that will help them in their reading, writing, and speaking.

All activities require the use of a dictionary. Dictionaries will vary in content and some of the words and/or phrases listed in the exercises may not be found in the

edition of the dictionary provided by your school. Students will profit from having a variety of dictionaries available for their use.

With minimal assistance from the teacher, students will readily learn how to use their own dictionaries and be encouraged to seek other editions. Exercises may be easily adapted for further use by substituting other words and/or phrases from other available dictionaries.

## What Is a Dictionary?

Of all the reference books, the *dictionary* may be the most important. It is really several reference books in one.

A dictionary shows how to spell and pronounce words correctly. It will tell you the meanings of words and many facts about how words began. A dictionary also tells you the ways in which words are used.

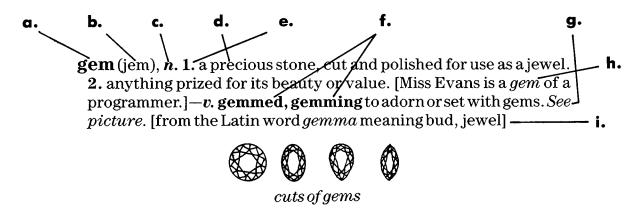
Dictionaries differ in their methods of giving information. Some dictionaries give the original word meaning first and the more recent meanings of a word last. Many dictionaries present the most common meaning first. Some dictionaries have a separate section for biographical and geographical information, while others supply names and places in the body of the book. You must become familiar with your dictionary, or any dictionary you will use frequently, if you want to find information quickly.

A. Examine your school dictionary or the dictionary you often use and complete the exercises below									
1. The title of my dictionary is									
	2. It was published by in the year								
	3. a. It has words.								
4. How many pages of information about using your dictionary are included?									
	5. Does your dictionary contain tables of weights and measures?								
	6. a. Is there a list of signs and symbols? b. Are there any maps?								
	7. Look up Honolulu in your dictionary. Did you find it in a special section of geographical								
	entries or in the body of the book?								
8. Look up John Adams in your dictionary. Did you find it in a special section of biogr									
	entries or in the body of the book?								
	9. How are the words in a dictionary arranged?								
	10. Which letter begins the least number of words in your dictionary?								
B. Abbreviations are also listed in the dictionary. An abbreviation is a shortened form of a word or phrase.									
	1. What does the abbreviation <u>U.S.A.</u> mean?								
	2. For what word is qt. an abbreviation?								
<ul> <li>Most dictionaries also define phrases. A phrase is a pair or group of words that has a sin meaning.</li> </ul>									
1. What is a crash helmet?									
	2. What is a maid of honor?								
	3. Find a phrase in your dictionary. Write its meaning below.								

## **Understanding an Entry**

Every word listed in a dictionary in bold type is called an *entry word* or *main entry*. All the information about that word, including the word itself, is called an *entry*.

Some entries have as many as nine parts. Look at this sample entry.



- **a.** The *entry word* is shown in bold type.
- **b.** The *pronunciation* is given after each entry word. Special marks called *diacritical marks* are often used. These marks are explained in detail in the pronunciation key and briefly at the bottom of each page.
- c. The part of speech is given.
- **d.** The *definition* (meaning) of the word is given.
- **e.** If there is more than one meaning, the definitions are numbered.
- **f.** Related forms of the word, such as plurals or principal parts of verbs, are often given. These related forms, called *inflections*, are also in bold print.
- **g.** Pictures are sometimes shown to help define a word.
- **h.** A sentence that uses the word is often given.
- i. The origin of the word may also be shown.

Α.	Study the sample entry and answer the following questions.
	1. How many definitions are listed?
	2. What part of speech is the entry word?
	3. From what language did this word come?
	4. Use the word gem in a sentence according to definition 1
	5. What does the Latin word gemma mean?
В.	Study the entries for the following words. Then write a sentence using each word correctly.

## **Spelling Words Correctly**

Α.	Look up each of these words in your dictionary. Circle the words that are spelled correctly. scissors envie jeep					correctly. excited	
		beutiful		perate	radios	5,15,115	
В.	Most words have only one correct spelling. A few words have more than one. The dictionary will give the preferred spelling first, but all spellings given are correct.						
	Look up these we	ords and write the o	other spelling	for each. Circ	le the preferred sp	elling.	
	1. axe			5. advise	r		
	2. catsup			6. fulfill _			
	3. kerosine			7. judgme	ent		
	4. catalog		V	8. usable			
C.	Use your dictiona	ary to help you con	plete the foll	owing exercis	es.		
	1. These words b	oegin with an <i>f</i> sour	nd. Add <b>f</b> or <b>p</b>	<b>h</b> to spell eacl	h word correctly.		
	ancy	arma		otograph	eel	rase	
	2. These words b	oegin with a <i>k</i> soun	d. Add <b>c,k,</b> d	or <b>ch</b> to spell ea	ach word correctly	:	
	angar	oo or	ner	emistry	itchen	urve	
	3. These words b	oegin with an <i>n</i> sou	nd. Add <b>n, k</b> ı	n, gn, or pn to	spell each word co	orrectly.	
	ose	ead	at	<del>6</del>	eeo	dle	
	4. These words begin with an s sound. Add s, c, ps, or sc to spell each word correctly.						
		ychology	ircle	<u> </u>	ience	_ entry	
		enter _	alad	irc	eus :u	rprise	
	5. These words b	pegin with a <i>sh</i> sou	nd. Add <b>sh, c</b>	<b>ch</b> , or <b>su</b> to spe	ell each word corre	ectly.	
		re	ute	ame	ut	ef	
	6. These words b	pegin with an <i>r</i> sour	nd. Add <b>r, wr,</b>	or <b>rh</b> to spell o	each word correct	l <b>y.</b>	
		vinkle		•			
		oegin with a <i>j</i> sound				· ·	
	elly			•	acket	iant	
	-	pegin with a g soun					
	ame					, astly	
		pegin with a z soun				aony	
		neipp		•	one	ebra	
	yiopiloi						