

Exercises

1. Examine the following definitions of ‘**lexicology**’. What do they agree on as the scope of lexicology? And where do they disagree?
2. An area of language study concerned with the nature, meaning, history and use of words and word elements and often also with the critical description of lexicography.
(McArthur, ed. 1992)
3. The study of the overall structure and history of the vocabulary of a language. (Collins English Dictionary 1998)
4. A branch of linguistics concerned with the meaning and use of words. (Longman Dictionary of the English Language 1991)
5. The study of the form, meaning, and behaviour of words.
(New Oxford Dictionary of English 1998)

Exercises

1. Using a desk or concise size general-purpose dictionary, read carefully the entries for the following words: face, narrow-minded, soap . Note for each item:

(a) how many entries (headwords) your dictionary has; (b) how your dictionary treats compound words.

2. Examine the following **entry for discriminate**, taken from CED (1998):

Discriminate vb (di'skrimi,neit). **1** (intr, usu. foll. by in favour of or against) to single out a particular person, group, etc., for special favour or, esp., disfavour, often because of a characteristic such as race, colour, sex, intelligence, etc. **2** (when intr, foll. by between or among) to recognize or understand the difference (between); distinguish: to discriminate right and wrong; to discriminate between right and wrong. **3** (intr) to constitute or mark a difference. **4** (intr) to be discerning in matters of taste. Adj (dI 'skrImInIt).

5 showing or marked by discrimination. [from Latin **discriminare** to divide, from **discrimen** a separation, from **discernere** to DISCERN] dis'criminator n

**What information does it give about:
pronunciation, morphology, syntax?**

(a) Would you expect the following words to be entered more than once in a dictionary (as **homographs), or to be treated in a single entry (as a case of **polysemy**)?** First make a guess, then consult a dictionary.

- Coach (bus, give training); cobble (stone for paving, mend shoes); fence (round a field, sport using a sword); mount (ascend, mountain); rook (bird, chess piece); stable (firmly fixed, place for horses); table (piece of furniture, of figures); whim (fancy, machine used in mining).
- **(b) Find the following idioms in your dictionary.** Which word are they under? Are they cross-referenced from the entries for any of the other words in the idiom?
- fly off the handle; turn over a new leaf;

Exercises

- Analyse the following words into their constituent morphemes.**
- coagulative, deactivators, forbearingly, half-deafened, left-handedness, noncombatant, readability, temporarily, weed killer.
- Give all the possible inflections for the following words:**
Bring, cow, forget, guest, high, stop, tall, tooth, weary.
- Identify the derivational affixes used in the following words. Give a meaning/function for each one, e.g. –ment: has the function of deriving a noun from a verb.**
enactable, ungracious, preconnection, depressive, incriminatory, declassify, troublesome.
- Divide the following words into morphemes. For each morpheme identify the type (free or bound, prefix or suffix, inflectional or derivational):** Restate, strongest, actively, precede.

- **3. What does the word ‘bull’ mean in each of the following sentences?**
- 1. Beware of the **bull!**
- 2. I think the elephant is **a bull.**
- 3. Stop acting like **a bull** in a china shop!
- 4. There was **a bull** market on the stock exchange today.
- 5. Well done! You’ve hit **the bull’s eye.**
- 6. Don’t give me all that **bull.**
- 7. I’m afraid that you’ll just have to **take the bull by the horns.**

en, -ify, -ize combine with nouns and adjectives to form verbs. Look at the following lists of adjectives and nouns.

Put the corresponding verb in the space provided.

ADJECTIVE > VERB

NOUN > VERB

Hard

Modern

Deep

Intense

False

Fat

Sterile

horror

memory

beauty

sympathy

apology

glory

length

Match these abbreviations with their meanings.

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 1. BSc | compact disc |
| 2. FBI | for example |
| 3. Fr | Federal Bureau of Investigation |
| 4. ext. | Personal identification number (usually on a bank card) |
| 5. CD | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation |
| 6. asap | Bachelor of Science |
| 7. PIN | extension |
| 8. e.g. | Father (title for a priest) |
| 9. Unesco | as soon as possible |

TOPIC: Talking about work 1

Choose the best (most logical) response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. This job is too (*stressed-out/stressful*).
2. There's a lot of work, but I can (*deal/handle*) it.
3. I was (*hired/heard*) last month.
4. They (*fired/failed*) two of my co-workers, and I'm afraid I might be next.
5. I work (*at/in*) sales.
6. My (*commute/communion*) (= the time it takes me to get to work) isn't so bad.
7. The company has a reputation for treating their (*employees/employed*) well.
8. I usually don't eat in the (*lunchroom/lunch-zone*). I go out to eat.

TOPIC: Talking about work 2

Choose the best (most logical) response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. I get along well with most of my(*colleagues/employees*)(= co-workers).
2. I got a(*premonition/promotion*) last year.
3. He's not very..... (*producing/productive*). He just chats to his friends on Facebook all day.
4. I'm pretty..... (*content/contained*) (= happy) with the way things are going.
5. Everyone seems to have gotten a (*raise/boost*) (= an increase in salary) except me.
6. We don't have (*assess/access*) to that information.
7. The (*upper/up*) management people are not very well liked by the rest of us.
8. I'm taking a week..... (*off/of*) to go on vacation.
9. The work load isn't too(*dense/heavy*).
10. They provide us with a good benefits (*pack/package*).

TOPIC: Describing people (physical traits) 1
Choose the best response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. Jim is (higher/taller) than I am.
2. My sister is (lower/shorter) than I am.
3. My brother isn't fat, he's (stocky/sticky).
4. The word "skinny" is slightly more negative than the word (thinning/thin).
5. He's completely (bold/bald). He lost all of his hair years ago.
6. My sister works out every day, so she's in very good..... (shaped/shape).
7. He's not fat, but he has a bit of a (belly/fat).
8. He's six feet (high/tall).
9. He walks with a (limp/lump).
10. My grandfather has..... (trouble/problem) walking fast. (= he can't walk fast easily)

TOPIC: Describing people (physical traits) 2 -Choose the best response to complete each of the following sentences:

1. My brother is (blind/blonde) in one eye. (= he can't see in one eye)
2. My sister used to(die/dye) her hair blonde.
3. My..... (complex/complexion) is much darker than my brother's.
4. Linda is always (tanned/tan) during the summer.
5. He's not bald, but he does have areducing/receding) hairline.
6. Paula is very good-(looking/viewing). (= attractive)
7. I'm out of shape. I ran for 5 minutes, and I'm already out of (breath/breathing).
8. She has shoulder-(length/long) hair.
9. Peter has a(razored/shaved) head.
10. He is a very(stylish/styling) man. (= he wears very fashionable clothes)