

Spelling Dictionary Skills

A dictionary can be a useful tool for checking spellings, finding meanings and establishing word classes. Try these tasks to help you hone your dictionary skills!

Task One

Put these lists into alphabetical order:

music	football	cakes
clarinet	curling	sandwich
guitar	rugby	fruit
drums	gymnastics	cheese
violin	tennis	vegetables
piano	karate	pasta

1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____	4. _____
5. _____	5. _____	5. _____
6. _____	6. _____	6. _____

Task Two

Use a dictionary to find the correct spelling of these words.

Incorrect spelling	Correct spelling
atualy	
necenary	
embarased	
basicaly	
onomatapea	
rythm	

Task Three

Some words are similar or even identical, but have different meanings according to their word class. Can you find these words in the dictionary, and give their definition according to their word class?

Word	Word Class	Definition
practise	verb	
practice	noun	
class	adjective	
class	noun	
led	verb	
lead	noun	
fit	adjective	
fit	verb	
license	verb	
licence	noun	

Task Four

A dictionary can help us to find subtle shades of meaning. The following groups of words have similar meanings, but they are not identical. Can you find out the subtle differences between them?

Word	Definition
happy	
ecstatic	
pleased	
overjoyed	

Word	Definition
angry	
furious	
annoyed	
peevied	

Word	Definition
hungry	
peckish	
starving	
ravenous	