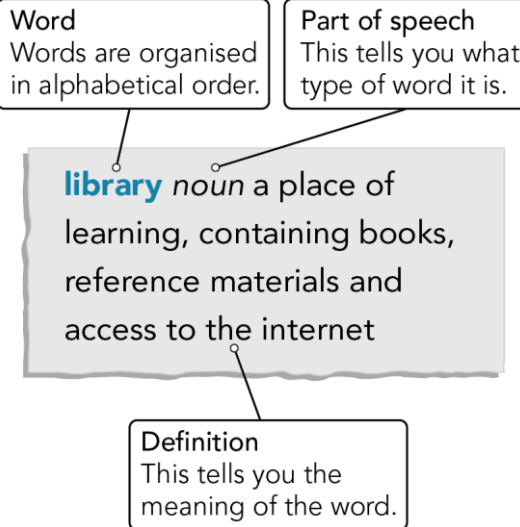


Using a dictionary

Unit 5 Non-fiction for older children

You can use a dictionary to find out the spelling and the meaning of a word. Words are organised in alphabetical order to make them easy to locate. In this session, you will learn how to use a dictionary and why it is useful.



1. What do you know about dictionaries?
Discuss your ideas with the group.

Discuss the purpose of dictionaries, why they are useful and how they work.



2. Look around the library and find two objects.
Can you find their definitions in the dictionary?



3. Play a game in pairs! Take it in turns to shout out a word. Your partner has to find the word in the dictionary as quickly as possible and read aloud the definition.



4. Pass a dictionary around the group.
Open it at a random page and each choose a word.
As a group, write a sentence using all of these words.

If your group is quite large, you could write a paragraph instead. You could discuss possible sentences or write them down.



5. Dictionary definitions tell you whether a word is a *noun*, a *verb* or an *adjective*.
 - Find a *noun* and draw a picture of it.
 - Find a *verb* and act it out. Can the group guess the verb?
 - Find an *adjective* and use it in a sentence.



noun: a naming word
verb: a doing word
adjective: a describing word

