
Dictionary Activities for the ESL Classroom

A Presentation for TESL Canada

Presented by Jeff Gulley
October 13, 2012



Permit the Metaphor



- What is this?
- What can it do?

Agenda

1. Why use a dictionary?
2. Types of dictionaries
3. What is a learner's dictionary?
4. Dictionary activities
5. Selecting a dictionary

1. Why use a dictionary?



How are you using dictionaries?

- Every lesson?
- Structured, or random?

What do you do if...

-
- A student asks you the meaning of a word in class?
 - A student asks you for a new word?
 - Your students are making common language mistakes?
 - e.g., “Explain me this lesson”
 - e.g., “He said me to meet him later”

Chinese Proverb

“Give a man a fish, and feed him for a day.
Teach a man to fish....”

Chinese Proverb

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

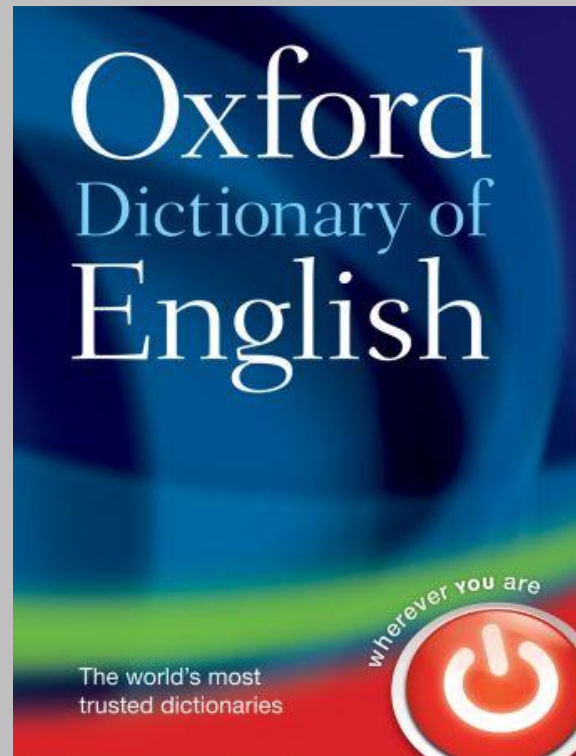


2. Types of dictionaries



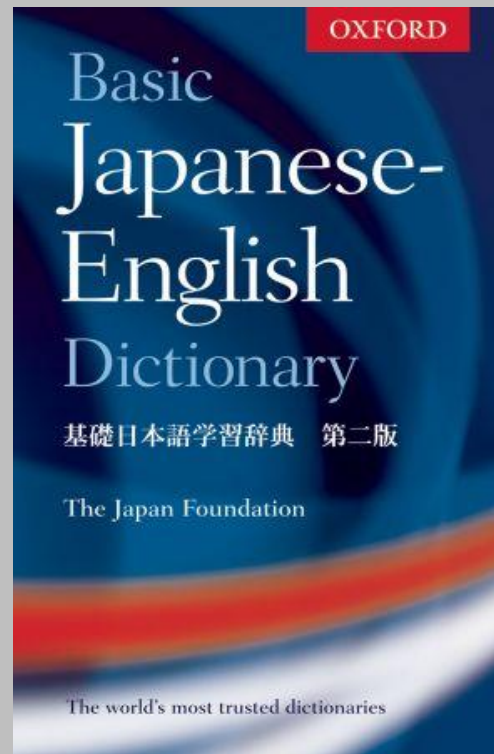
Standard Dictionaries

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



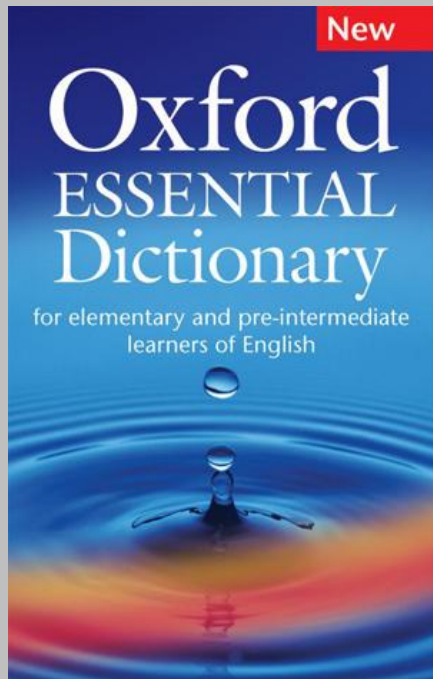
Bilingual Dictionaries

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

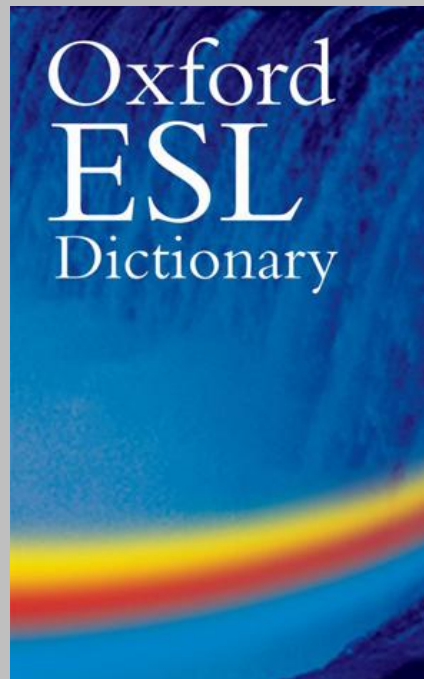


Learner's Dictionaries

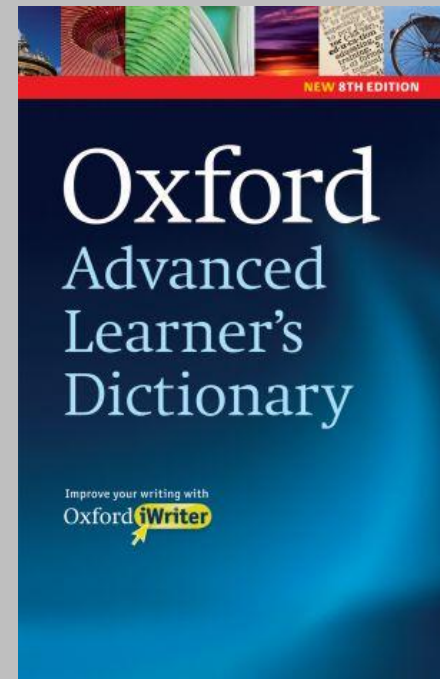
OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Elementary



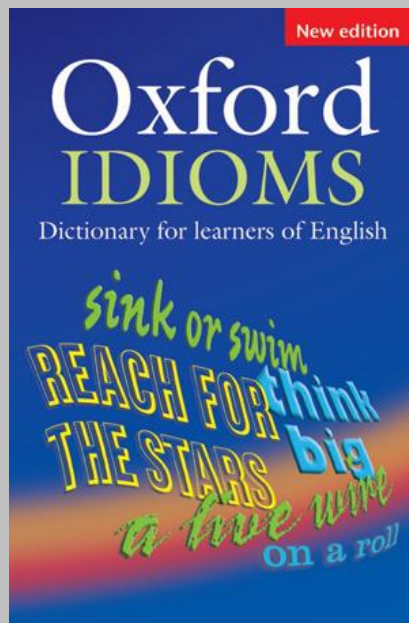
Intermediate



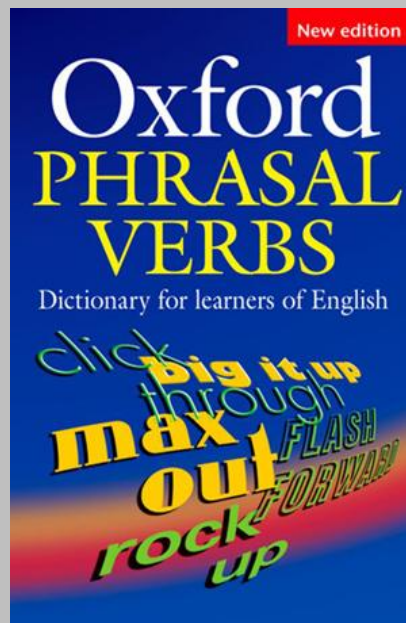
Advanced

Usage Dictionaries

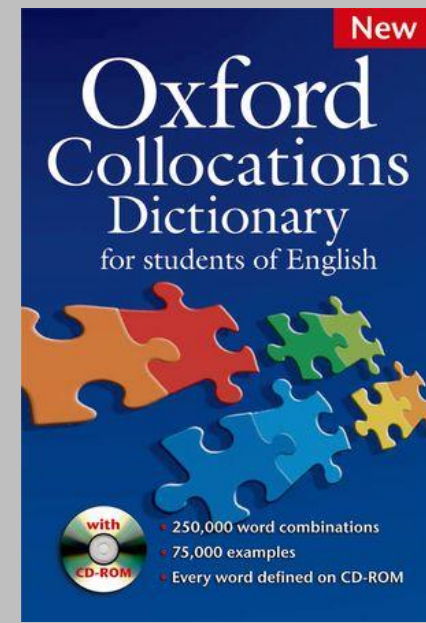
OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Idioms



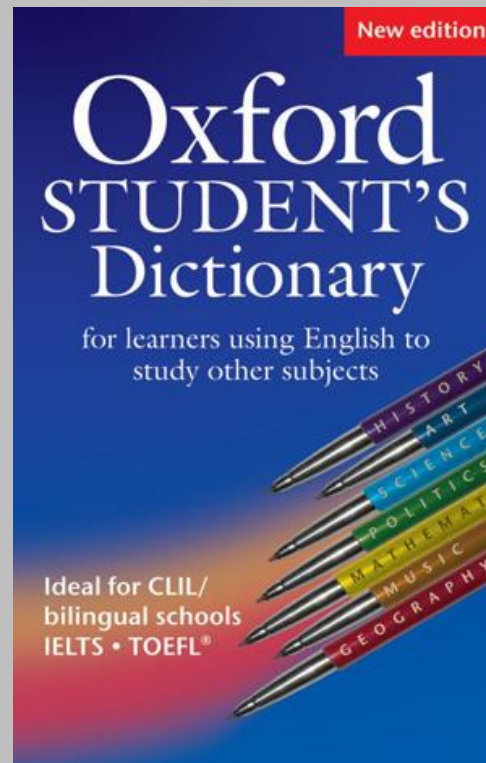
Phrasal Verbs



Collocations

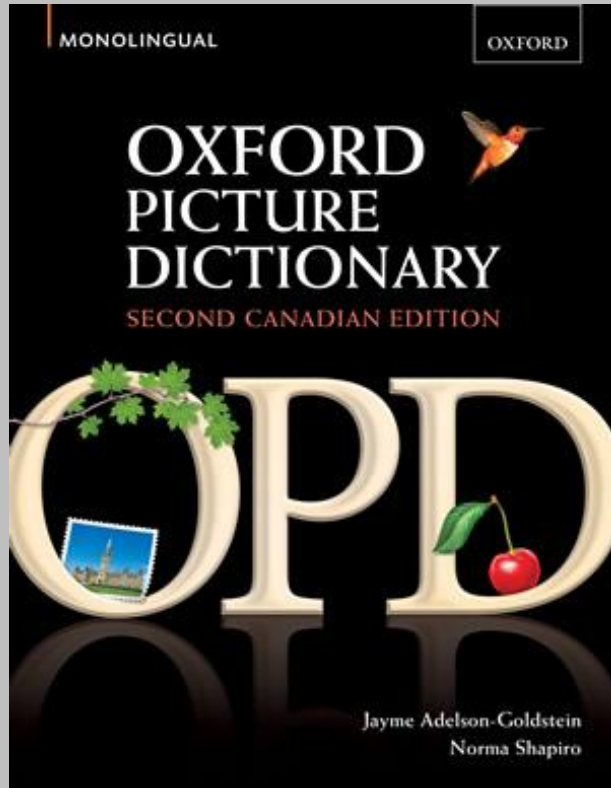
Content Area Dictionaries

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

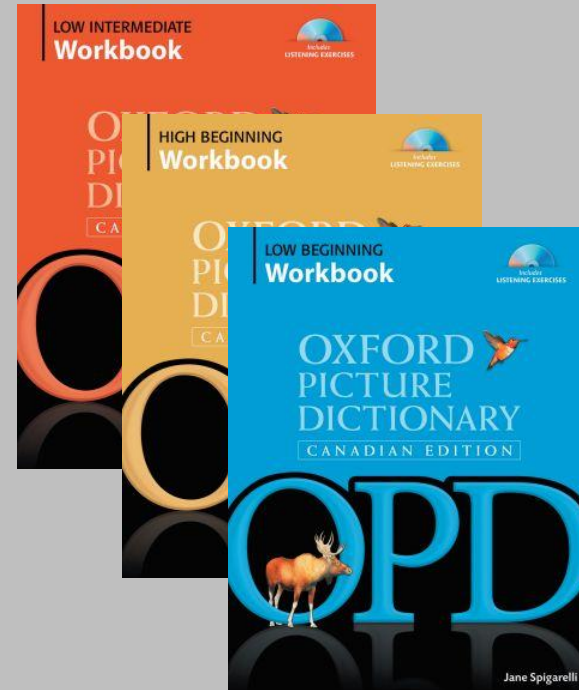


Picture Dictionaries

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

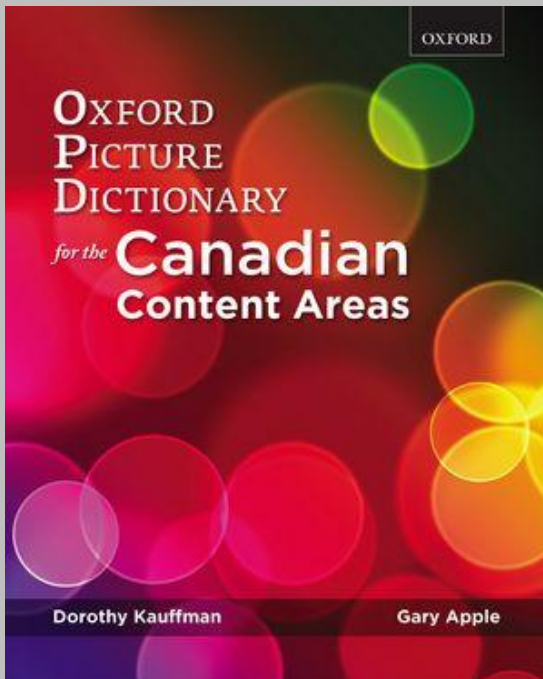


+

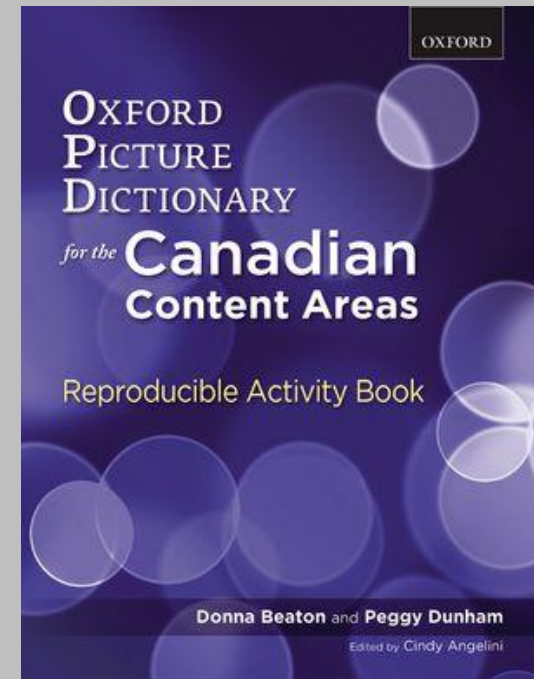


Content Area Picture Dictionaries

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

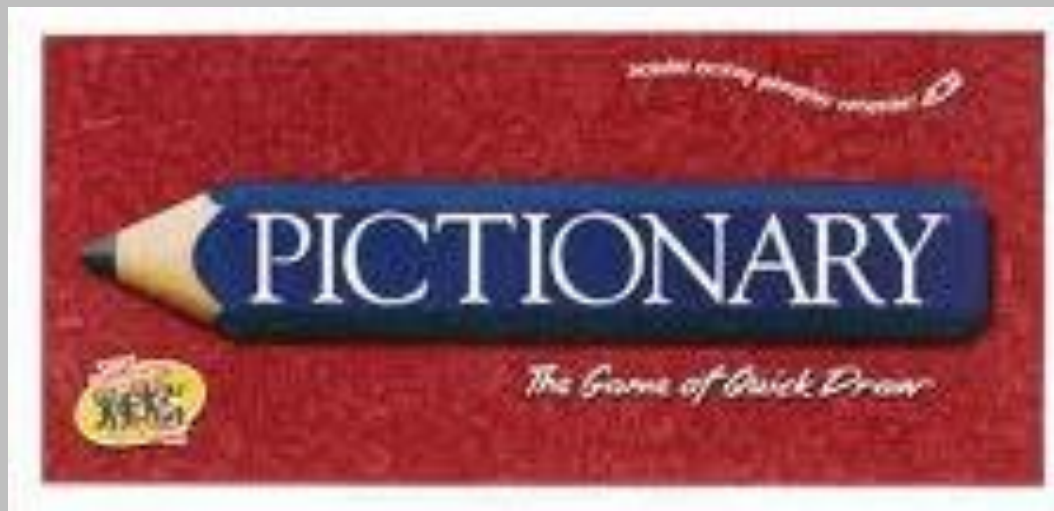


+



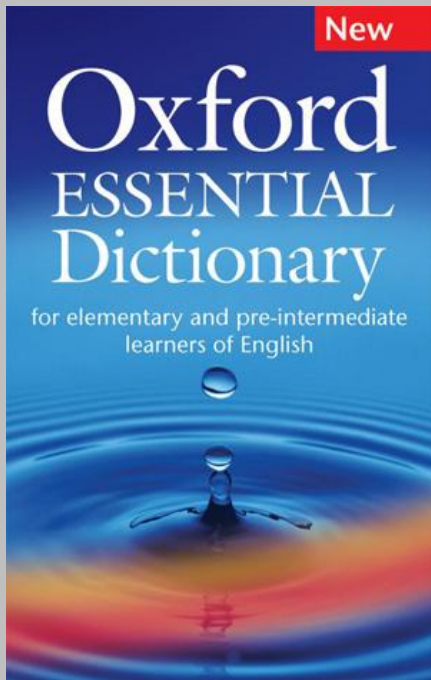
Pictionary

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

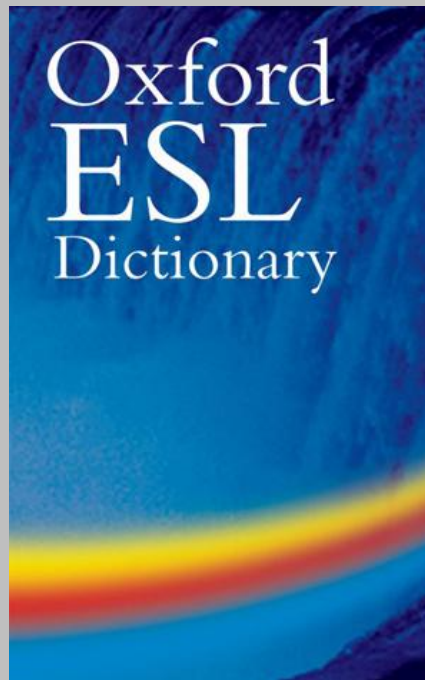


Learner's Dictionaries

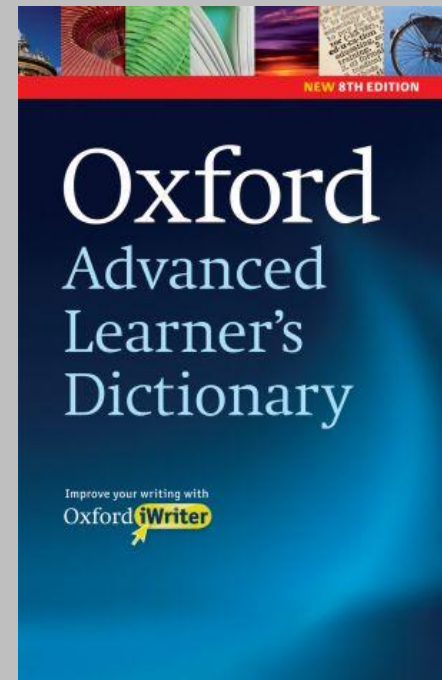
OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Elementary



Intermediate



Advanced

3. What is a learner's dictionary?



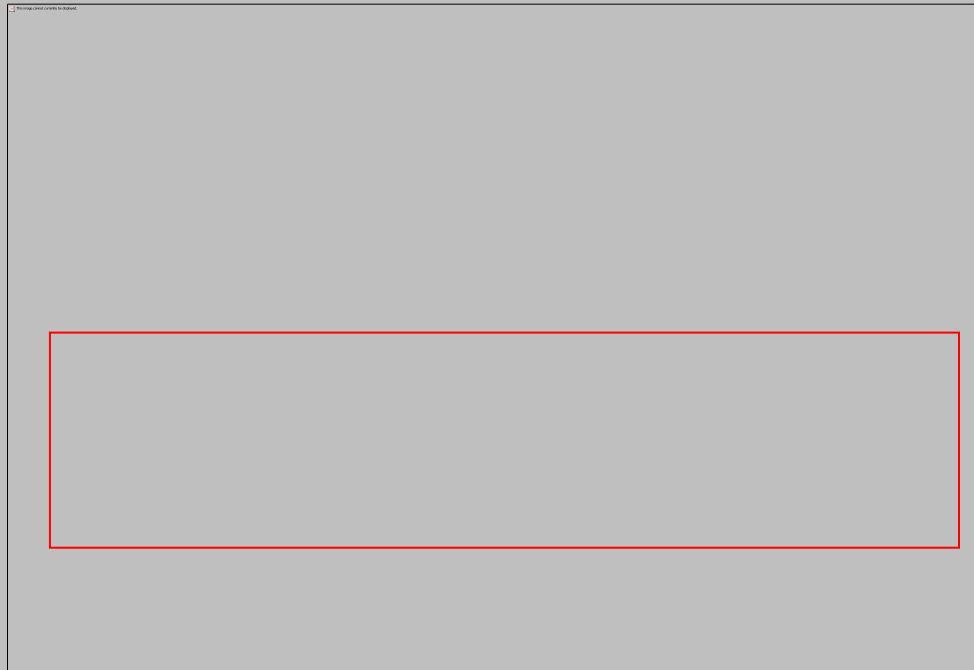
The Oxford English Corpus

-
- Collection of texts (written or spoken) in electronic form
 - Traceable language usage
 - Provides evidence of real-life usage (correct and incorrect)
 - Precise and meaningful dictionary entries:
 - Most common uses
 - Incorrect uses
 - New uses
 - New words
 - Oxford 3000 word list

The Oxford Learner's Dictionaries

Solutions presented

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS





From the *Oxford Essential Dictionary*

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Easy to identify headwords



Oxford 3000 keyword

edu·ca·tion  /edʒu'keɪʃn/ *noun*
1  [U, sing.] a process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills: *primary/elementary education* ◊ *secondary education* ◊ *further/higher/post-secondary education* ◊ *students in full-time education* ◊ *adult education classes* ◊ *a college/university education* ◊ *the state education*

s see | t tea | v van | w wet | z zoo | j shoe | 3

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Monolingual, accessible, simple, Oxford 3000


edu-ca-tion  /,edʒu'keɪʃn/ *noun*
1  [U, sing.] a process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills: *primary/elementary education* ◊ *secondary education* ◊ *further/higher/post-secondary education* ◊ *students in full-time education* ◊ *adult education classes* ◊ *a college/university education* ◊ *the state education*

s see | t tea | v van | w wet | z zoo | j shoe | 3

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Pronunciation aids

edu-ca-tion   /edʒu'keɪʃn/ *noun*



1  [U, sing.] a process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools or colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills: *primary/elementary education* ◊ *secondary education* ◊ *further/higher/post-secondary education* ◊ *students in full-time education* ◊ *adult education classes* ◊ *a college/university education* ◊ *the state education*

s see | t tea | v van | w wet | z zoo | f shoe | 3

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Grammar aids

Comparative and superlative forms

angry 0- /'æŋgri/ *adj.* (**an-grier, an-gri-est**)
HELP You can also use **more angry** and **most angry**.
1 0- having strong feelings about sth that you dislike very much or about an unfair situation: *Her behaviour really made me angry.* ◦ *Thousands of angry demonstrators filled the square.* ◦ *The comments provoked an angry response*

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Visual aids

Cooking



flambé

Cook

- When talking generally about preparing meals, use the verb **to cook**:
 - ▶ *When you're cooking for your family, make an extra serving.*

You can **cook** food or a meal:

- ▶ *Lucas is cooking dinner.*
- ▶ *Cook the onion gently until soft.*

... or the food or the meal can **cook**:

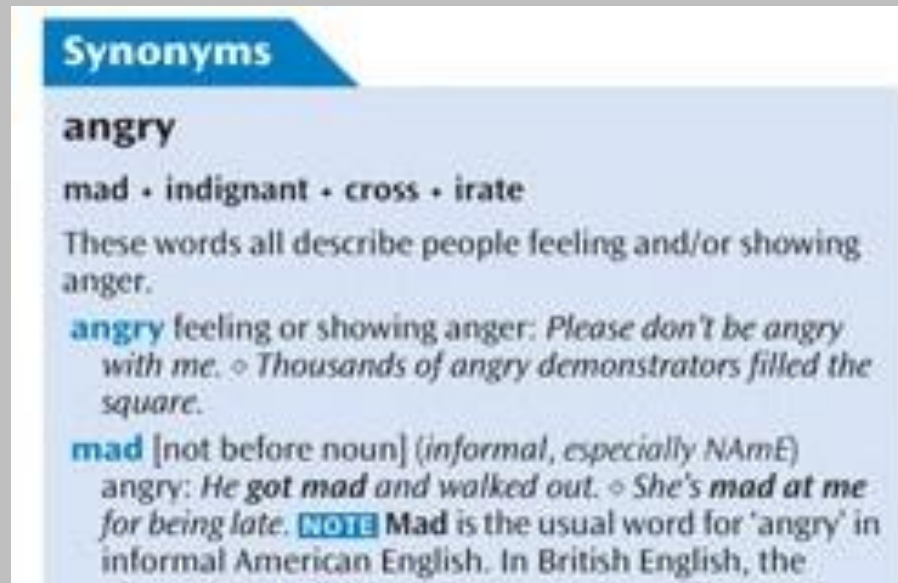
- ▶ *Add the meat and let it cook for ten minutes.*

There are different verbs for particular ways of cooking: with water or oil, or in dry heat.

Fry

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Vocabulary builders



Synonyms

angry
mad • indignant • cross • irate

These words all describe people feeling and/or showing anger.

angry feeling or showing anger: *Please don't be angry with me.* ◦ *Thousands of angry demonstrators filled the square.*

mad [not before noun] (*informal, especially NAmE*)
angry: *He got mad and walked out.* ◦ *She's mad at me for being late.* **NOTE** Mad is the usual word for 'angry' in informal American English. In British English, the

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Collocation boxes

Collocations

The economy

Managing the economy

- **handle/run/manage** the economy
- **boost** investment/spending/employment/growth
- **stimulate** demand/the economy/industry
- **cut/reduce** investment/spending/borrowing
- **reduce/curb/control/keep down** inflation
- **create/fuel** growth/demand/a boom/a bubble in the construction industry
- **encourage/foster/promote/stimulate/stifle** innovation/competition
- **encourage/work with/compete with** the private sector
- **increase/boost/promote** US/agricultural exports
- **ban/restrict/block** cheap/foreign imports
- the economy **grows/expands/shrinks/contracts/slows (down)/recovers/improves/is booming**
- **enjoy** an economic/housing/property boom

Economic problems

- **push up/drive up** prices/costs/inflation

Collocations

Email and the Internet

Email

- **receive/get/open** an email
- **write/send/answer/forward/delete** an email
- **check/read/access** your email
- **block/filter (out)** junk/spam/unsolicited email
- **exchange** email addresses
- **open/check** your inbox
- junk mail **fills/floods/clogs** your inbox
- **have/set up** an email account
- **open/send/contain** an attachment
- **sign up for/receive** email alerts

Connecting to the Internet

- **use/access/log onto** the Internet/the Web
- **go online/on** the Internet
- **have** a high-speed/dial-up/broadband/wireless (Internet) connection
- **access/connect to/locate** the server
- **use/open/close/launch** a/your web browser

What is a Learner's Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
 - Writing and composition guides

Writing an argument essay

Many essays that you have to write, whether during your school or college course or in an examination, will require you to present a reasoned argument. This type of writing will often be

topic, but some questions may ask you to give your opinion. In both cases your argument must be clearly organized and supported

Preparing to write

- Brainstorm your ideas on the question, read and research the topic (unless in an examination). Which do you think are the strongest arguments? Decide what your viewpoint will be.
- Select 2 or 3 strong ideas on each side, with supporting examples, ideas or evidence. For some questions you can use evidence from your personal experience.
- Decide how to organize your essay to persuade readers of your case.
- Note down some useful vocabulary on the topic.

Lucky Dip

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS


What is “sky”?


Compare

- sky** ■ n. (pl. **skies**) (often **the sky**) the region of the atmosphere and outer space seen from the earth.
- literary heaven, or heavenly power. ■ v. (**skies, skying, skied**) informal hit (a ball) high into the air.
- PHRASES **the sky is the limit** there is practically no limit. **to the skies** very highly; enthusiastically. **under the open sky** out of doors.
- DERIVATIVES **skyey** adj. **skyleless** adj. **skyward** adj. & adv. **skywards** adv.
- ORIGIN ME, from ON *ský* ‘cloud’.

From the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*

Compare

sky  /skaɪ/ noun, verb

■ **noun**  [C, U] (pl. **skies**) the space above the earth that you can see when you look up, where clouds and the sun, moon and stars appear **HELP** You usually say **the sky**. When **sky** is used with an adjective, use **a... sky**. You can also use the plural form **skies**, especially when you are thinking about the great extent of the sky: *What's that in the sky?* ◇ *The sky suddenly went dark and it started to rain.* ◇ *the night sky* ◇ *a cloudless sky* ◇ *cloudless skies* ◇ *a land of blue skies and sunshine* ◇ *The skies above London were ablaze with a spectacular firework display.* ➔ **COLLOCATIONS**
at WEATHER

From the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*

A Little Myth About Dictionaries

-
- Dictionaries are a great reference tool, but I don't have much use for them in class
 - Core resource
 - Every program, institution has them for a reason
 - Great framing tool

4. Dictionary activities



Refresh Your Students

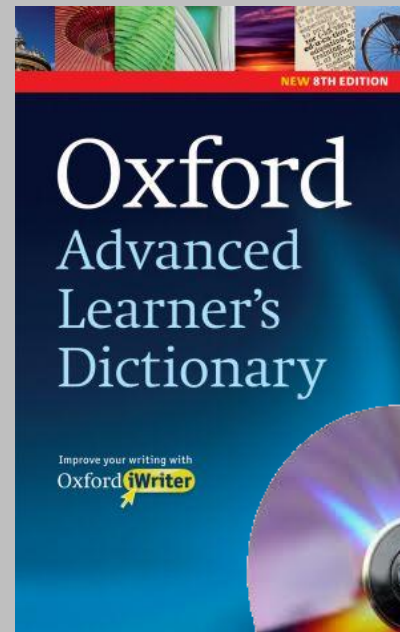
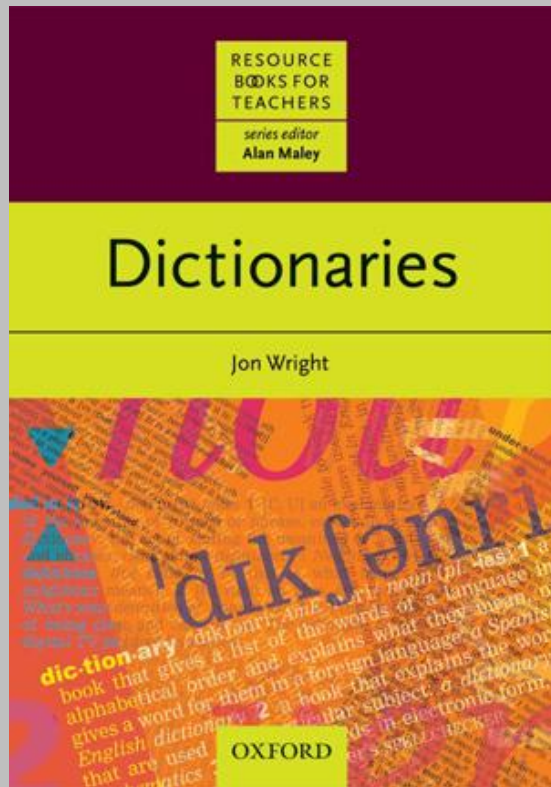


You can take a horse to water...

Dictionary Activities

Use these to get started...

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Dictionary Activities

Skimming and Scanning

SKIMMING AND SCANNING

Open your dictionary at any page.
How quickly can you answer these questions?

On your page:

- 1 What are the first and last headwords? _____

- 2 Which is the longest headword? _____
- 3 How many adjectives are there? _____
- 4 How many headwords do you already know? _____
- 5 Can you find a compound word? _____
- 6 Is there an idiom? What is it, and what does it mean? _____

- 7 Which word has most different meanings? _____
- 8 Can you find an irregular verb? _____
- 9 Think of two topics you could talk about using headwords from this page:
a _____
b _____

Dictionary Activities

Food Fun

- Hag gis (Scotland)
- Sou vlaki (Greece)
- Las agne (Italy)
- Pae lla (Spain)
- Pou tine (Canada)
- Humm us (Middle East)

Dictionary Activities

Go or Play?

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Go
swimming

jogging

sailing *Play*

volleyball

hockey

bowling

dancing

football

rugby

Dictionary Activities

Verb Chart

run		
	had	
choose		
		caught
		dealt
	held	
hide		

Dictionary Activities

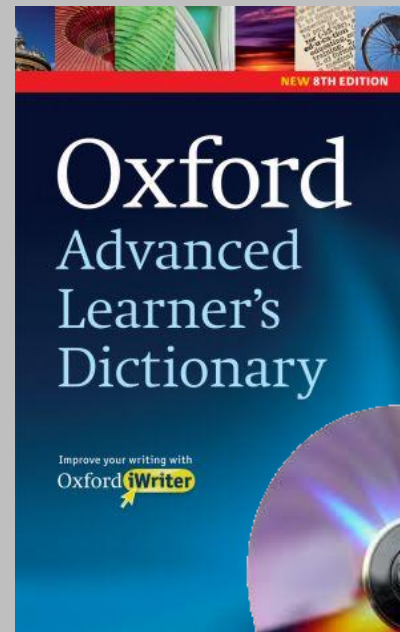
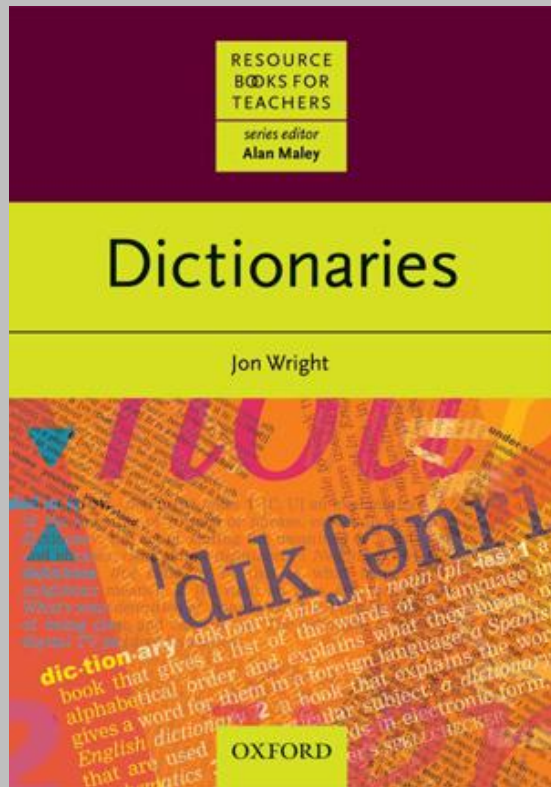
Verb Chart

run	<i>ran</i>	<i>run</i>
<i>have</i>	had	<i>had</i>
choose	<i>chose</i>	<i>chosen</i>
<i>catch</i>	<i>caught</i>	caught
<i>deal</i>	<i>dealt</i>	dealt
<i>hold</i>	held	<i>held</i>
hide	<i>hid</i>	<i>hidden</i>

Dictionary Activities

Use these to get started

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



More Activities

Resource Books for Teachers: Dictionaries

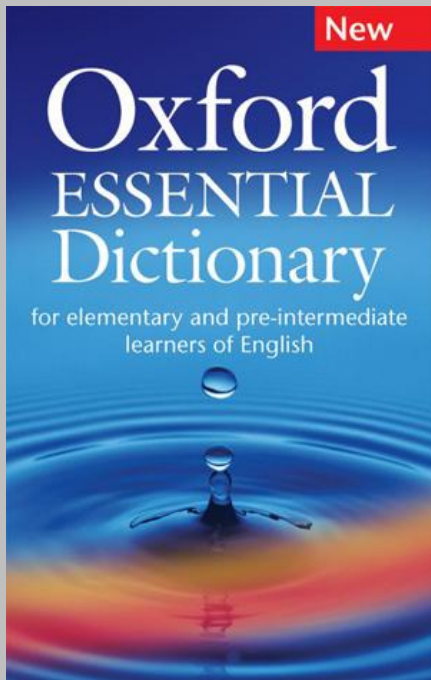
- Dictionary Ice-Breakers – page 70
- Alphabet Game – page 27
- Collapsing a Page – page 88
- Find the Noun, Find the Adjective – page 40

5. Selecting a dictionary

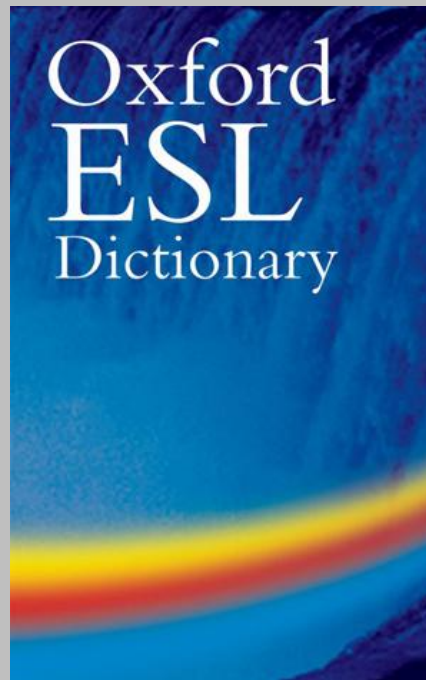


Selecting a Dictionary

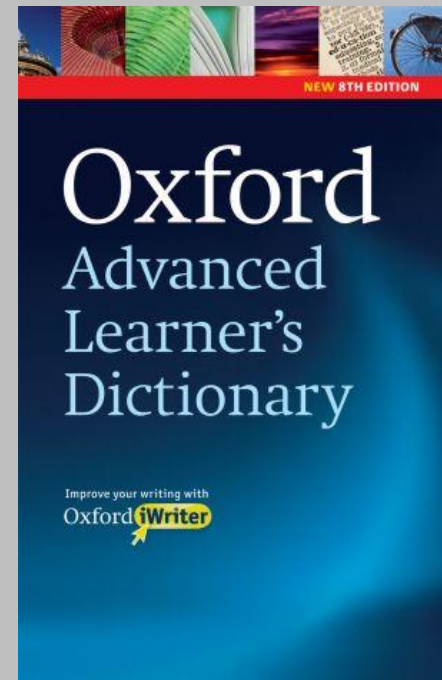
OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Elementary



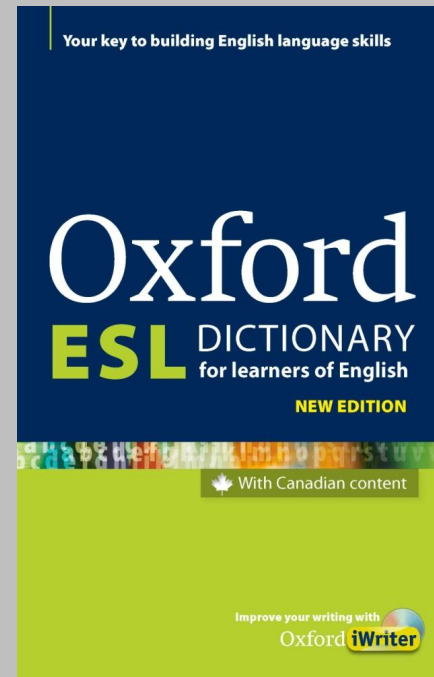
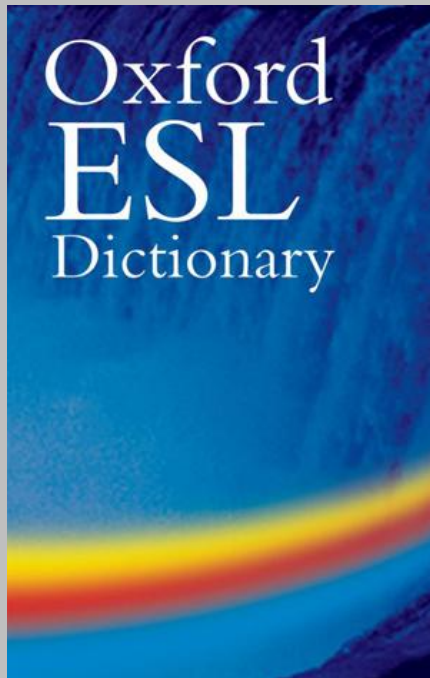
Intermediate



Advanced

Selecting a Dictionary

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

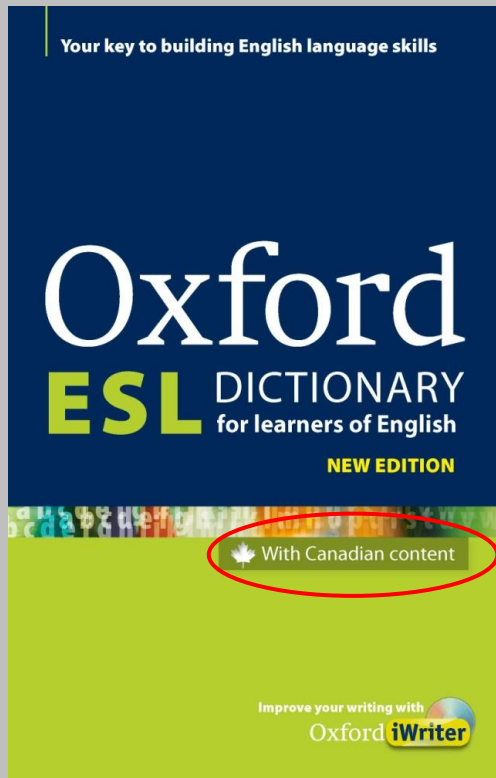


New edition (May 2012)

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- “CanE”
- Canadian terms
- Section on Canadian English
- Colour illustrations
- Grammar, collocations, synonyms/antonyms, thesaurus
- Oxford 3000 and AWL
- Content area words
- Writing tutor


Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Canadian spellings clearly
marked “CanE”

with flying colors ɔːˈflaɪɪŋ-
col·or²  (CanE also **col·our**) /ˈkʌlər/ verb [T]
1 (ART) to put color on something, for example by
painting it: *Color the picture with your crayons.* ♦ *The
area colored yellow on the map is desert.* **2** to influence
thoughts, opinions, etc.: *You shouldn't let one bad
experience color your attitude toward everything.*

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Canada Customs and Revenue Agency
noun [sing.] ⇨ CCRA

Canada Day *noun* [sing.] (in Canada) a national holiday held on July 1 to celebrate the original joining together of the main areas (called **provinces**) to form Canada in 1867

Ca-na-di-an /kə'neɪdiən/ *adj.* from or connected with Canada: *Have you met Heather? She's Canadian.*
♦ *Canadian history* ▶ **Ca-na-di-an** *noun* [C]: *He married a Canadian.*

the Canadian Bill of Rights *noun* [sing.] an official written statement that guarantees certain basic human rights to Canadian citizens, such as life, freedom, etc.

the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms *noun* [sing.] an official document that is part of Canada's set of basic laws (its **constitution**), and that guarantees basic political, legal, and language rights, as well as the rights of Aboriginal people

Canadian football *noun* [C] (SPORTS) a form of football played in Canada, for two teams of twelve players. Each team tries to throw, carry, or kick a football to the other team's end of the field

the Canadian Forces *noun* [pl.] the official name of the Canadian military, consisting of the army, navy, and air force

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- Canadian terms
 - “loonie”
 - “washroom”
 - “constable”
 - “toque”
 - “First Nations”
 - Etc.

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Canadian English
 - (Written by Katherine Barber)

Canadian English

Canadian English

Katherine Barber, editor of the *Canadian Oxford Dictionary*

Canadian English is a lot like American English. Almost all the words are the same, and the pronunciation is very similar. Canadians spell and say some words differently than Americans, though, and they have some words that Americans do not use. Here are some examples.

Spelling

Some words that end in *-or* (**color**, **neighbor**, etc.) are more often spelled with *-our* than with *-or*: **colour**, **neighbour**, etc. Be careful: some words are always spelled with *-or* in all varieties of English: **actor**, **doctor**, **error**, etc.

Some words that end in *-ter* (**center**, **theater**, etc.) are more often spelled *-tre*:

Most Canadians say **route** like *root*, though some say it to rhyme with *out* (as many Americans also do).

About half of Canadians pronounce the “h” in **herb** while the other half don’t. (Americans don’t.)

About half start the word **schedule** with a “sh” and the other half with a “sk”

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

can·not /'kænat;
kə'nat/ = CAN NOT

ca·noe¹ /kə'nu/ *noun*
[C] a light, narrow boat
that you can move
through the water using



canoe


Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Colour illustrations

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

can¹  /kən; strong form kæn/ *modal verb*
(negative **can-not** /'kænat; kə'nat/ short form **can't** /kænt/, pt. **could** /kəd/ strong form /kʊd/, negative **could not** short form **could-n't** /'kʊdnt/)
1 used for showing that it is possible for someone or something to do something, or that someone or something has the ability to do something: *I can catch a bus from here.* ♦ *Can you ride a bike?* ♦ *He can't speak Spanish.* ♦ *She couldn't answer the question.*

GRAMMAR

- **Can** has no infinitive or participle forms. To make the future and perfect tenses, we use **be able to**: *One day people will be able to travel to Mars.* ♦ *He's been able to swim for almost a year.*
- **Could have** is used when we say that someone had the ability to do something but did not do it: *She could have passed the test, but she didn't try.*

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- Grammar
- Collocations
- Synonyms/Antonyms
- Thesaurus
- Idioms
- Etc.

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Oxford 3000

coin¹  /kɔɪn/ *noun* [C] a piece of money made of metal  See picture at **money**.

coin² /kɔɪn/ *verb* [T] (ENG. LANG. ARTS) to invent a new word or phrase: *Who was it who coined the phrase, "every cloud has a silver lining"?*

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

co·in·cide **AWL** /,koum'said/ *verb* [I] **coincide**
(with sth) **1** (used about events) to happen at the
same time as something else: *The candidate's visit is
timed to coincide with local elections.* **2** to be exactly
the same or very similar: *Our views coincide com-
pletely.*

Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Academic Word List (AWL)

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

can·yon /'kænyən/ *noun* [C] (**GEOGRAPHY**) a deep valley with very steep sides: *the Grand Canyon in Arizona*

cap¹  /kæp/ *noun* [C] **1** a type of soft hat that often has a hard curved part sticking out at the front: *a baseball cap* **2** a soft hat that is worn for a particular purpose: *a shower/swimming cap* **3** a covering for the end or top of something: *Please put the cap back on the bottle.* ♦ *Take the lens cap off before you take the picture!*  Look at the note at **lid.** **4** (**BUSINESS**) an upper limit on something, especially money: *Congress is discussing a cap on corporate taxes.* ♦ *They plan to put a cap on the number of new employees.*

Only ESL Dictionary for
Canadian market:

- Content area vocabulary

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The Writing Process

Each individual writer has their own aims and needs and their own way of approaching various parts of the writing process. However, whether you are writing a short essay, an article, a report, or a research paper, the overall process is generally the same.

1 Preliminary Phase

Ask yourself some planning questions that will help guide the rest of the process.

What is the purpose of this piece of writing?

For example:

- To answer a specific essay, examination, or research question
- To convince others of your point of view
- To communicate your knowledge or understanding to others, such as a teacher or an admissions board

Organize

After carrying out your research, you can draft a thesis statement (your main argument or idea) to guide you.

Then, using your notes, make a detailed outline of the logical plan of your essay, article, or report to support this thesis, giving a structure to your writing *before* you begin to write.

- Collect or prepare any visual aids such as graphics, charts, or diagrams.

3 Writing Phase

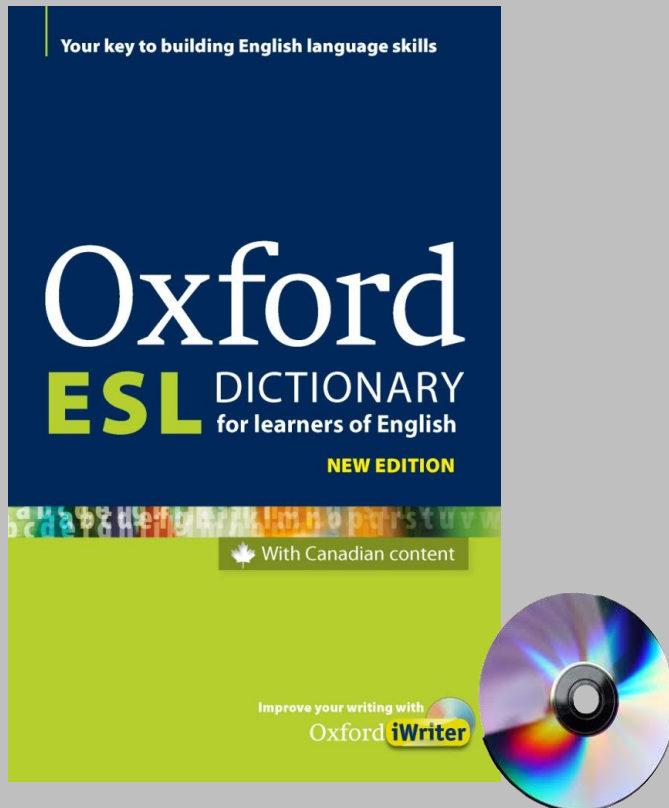
Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- Writing tutor

Oxford ESL Dictionary

With Canadian Content

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- iWriter (on CD-Rom)
- Word lists (on CD-Rom)
- Oxford Genie (on CD-Rom)
- Pronunciation (on CD-Rom)

Final Thoughts on Dictionaries

- Readily available
- Inexpensive
- Flexible

Also:

- Under-used

Dr. Samuel Johnson

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Thank you

Any questions?

