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
2. Types of dictionaries
Standard Dictionaries

Oxford Dictionary of English

The world's most trusted dictionaries
Learner’s Dictionaries

Elementary

Intermediate

Advanced
Usage Dictionaries

Idioms

Phrasal Verbs

Collocations
Content Area Dictionaries

Oxford Student’s Dictionary
for learners using English to study other subjects

Ideal for CLIL/bilingual schools
IELTS • TOEFL®

New edition
Picture Dictionaries
Content Area Picture Dictionaries

Oxford Picture Dictionary for the Canadian Content Areas

Dorothy Kauffman, Gary Apple

Oxford Picture Dictionary for the Canadian Content Areas
Reproducible Activity Book

Donna Beaton and Peggy Dunham
Edited by Cindy Angelini
Pictionary
Learner’s Dictionaries

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
before I leave I told you a lot of things but I forgot to tell you to see it. Q2b & address: Dear Sir I am writing to you to see if you are enjoying my holiday but I remembered that I forgot to tell you about the problems that I had on my holiday. Firstly about all the things we had at St. John's Bay, all the things that disliked me and all the things that I have to do. My friend's name is John & he is away on holiday. Maybe you think I am very bored to explain you about him & his weekends. By the way I have completed the last section but I have forgotten it. I will explain it in the morning. I will call you in the evening to explain you about all the time this, but you also know that all your duds. My father was my first teacher & he was a very good teacher. Unfortunately my grandmother is not well at school. Bye & goodbye. Please do not be sad. Your sincerely, John.

Explain you about: 

Rubbish collection: It is every week.

Explain you about my friends who going to visit you and tell you about the problems that I had on my holiday. Firstly about all the things we had at St. John's Bay, all the things that disliked me and all the things that I have to do. My friend's name is John & he is away on holiday. Maybe you think I am very bored to explain you about him & his weekends. By the way I have completed the last section but I have forgotten it. I will explain it in the morning. I will call you in the evening to explain you about all the time this, but you also know that all your duds. My father was my first teacher & he was a very good teacher. Unfortunately my grandmother is not well at school. Bye & goodbye. Please do not be sad. Your sincerely, John.
The Oxford Learner’s Dictionaries

Solutions presented

From the *Oxford Essential Dictionary*
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

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

Oxford 3000 keyword
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

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

education ˌi.dʒ.yuˈkeɪʃən 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
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
  - Pronunciation aids
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
  - Grammar aids

Comparitive and superlative forms
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

• Specifically for ESL and English learners
  – Visual aids
What is a Learner’s Dictionary?

- Specifically for ESL and English learners
  - Vocabulary builders
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/slow (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, and often be expected to express 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.
What is “sky”? 
Compare

From the *Concise Oxford English Dictionary*

**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. skyless adj. skyward adj. & adv. skywards adv.
- ORIGIN ME, from ON ský ‘cloud’.
Compare

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…
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

Photocopi able © Oxford University Press
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?

swimming  Go  
volleyball  Play  
hockey 
bowling 
football  
dancing
rugby
## Dictionary Activities

### Verb Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>run</th>
<th>choose</th>
<th>hide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>had</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caught</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dealt</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>held</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Dictionary Activities

### Verb Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>run</th>
<th>ran</th>
<th>run</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>have</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>had</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choose</td>
<td>chose</td>
<td>chosen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>catch</td>
<td>caught</td>
<td>caught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>deal</td>
<td>dealt</td>
<td>dealt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hold</td>
<td>held</td>
<td>held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hide</td>
<td>hid</td>
<td>hidden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dictionary Activities
Use these to get started
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

Elementary

Intermediate

Advanced
Selecting a Dictionary

New edition (May 2012)
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
Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- Canadian spellings clearly marked “CanE”
Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Canadian terms
  – “loonie”
  – “washroom”
  – “constable”
  – “toque”
  – “First Nations”
  – Etc.
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Canadian English
  – (Written by Katherine Barber)
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Colour illustrations
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

• Grammar
• Collocations
• Synonyms/Antonyms
• Thesaurus
• Idioms
• Etc.
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Oxford 3000
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Academic Word List (AWL)

co·in·cide /ˌkoʊˈmənsaɪd/ 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 completely.
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:
• Content area vocabulary
Only ESL Dictionary for Canadian market:

- Writing tutor
Oxford ESL Dictionary
With Canadian Content

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
Thank you
Any questions?