

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary



Teacher's notes

Aims: expand students' active and passive vocabulary by researching, selecting and using related words

Skill: using the **SMART thesaurus** for independent language development

Level: Pre-intermediate and Intermediate

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Write the word 'child' on the board and elicit alternative words (other words that mean the same or similar) from the students (examples: kid, baby, son)
- Ask the students to explain how they are different. They can do so in their own language if this is too difficult in English. (They may say: *kid* is informal / used more often in USA, *baby* is a very young child, maybe just months old, *son* is male but could be used for an adult etc)
- Explain that the **SMART thesaurus** in the dictionary will give related words and help students use them.

How to find related words

1. Enter the word you are looking for in the *search box* and click *find*, the word you need will appear at the top of the list in the *results window*. To the right of the *results window* is the *definitions window*, your word plus the definition and links to the audio files will be displayed here together with a button for the **SMART thesaurus**.
2. Click the **SMART thesaurus** button to open the thesaurus.
3. Scroll down the *definitions window* of the **SMART thesaurus** to find the definitions you need, or click on any of the words in the *results window* to bring up a definition immediately.
4. Finally, the window on the right is the *categories window*; if there is more than one category for your chosen word, click on the link to explore other related words.

2. Class activity (10 minutes)

- Hand out the Class activity worksheet and, if possible, display the dictionary on screen or on a computer in class.

Related words

- Explain that the meanings in the Class activity worksheet are taken from the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary, and point out that the related words were found using the electronic dictionary's **SMART thesaurus**.
- Ask students to match the meanings to the words in Table 1 and Table 2. Tell them that the additional information in the tables might provide some clues.

Answers

Table 1: adolescent **b**; punk **d**; teenager **a**; youth **c**

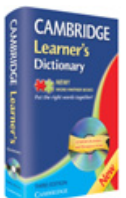
Table 2: crook **c**; robber **d**; delinquent **a**; outlaw **b**

3. Homework (15 minutes)

- For homework hand out the Student research worksheet. Choose a relevant word and explain that students have to do similar research on this word using the **SMART thesaurus**. If you can't think of a word, try 'tired'.
- Ensure that students know how to use the **SMART thesaurus** and that you allocate time next lesson for students to feedback on words they discovered during their research.
- Encourage students to use the Student research activity table when researching new or related words, especially when studying independently.
- Point out the two tips below that students will find on the Student research activity worksheet. Encourage them to use the audio and recording functionality. It will be very useful for students who want to practise pronouncing new words.

TIPS

- If you don't know how to pronounce a word then click on the audio symbols in the *definitions window* of the electronic dictionary. You will be able to listen to British and American pronunciations of the word.
- If you want to practise pronouncing the word before you present it to the class, click on the microphone symbol next to the audio symbols to bring up the pronunciation practice box. If you have a microphone you will be able to record yourself saying the word, then play back the recording to compare it with the dictionary audio files.



Class activity worksheet

Related words

- Match the meanings to the words in the tables below

Table 1

Word: child

Part of speech: noun

Meaning: a young person who is not an adult

Translation:

Related words	Meaning	Formal/Informal	US or British
<i>adolescent</i>		<i>Neutral</i>	<i>both</i>
<i>punk</i>		<i>Informal</i>	<i>US</i>
<i>teenager</i>		<i>Neutral</i>	<i>both</i>
<i>youth</i>		<i>Formal</i>	<i>both</i>

Meaning

- someone who is between 13 and 19 years old
- a person between being a child and an adult
- a young man
- a bad young man

Table 2

Word: criminal

Part of speech: noun

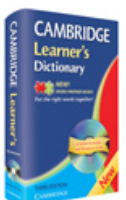
Meaning: someone who commits a crime

Translation:

Related words	Meaning	Formal/Informal	US or British
<i>crook</i>		<i>Informal</i>	<i>both</i>
<i>robber</i>		<i>Neutral</i>	<i>both</i>
<i>delinquent</i>		<i>Neutral</i>	<i>both</i>
<i>outlaw</i>		<i>Old-fashioned</i>	<i>both</i>

Meaning

- a young person who behaves badly, usually by committing crimes.
- an old-fashioned word for a criminal
- a criminal or someone who cheats people
- someone who steals



Student research worksheet

Related words

- Your teacher will give you a word. Use the electronic dictionary's **SMART thesaurus** to research related words.
- You can do this at home or in the school computer lab if you have one.
- Use a copy of the Research Activity Table to record your research
- Pick a word from your search that you think is useful and/or interesting and that you would like to present to the class.

Word:

Part of speech:

Meaning:

Translation:

Related words of similar meaning	Meaning	Formal/Informal	US or British

TIPS

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- If you want to practise pronouncing the word before you present it to the class, click on the microphone symbol next to the audio symbols to bring up the pronunciation practice box. If you have a microphone you will be able record yourself saying the word, then play back the recording to compare it with the dictionary audio files.

