

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary



Teacher's notes

Reading

Aims: to help students use the dictionary; to aid independent reading and understanding of texts
Skill: using the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary for independent language development
Level: Pre-intermediate and Intermediate

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Choose a text that you are exploring. The next one in the course book is ideal.
- Ask students to read through the text and to feedback on the following points:
 - What is the gist (general meaning) of the text?
 - Was it difficult or easy?
 - Which words they do they not understand?
 - Ask them to make a list of 5–7 words that they want to know the meaning of.
- Write one or two of the words on the board and encourage the students to guess the meanings.
- Confirm or correct the meanings and tell the students that they can use a dictionary to do this on their own.

2. Class activity (10 minutes)

- Hand out the Class activity worksheet and, if possible, display the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary on screen or on a computer in class
- Ask the students to work in pairs and to write the words listed in the Introduction exercise into the worksheet table.
- Ask them to look at the context of the word and try to guess the meaning and to record in Table 1 what they think the word means, either in English or in their first language.
- Take some examples from the students and, if there is a computer available, type the words into the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary *search box* and click *find*. If there is no computer in the classroom, use a paper dictionary.
- Check the actual meanings of the words, and ask the students to write the correct meanings into Table 1, if they are different from what they guessed.
- Select an example sentence from the dictionary for each word and ask the students to write it into Table 2.

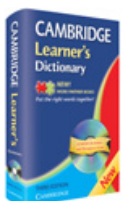
- Encourage reflection on any words with surprising meanings, and ask students to note any words they think would be useful to remember. This will help them make choices about recording and trying to use new vocabulary – they cannot remember all the new words they come across every lesson.

3. Homework (15 minutes)

- For homework hand out or assign another reading text and a copy of the Student research worksheet.
- Ask students to do this activity on their own using the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary and to be ready to present some of their findings to the rest of the class next lesson.
- Ensure you allocate time next lesson for students to feed back on words they have researched.
- Encourage students to use this table when researching the meaning of words they are not sure of, especially when studying independently.

TIPS

- If you don't know how to pronounce a word then click on the audio symbols in the definition 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 record yourself saying the word, then play back the recording to compare it with the dictionary audio files.
- You can copy and paste words and definitions from the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary into other electronic documents.
- Why not start an electronic word bank for your coursebook or course by copying and pasting selected words and their meanings into a Word or Excel document?



Class activity worksheet

Reading

- Write the words you don't understand from the reading text into the Table 1.

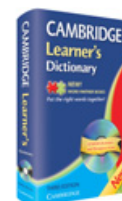
Table 1

Problem words	Guess the meaning	Check the meaning

- Write example sentences for the problem words into the Table 2.

Table 2

Problem words	Example sentences



Student research worksheet

Reading

- Your teacher will give you a text to read. Use the Cambridge Learner's Electronic Dictionary to check the meanings of words you don't understand.
- You can do this at home or in the school computer lab if you have one.
- Use the tables on this worksheet 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.

Table 1

Problem words	Guess the meaning	Check the meaning

Table 2

Problem words	Example sentences

TIPS

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