

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary



Teacher's notes

Grammar

Aims: to help students use the dictionary effectively to understand the grammar of the words they are researching and to then use them correctly

Skill: using the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM for independent language development

Level: Intermediate and above

1. Introduction (in class)

- Ask students what kind of information they can find in the dictionary about a word apart from its meaning.
- Put the grammar labels below in the left column on the board, but not the explanations.

Grammar labels	Explanations
[C]	Countable nouns (nouns: e.g. table)
[I]	Intransitive – doesn't have an object (verbs: e.g. appear)
[+ that]	Followed by a "that" clause (verbs: e.g. advise)
[T]	Transitive – must have an object (verbs: e.g. add)
[U]	Uncountable nouns (nouns: e.g. milk)
[+ to do something]	Followed by a verb in the infinitive (verbs: and adjectives e.g. agree, difficult)
[always before the noun]	Describes position of adjectives (adjectives: e.g. basic)
[always after the noun]	Describes position of adjectives (adjectives: e.g. inclusive)
[+ doing something]	Followed by a verb in the -ing form (verbs: e.g. enjoy)
[I, T]	Can be transitive or intransitive (verb: e.g. invest)

- Ask students to work in pairs and decide what they think these labels mean and what kind of words they are giving information about, such as nouns, adjectives or verbs.
- Give the students the explanations in the right column of the table above, if necessary.

How to find information on labels

- 1) Click on Study pages in the top right hand side of the page.
- 2) Then click on *using the dictionary*.
- 3) Click on *grammar labels* which appears at the top on the right.

2. Class activity (15 minutes)

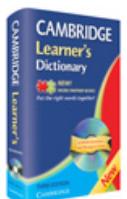
- Hand out the Class activity worksheet.
- Write the following words on the board: **ask, confidence, see, knowledge, believe, happy, basic, chair.**
- Ask the students to think about what types of words these are and what grammar labels apply to each word.
- Ask students to work in pairs and to complete Table 1 in the activity worksheet by entering information about the list of words on the board.
- When the students have finished, check the answers together.

3. Homework (15 minutes)

- For homework hand out the Student research worksheets and either assign the students a list of varied words to research, or allow the students to build their own lists.
- Ask students to fill in the table using the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM.
- You can show the students how to use the *Advanced search* functionality of the CD-ROM to support their research.
- Ensure you allocate time next lesson for students to present their work to the class. Use the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM as a tool when providing feedback.

TIPS

- To search for types of words, such as transitive verbs, uncountable nouns or adjectives that follow nouns, use the *Advanced search* function.
- Click on the *Advanced search* symbol above the *results list* column on the top left of the dictionary. This will open the *Advanced search* window.
- Use the dropdown menus to search. For example: click on *Part of speech* and select *adjective*; next, in the *Grammar* menu select *always after noun*. Now click *Find*. In the *results list* you will see a list of adjectives that follow nouns.
- Experiment with the search criteria to find other types of words.



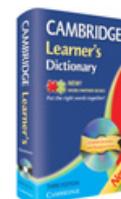
Class activity worksheet

Grammar

- Complete the table with information about the words listed below.
- Use the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM to support and check your research.

ask, confidence, see, knowledge, believe, happy, basic, chair

Word	Part of speech	Extra information	Sample sentence
Confidence	Noun	[to do s/th]	She has the confidence to be a stage actor.



Student research worksheet

Grammar

- Use the Cambridge Learner's Dictionary CD-ROM to research a list of words. Make a note of the extra information and examples.
- Enter the information into the table below.
- Your teacher will tell you which words to research.

Word	Part of speech	Extra information	Sample sentence

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- Experiment with the search criteria to find other types of words
- To learn more about grammar labels, click on *Study pages* in the top right hand side of the page, click on *using the dictionary* and then click on *grammar labels*.

