

Cambridge Learner's Dictionary



Teacher's notes

Usage

Aims: to help students use the dictionary effectively

to understand how (in what context) words are used

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

Level: Pre-Intermediate

1. Introduction (10 minutes)

- Write the following on the board:
 1. Tom is a very clever student / Tom is a very brainy student.
 2. I like listening to my CD player / I like listening to my gramophone.
 3. When I sleep, I dream of you / When I slumber, I dream of you.
- Ask students to discuss in pairs or small groups what they think are the differences between the underlined words.
- Ask students to feedback in class.
- In sentence 1 'clever' is a neutral word and 'brainy' is a very informal word that is usually used only in spoken English.
- In sentence 2 'gramophone' is an old-fashioned word. It's an old record player.
- In sentence 3 'slumber' is very poetic or literary and not usually used.
- Explain that the dictionary gives information like this about certain words using usage labels.

2. Class activity (15 minutes)

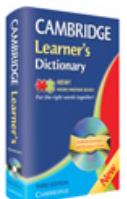
- Hand out the Class activity worksheet.
- Ask the students to look at the usage labels on the worksheet and elicit from them what the labels mean.
- Now ask the students to place the three words "slumber" (literary), "brainy" (informal) and "gramophone" (old-fashioned) into the table.
- Check that they understand the different usage.
- Now write the following words up on the board and ask the students to identify their usage: coke (trademark), yeah (spoken), examination (formal), prat (very informal), couch potato (humorous).
- Finally, ask the students to add any other examples they can think of. If there are computers available, encourage the students to check their answers on the Cambridge Learners Dictionary CD-ROM.

3. Homework (15 minutes)

- For homework hand out the Student research worksheets and ask the students to research the underlined words in the texts on the worksheet.
- Tell the students to write the meanings and usage of the underlined words into the table.
- 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.

TIP

- To search for types of words by usage, use the *Advanced search* function on the CD-ROM.
- 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 add your search criteria, and then click on the *usage* menu and select the type of word that you are looking for.



Class activity worksheet

Usage

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

slumber, brainy, gramophone, coke, yeah, examination, prat, couch potato

Usage label	Example words	Meaning of words
Informal		
Formal		
Very informal		
Spoken		
Humorous		
Literary		
Old-fashioned		
Trademark		

