

# How to use the dictionary

The **Cambridge Learner's Dictionary** gives you lots of important information about words: their definitions, natural-sounding examples of how to use the words, the correct grammatical way to use the words, the most important words to learn and much more. So it is very important that you know how to use your dictionary to get the most out of it!

## A. Read the dictionary definition shown here and then answer the questions.

1. What does the symbol (O~~A~~) before the headword *close* mean?
2. Words which have several meanings have **GUIDEWORDS** to help you find the meaning you are looking for. What are the four different 'guidewords' for *close*?
3. What does **[I, T]** stand for?
4. What is the example sentence for the meaning of the verb *close* in relation to a public place?
5. What is the meaning of the verb *close* in relation to an organization?

**close**<sup>1</sup> /kloʊz/ verb [I, T] 1 **[DOOR/WINDOW ETC]** If something closes, it moves so that it is not open, and if you close something, you make it move so that it is not open. *Jane closed the window.* ◦ *Lie down and close your eyes.* ◦ *Suddenly the door closed.* 2 **[PUBLIC PLACE]** If a shop, restaurant, public place, etc closes, people cannot go in it. *The supermarket closes at 8 p.m.* 3 **[ORGANIZATION]** (also **close down**) If a business or organization closes, or if someone or something closes it, it stops operating. *Many factories have closed in the last ten years.* 4 **[END]** to end, or to end something *She closed the meeting with a short speech.* ◀ See Common learner error at **open**.  
**close (sth) down** If a business or organization closes down, or if someone or something closes it down, it stops operating.  
**close in** If people close in, they gradually...

**closed-circuit 'television'** system of hidden cameras that people in public places, used for crime  
**close-knit** /ˈkloʊsɪt/ adjective group of people is one in which and supports each other. a **community**  
**closely** /ˈkloʊsli/ adverb 1 **[CAUTION]** at or listen to something closely or listen to it very carefully two things are closely connected they are very similar to each other

## B. Use the dictionary to complete the quiz questions below.

1. Which word comes first in the dictionary: *function* or *functional*?
2. What is the meaning of *away* in its adjective form?
3. Are there any other words formed from the main word in the dictionary entry for *foolish*? If so, what are these words?
4. What is the most frequent meaning of *little*?
5. What are the three other guidewords for *little*?
6. What is the example sentence given for *obey*?
7. What is the part of speech of the following words: *effectively*, *interruption*, *scary* and *undo*?
8. What does **[C]** stand for at the entry for *lane*?
9. Complete the gap in this phrasal verb. It comes at the entry for *make*: *make off* ..... *sth*
10. Is *mike* a formal or informal noun?

## C. Find a word which has one of the following features in the dictionary and write it down.

1. A word which has 'guidewords' to help you find the meaning you want
2. A keyword (a frequently used word)
3. A word which is used formally
4. A definition with an example sentence
5. A word with more than one part of speech (e.g. noun and verb) having the same spelling

For more help with understanding and getting the most out of your dictionary, see the 'How to use this dictionary' section which starts on page viii at the front of the **Cambridge Learner's Dictionary**.

