

# The Meanings of Words and Phrases

- It will help to become quicker & more accurate in the use of definitions & example sentences.
- Many words in English have more than one meaning, or more than one usage.

- \*Entries and Definitions
- \*Choosing the Correct Headword
- \*Choosing the Correct Definition
- \*Headword and Definition together
- \*Special Meanings of the Plurals of Countable
- \*Pairs of Words that are Sometimes Confused
- \*Words that have the Same Meaning
- \*Forming Words
- \*Suffixes
- \*Prefixes
- \*Idiomatic Expressions
- \*Finding Idiomatic Expressions in the Dictionary

\*Style

## Entries and Definitions:

There are two ways in which the dictionary presents different meaning of a word.

1- By giving a word over or more entries. like “bear<sup>1</sup> “ & “bear<sup>2</sup>”.

2- By giving two or more definitions with the same entry.

For example:

prop·er·ty (prpr-t) *n. pl.* prop·er·ties

1.

**a. Something owned; a possession.**

**b.** A piece of real estate: has a swimming pool on the property.

**c.** Something tangible or intangible to which its owner has legal title: properties such as copyrights and trademarks.

**d.** Possessions considered as a group.

2. The right of ownership; title.

3. An article, except costumes and scenery, that appears on the stage or on screen during a dramatic performance.

4.

**a.** A characteristic trait or peculiarity, especially one serving to define or describe its possessor.

**b.** A characteristic attribute possessed by all members of a class. See Synonyms at quality.

5. A special capability or power; a virtue: the chemical properties of a metal.

### Choosing the Correct Heaword:

Ex:61-62  
p.32

### Choosing the Correct Definition:

Ex:63  
p.32

\_ Sometimes two or more classes might be defined in one entry ( n , v , adj.)  
If it's so , the sign ( ) is used to mark the end of one word class & the beginning of another  
& the numbering of the definiyions begins again.

Ex:64  
p.33

## Headword and Definition together:

Ex:65  
p.33

## Remember:

- 1- **Always** read the whole sentence before looking a word up in the dictionary.
- 2- **Scan** all of the definitions in the entry, before deciding which is the one you want.

Ex:66 & 67  
p.34

## Special Meanings of the Plurals of Countable:

Some countable nouns have a special meaning when they are used in the plural. This indicated at the beginning of the definition with the abbreviation (*pl*).

Ex:68  
p.34

## Pairs of Words that are Sometimes Confused:

Ex:69-70  
p.35

## Words that have the Same Meaning:

\*If two or more words have the same meaning. they called **Synonyms**.

They have the same meaning in all contexts, but usually there are certain differences in their meaning & usage.

Ex:71-72  
p.35

## Forming Words:

A new word can be formed its **root** word in two ways:

1- By adding an ending , called a **suffix**.

\* Adding a suffix usually changes the word class of the root word, while the meaning stays the **same**.

\* Most **derivatives** are listed at the end of the entry for the root word. **but** sometimes they are given as a separate entries.

2- By adding a beginning, called a prefix, to the root form.

\*adding prefix changes the meaning of a word.

\*Most of the words that are formed from prefixes are given as a separate entries.

### Note:

1- Suffixes & Prefixes are together called “ affixes “.

2- English make use of affixes as a method of forming new words.

3- By getting to know the most frequently used affixes, you will increase your ability to recognise or guess the meanings of new words.

4- Many long words can be quite easy to understand if you recognise the affixes used.

Ex:73-74 & 76  
p.37, 38 & 3



## Idiomatic Expressions:

- \* It's a combination of two or more words with a special meaning.
- \* It cannot be added or left out, or put in a different order.

p.39

## Finding Idiomatic Expressions in the Dictionary:

- \*Decide which word in the expression is the key word.(it usually the main word in the expression & is the headword in the dictionary under which idiomatic expression the first time, then try another keyword.

-It's the most important to practice this until you can do it quickly.

Ex:77-78-81 & 80  
p.40 & 41

## Style:

It should only be used in a particular style or context.

\* **Formal:** means that the word should only be used when writing an official letter, or making a serious speech or writing to or addressing a superior.

\* **Informal or Colloquial:** means that the word is used among friends & colleagues in ordinary everyday conversation & writing.

\* **Slang:** is commonly used & you will find it in fiction, drama & spoken by native speakers. - You should not use it unless you're quite sure what it means & that it will be found acceptable by the people you are with. (Taboo word )

\* Some words are used in connection with certain professions or subjects as **med.** (medical) - **chem.** (chemistry) - **hist.** (history).