

Using Dictionaries, Glossaries, and Thesauruses

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

A **dictionary** gives meanings, pronunciations, and parts of speech. A **glossary** defines key words used in one specific book. A **thesaurus** lists synonyms and antonyms. **Guide words** at the top of a dictionary page show the first and last entry on that page — any word that falls alphabetically between them belongs on the page.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer. For guide-word items, be careful with letters that are close together.

- The guide words on a dictionary page are **magnet — marathon**. Which word would appear on this page?
 - maple
 - meadow
 - mascara
 - lemon
- Which word would fall between the guide words **ocean — octopus**?
 - oar (o-a-)
 - oven (o-v-)
 - ocelot (o-c-e-l-)
 - office (o-f-)
- You read: “The runner was **spent** after the race.” Which dictionary meaning of **spent** fits?
 - paid out, as money handed to someone
 - completely used up; exhausted
 - passed, as in time that has gone by
 - let out, as in air slowly released
- Which reference book would you use to look up a **SPECIAL** term that appears only in your science textbook?
 - a glossary at the back of the science book
 - a thesaurus listing synonyms
 - a general dictionary of English
 - an atlas full of maps



5. You want a fresher word than **big** for your story. Which book helps most?
- A. a dictionary, for definitions
 - B. a glossary at the back of one textbook
 - C. a thesaurus that lists synonyms
 - D. an encyclopedia of general facts
6. The dictionary lists three meanings for **bark**: 1. the sound a dog makes 2. the outer covering of a tree 3. a verb meaning to shout commands sharply.
Which meaning fits “*The dog’s bark woke me up.*”?
- A. meaning 2 (tree covering)
 - B. meaning 3 (to shout commands)
 - C. both meanings 1 and 3 together
 - D. meaning 1 (sound a dog makes)
7. Guide words are **peach — pear**. Which word would NOT appear on this page?
- A. peanut (p-e-a-n)
 - B. pelican (p-e-l-)
 - C. peacock (p-e-a-c-o)
 - D. peak (p-e-a-k)
8. In a thesaurus entry for **happy**, which word is listed as an ANTONYM?
- A. miserable
 - B. cheerful
 - C. content
 - D. delighted
9. Which is the BEST thesaurus synonym for **said** in a SCARY story?
- A. announced
 - B. mentioned
 - C. whispered
 - D. declared
10. A dictionary entry shows the label **n.** after a word. What does this abbreviation mean?
- A. name of the author
 - B. a new addition to the dictionary
 - C. not used in everyday speech
 - D. noun (a person, place, or thing)



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9 A B C D
- 10 A B C D

Explanations

| | |
|-------|--|
| 1. A | maple (m-a-p) falls alphabetically between magnet (m-a-g) and marathon (m-a-r-a-t). <i>meadow</i> (m-e) comes after marathon; <i>mascara</i> (m-a-s) comes after marathon; <i>lemon</i> (l-) comes before magnet. |
| 2. C | ocelot (o-c-e-l) > ocean (o-c-e-a) and < octopus (o-c-t). <i>oar</i> comes before ocean; <i>oven</i> and <i>office</i> both come after octopus. |
| 3. B | All four are real meanings of <i>spent</i> . The context (after running a race) means the runner is tired/used up — meaning B. A fits money (<i>spent \$20</i>); C fits time (<i>I spent an hour reading</i>); D fits air or breath. |
| 4. A | Glossaries define words used in that one specific book — best for textbook-only terms. A thesaurus gives synonyms (not definitions); a dictionary covers general words but may not have specialized terms; an atlas has maps. |
| 5. C | A thesaurus lists synonyms (huge, enormous, massive, gigantic...). A dictionary defines but doesn't suggest fresher words; a glossary only covers one book; an encyclopedia gives information, not synonyms. |
| 6. D | In context the dog itself produced the sound — meaning 1. A is the tree meaning (wrong context); B is the verb meaning (the sentence uses bark as a noun); C is tempting but you must pick the single best fit. |
| 7. B | pelican (p-e-l) > pear (p-e-a-r) because the second-position 'l' beats 'a' — pelican is AFTER pear and NOT on this page. peanut, peacock, and peak all fall between peach and pear alphabetically. |
| 8. A | All four are happiness-related thesaurus words. Miserable is the only antonym (opposite). <i>Cheerful</i> , <i>content</i> , and <i>delighted</i> are synonyms at different intensities. |
| 9. C | All four are real synonyms of <i>said</i> . Whispered fits a quiet, scary mood. <i>Announced</i> and <i>declared</i> are loud/public; <i>mentioned</i> is casual and offhand — neither fits a scary scene. |
| 10. D | n. = noun (the part of speech). Other common labels are <i>v.</i> (verb), <i>adj.</i> (adjective), and <i>adv.</i> (adverb). |



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