

# 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

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Explanations	
<b>1. A</b>	<b>maple</b> (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.
<b>2. C</b>	<b>ocelot</b> (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.
<b>3. B</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.
<b>4. A</b>	<b>Glossaries</b> 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.
<b>5. C</b>	A <b>thesaurus</b> 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.
<b>6. D</b>	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.
<b>7. B</b>	<b>pelican</b> (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.
<b>8. A</b>	All four are happiness-related thesaurus words. <b>Miserable</b> is the only antonym (opposite). <i>Cheerful</i> , <i>content</i> , and <i>delighted</i> are synonyms at different intensities.
<b>9. C</b>	All four are real synonyms of <i>said</i> . <b>Whispered</b> 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.
<b>10. D</b>	<b>n.</b> = noun (the part of speech). Other common labels are <i>v.</i> (verb), <i>adj.</i> (adjective), and <i>adv.</i> (adverb).

