

Dictionaries, Glossaries, Thesauruses, and Digital Tools

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

Use the RIGHT reference tool: a **dictionary** for spelling, pronunciation, part of speech, and meaning; a **thesaurus** for synonyms and antonyms; a **glossary** for the meaning of special terms used in ONE specific book or textbook; a **spell-checker** for typos; a **grammar-checker** for sentence-level errors; a **translator** for moving words between languages.

PRACTICE

Choose the BEST tool, definition, or interpretation for each item.

1. Imagine this dictionary entry:

migrate /**ma**•**re**t/ *verb* 1. to move from one region or country to another, often by season. 2. to move from one habitat to another. 3. (computing) to transfer data from one system to another.

Which tells you that *migrate* is an action word?

- A. the part-of-speech label *verb*
- B. the pronunciation /**ma**•**re**t/
- C. definition 3
- D. the order of definitions

2. Two guide words at the top of a dictionary page are **marble** — **masquerade**. Which word would NOT appear on this page?

- A. margin
- B. marigold
- C. mason
- D. mastodon

3. You wrote *The dog ran fast.* in a story but you want a more vivid synonym for *fast*. Which reference tool is BEST?

- A. a dictionary
- B. a thesaurus
- C. a glossary
- D. a translator



4. You are reading a science textbook and see the term *photosynthesis* in bold. To find its meaning as the textbook uses it, the BEST place to look first is —
- A. a thesaurus
 - B. the index
 - C. a translator
 - D. the glossary
5. Imagine this entry:
bow¹ /baʊ/ *verb* to bend the upper body forward in greeting.
bow² /boʊ/ *noun* a knot with two loops, used for tying ribbon.
Read the sentence: *Mara tied a perfect **bow** on the present.*
Which entry fits the sentence?
- A. the first entry, **bow**¹
 - B. neither entry
 - C. the second entry, **bow**²
 - D. both entries equally
6. If you typed *I have went to the store.* into a word processor, which tool would BEST flag the problem?
- A. a spell-checker
 - B. a grammar-checker
 - C. a thesaurus
 - D. a translator
7. A thesaurus lists the following synonyms for **old**: *ancient, elderly, antique, vintage*. Which would BEST replace **old** in this sentence?
*My great-grandmother is very **old**.*
- A. ancient
 - B. antique
 - C. vintage
 - D. elderly
8. Imagine this dictionary entry:
contract /kɒntrækt/ *noun* a written agreement.
contract /kɒntrækt/ *verb* 1. to make smaller. 2. to catch (an illness).
Read the sentence: *Cold weather can cause metal pipes to **contract**.*
The pronunciation that fits is —
- A. /kɒntrækt/
 - B. neither — there is a third pronunciation needed
 - C. /kɒntrækt/
 - D. both work equally well



9. You are reading an English book and want to know the Spanish word for **library**. Which digital tool is BEST?
- A. an online translator
 - B. an online dictionary
 - C. an online thesaurus
 - D. an online encyclopedia
10. When the same word has more than one meaning, which numbered list in a dictionary entry shows them?
- A. the pronunciation guide
 - B. the numbered definitions
 - C. the part-of-speech label
 - D. the etymology / word origin



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	A — the italic label verb right after the entry word names the part of speech. B tells you how to SAY it, not what kind of word; C is just the third meaning; D shows which sense is most common, not the part of speech.
2. D	Words on the page fall alphabetically between marble and masquerade . Compare letter by letter: <i>mastodon</i> begins <i>mas-t</i> , which sorts AFTER <i>mas-q-uerade</i> (because <i>t > q</i>), so <i>mastodon</i> is NOT on this page. <i>margin</i> (mar-g-) and <i>marigold</i> (mar-i-) come before <i>masq</i> ; <i>mason</i> (mas-o-) comes between <i>marble</i> and <i>masq</i> .
3. B	B — a thesaurus lists synonyms (<i>swift</i> , <i>quick</i> , <i>speedy</i> , <i>rapid</i>) so you can pick a more vivid word. A defines a word; C only covers terms in one specific book; D is for moving between languages.
4. D	D — a textbook's glossary lists key terms used in that book with the meaning the textbook intends. A gives only synonyms; B tells you WHERE the term appears in the book, not what it means; C moves words between languages.
5. C	C — Mara <i>tied</i> a bow ON a present, so she made a knot with loops — that is bow ² (the noun, /boʊ/). A is the bend-forward verb. B and D ignore the context.
6. B	B — every word is spelled correctly, so a spell-checker would not catch the issue. A grammar-checker would flag the verb-form error (<i>went</i> should be <i>gone</i> after <i>have</i>). A misses grammar errors; C only finds synonyms; D moves between languages.
7. D	All four mean <i>old</i> in some way, but a thesaurus shows shades of meaning. Elderly is the respectful word for older people. <i>Ancient</i> exaggerates and would sound rude; <i>antique</i> and <i>vintage</i> apply to objects (furniture, clothing), not to people.
8. C	C — in the sentence, <i>contract</i> is a verb meaning <i>to make smaller</i> ; the dictionary lists that meaning under the second entry, with stress on the second syllable: /kɒntrækt/. A is the noun (an agreement). B and D ignore the entry's split.
9. A	A — a translator (<i>library</i> → <i>biblioteca</i>) is the right tool. B defines the English word in English; C lists English synonyms; D gives long articles, not single-word translations.
10. B	B — the numbered definitions (1, 2, 3...) list the different meanings in order. A tells how to say the word; C names the type of word (noun, verb, etc.); D tells WHERE the word came from historically.



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