6 Finding the definition

Build up your vocabulary and knowledge by looking up words to find out what they mean, and how and when to use them.

GETTING STARTED

Look at the three possible definitions given for each word. Tick the definition you think is right. Then use your Oxford dictionary to find out if you were correct.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORD</th>
<th>POSSIBLE DEFINITIONS</th>
<th>YOUR DEFINITION</th>
<th>DICTIONARY DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. albumen</td>
<td>the white of an egg&lt;br&gt;musicians who perform on a musical compilation&lt;br&gt;a person or animal with no colouring</td>
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<td>2. bismuth</td>
<td>a loud and aggressive person who uses crude language&lt;br&gt;a mythical creature, half cat half moth&lt;br&gt;a greyish white metal</td>
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<td>3. galoshes</td>
<td>the gloves worn by an Irish leprechaun&lt;br&gt;a pair of waterproof shoes worn over ordinary shoes&lt;br&gt;snails commonly used in French cooking</td>
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<td>4. hyperbole</td>
<td>the world cup final in American football&lt;br&gt;the curve formed when a cone is cut by a plane&lt;br&gt;deliberate exaggeration</td>
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<td>5. scrimmage</td>
<td>the pursuit of a loose ball after a scrum in rugby union&lt;br&gt;saving money by avoiding all unnecessary spending&lt;br&gt;a confused struggle</td>
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SCORE

MOVING ON

Work with a partner. Choose a group of words and create three definitions for each word – include the correct one. Test your partner to see if they can identify the correct definition for each word.

1. fatuous
2. fracas
3. gargantuan
dystrophy
obsequious
gurdwara
codil
ebullient
screed
score ___ 3
score ___ 3
score ___ 3

How many did you get right?

1 = NOVICE  3 = EXPERT  5 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities.