

### 3 I can understand a learner's dictionary

How can a learner's dictionary help you? These examples are from *Oxford Wordpower Dictionary*.

Different meanings of the word are given in the **definitions**, which are in simple English.

**win** /wɪn/ **verb** (winning; *pt, pp won* /wɒn/) **1** [I, T] to be the best, first or strongest in a race, game, competition, etc.: *to win a game/match/championship • I never win at table tennis. • Which party do you think will win the next election?* **2** [T] to get money, a prize, etc. as a result of success in a competition, race, etc.: *We won a trip to Australia. • Who won the gold medal? • He won the jackpot in the lottery.*

The dictionary helps you **avoid making mistakes**, and helps with grammar.

**HELP** Note that we **earn** (not **win**) money at our job: *I earn £15 000 a year.*

**Idioms** and phrasal verbs are at the end of the **entry**.

**IDM** win/lose the toss **⇒** **toss** you can't win (*informal*) there is no way of being completely successful or of pleasing everyone: *Whatever you do you will upset somebody. You can't win.*

**PHR.V** win sb over/round (to sth) to persuade sb to support or agree with you: *They're against the proposal at the moment, but I'm sure we can win them over.*

Phonetic **symbols** help with pronunciation. You can find out which **syllable** is **stressed**.

Examples of usage are **provided**.

Words that are often used together (**collocations**) are given in **bold**.

**mistake**<sup>1</sup> /mɪ'steɪk/ **noun** [C] something that you think or do that is wrong: *Try not to make any mistakes in your essays. • a spelling mistake • It was a big mistake to trust her. • I made the mistake of giving him my address.*

**IDM** by mistake as a result of being careless: *The terrorists shot the wrong man by mistake.*

#### OTHER WORDS FOR

#### **mistake**

**Error** is more formal than **mistake**: *a computing error. When you make a mistake you do sth wrong: I got the answer wrong. • You must have the wrong number (= on the phone). **Fault** indicates who is responsible for sth bad: The accident wasn't my fault. The other driver pulled out in front of me. **Fault** is also used to describe a problem or weakness that sb/sth has: a technical fault.*

It helps you with **style**: for instance, whether words are formal, informal, **slang**, **offensive**, etc.

**guy** /gaɪ/ **noun** **1** [C] (*informal*) a man or boy: *He's a nice guy. 2 guys [pl] (informal) used when speaking to a group of men and women: What do you guys want to eat?*

It can teach you **related words**: this helps you **build** your vocabulary and **select** the correct word for your needs.

### Glossary

**definition** an exact statement of what a word or phrase means. **define sth** v.

**avoid doing sth** If you **avoid doing sth**, you try not to do or experience it.

**idiom** a group of words whose meaning is different from the meanings of the individual words (also **expression**).

**entry** one of a list of items included in a dictionary, list, etc. (There are three dictionary **entries** on this page.)

**provide sth** give sth to sb or make sth available for sb.

**style** the way sth is written or spoken (e.g. an informal **style**, a formal **style**).

**for instance** **SYN** **for example**.

**slang** very informal words or phrases used in spoken language.

**offensive** rude and likely to upset sb. **offend sb** v.

**symbol** a letter, number, or sign that has a particular meaning (e.g. the **symbol** /ʃ/ is pronounced 'sh').

**syllable** a part of a word which contains a vowel sound. (*Go* has one syllable and *prefer* has two syllables.)

**relate sth to sth** connect sth to sth. **related** **ADJ**.

**build sth** make sth bigger; increase sth.

**select sth** **SYN** **choose sth** (but **select** is more formal). **selection** **N**.

### spotlight stress and emphasize

Both verbs mean to say a syllable, word, or phrase with extra loudness.

The related nouns are **stress** (on sth) and **emphasis** (on sth).

The **stress** is **on** the first syllable. Don't **emphasize** every word.

They are also used to say that sth is important.

The newspapers **stressed** the need for urgent action.

The **emphasis** is mainly **on** education.

### 1 Is the meaning the same or different? Write S or D.

- |                                                                          |                                                                         |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| ► The city is fantastic: for example, the buildings are very impressive. | The city is fantastic: for instance, the buildings are very impressive. | S     |
| 1 That's a useful idiom to know.                                         | That's a useful expression to know.                                     | ..... |
| 2 Is that collocation correct?                                           | Is that definition correct?                                             | ..... |
| 3 What she said was very rude.                                           | What she said was offensive.                                            | ..... |
| 4 Does he use a lot of slang?                                            | Does he use a lot of idioms?                                            | ..... |
| 5 Can you avoid mistakes?                                                | Can you define mistakes?                                                | ..... |
| 6 Make sure you select the right number.                                 | Make sure you choose the right number.                                  | ..... |
| 7 The stress is on the first three letters.                              | The emphasis is on the first three letters.                             | ..... |
| 8 It doesn't give all the answers.                                       | It doesn't provide all the answers.                                     | ..... |

### 2 Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

symbols offending related entry ✓ selection syllable  
instance stress idiom provide build collocations entry

- In a dictionary, *foreigner* comes after the entry for *foreign*.
- 1 Dictionaries have many uses: for \_\_\_\_\_, to find out meaning, or check pronunciation.
  - 2 Does your local bookshop have a good \_\_\_\_\_ of dictionaries for sale?
  - 3 Some dictionaries can help you \_\_\_\_\_ your vocabulary if they \_\_\_\_\_ synonyms and opposites, or other \_\_\_\_\_ words.
  - 4 A dictionary can tell you which words are rude so that you can avoid \_\_\_\_\_ people.
  - 5 You can check the pronunciation of any word in the dictionary by looking at the phonetic \_\_\_\_\_ and noting which \_\_\_\_\_ is stressed.
  - 6 *Good luck!* is given as an \_\_\_\_\_ in the dictionary, at the end of the \_\_\_\_\_ for *luck*.
  - 7 Dictionaries often tell you which words go together. Examples of \_\_\_\_\_ are *make a mistake* and *take a photo*.
  - 8 In the word *emphasis*, the \_\_\_\_\_ is on the first syllable.

### 3 Now look at the dictionary entries on the left-hand page. Answer the questions.

- Which syllable is stressed in *mistake*? The second syllable
- 1 Which related words are given for *mistake* and *make a mistake*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2 How many definitions are there in the entry for *guy*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3 What style is the idiom *You can't win*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4 Is *guy* an offensive word? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5 Which phonetic symbols are given for *guy*? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 6 Are these sentences correct?
    - a) I haven't got the keys, but it's not my fault; Jo lost them. \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) My dad wins a lot of money in his job. \_\_\_\_\_

