Collins

Collins Primary Dictionary

Introduction to the dictionary

Suggested activities:

- Working in pairs, one pupil chooses a word in the dictionary. They tell their partner the page number, whether it is in the left or right column, and whether it is the 1st, 3rd, 10th, etc headword in that column. The partner has to find that word as quickly as they can and read out the definition.

- In pairs or small groups, ask pupils to mindmap all the information they think a dictionary contains, and what it could help them with.

- Pick a word, for example, 'cold' and ask pupils to identify the possible word classes and meanings it could have. In pairs, pupils could compile an entry, adding in various pieces of information eg adjective and plural forms, definitions, examples.

- Choose a number of words that pupils have difficulty spelling, and ask them to create Spelling Tips to help them (and others!) remember how to spell it.

- Pupil worksheets available separately for download.

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Introduction to the dictionary (1)

The *Collins Primary Dictionary* gives you a huge amount of really useful information and the best way to make good use of it is to understand how the information is shown. This will help you to find what you need in the dictionary quickly and easily.

1. Have a look at the entry for "**ace**" and use the word bank below to label all the different parts of the entry:

headword	**example of use**	**usage label**	**meanings**
word class	**definition**	**plural form**	

a. _____

b. _____

ace aces

NOUN **1** In a pack of cards, the **ace** is a card with a single symbol on it.

NOUN **2** In tennis, an **ace** is a serve that the other player is unable to return.

ADJECTIVE **3** (*informal*) good or skilful ● *an ace squash player*

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

f. _____

g. _____

2. Look at page 25 and write down any:

   a. headword with 3 letters _____

   b. headword that has a word class "VERB" _____

   c. headword with 3 or more meanings _____

   d. example of use for any headword _____

   e. plural form given at any headword _____

Introduction to the dictionary (2)

3. Some words in the dictionary offer additional information, helping you, for example, to understand the meaning of the word, or how it is used or pronounced. Look at pages 46 and 47 and write down:

   a. a word which has extra help with pronunciation _____

   b. what language the word "bomb" comes from _____

   c. the antonym of "boring" _____

   d. which word helps you not to confuse it with another one _____

4. Many words in the *Collins Primary Dictionary* also have illustrations to help show what a word means, or to give more detailed information related to that word. Look at the illustration for "**castle**" and write down all 8 words that relate to a castle.

   _____ _____ _____ _____

   _____ _____ _____ _____

5. Write your own dictionary entry for your favourite animal. It must include:

headword	plural form	word class
definition	example of use	illustration

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____