

Dictionary Skills

Finding a Spelling

In order to find the spelling of a new word, you need to:

- Either out loud or in your head, say the word to find the first three letters.
e.g. succulent
- Using the first letter, head to that section in the dictionary (remember it is in alphabetical order!).
So for succulent, you would head to the 'S' section.
- Once in that section, repeat this process for the 2nd and 3rd letters.
First search 'su' and then refine your search by looking for 'suc'.
- Finally, when you think you have found the spelling of the word you want to use, read the definition to make sure it matches how you want to use the word.
succulent : (of food) tender, juicy, and tasty.

Finding a Definition

When finding the meaning of a new word using a dictionary you need to remember to:

- Check you have found the correct word (make sure the spelling is the same);
- Check above and below the word in the dictionary (sometimes there is more than one entry for each word);
- Read the definition(s) carefully. If there is more than one then use your skills to think which makes the most sense in the context you read it.

Entry Word:

shows us how to spell the word.

Pronunciation:

tells us how to pronounce or say the word.

Etymology:

tells us the origin of the word.

watch /w t /

verb: look at or observe attentively over a period of time.

"Lucy watched him go"

synonyms: observe, view, look at, eye, gaze at, stare at, gape at, peer at

noun: look at or observe attentively over a period of time.

a small timepiece worn typically on a strap on one's wrist.

"my watch had stopped"

synonyms: timepiece, chronometer, small clock, timer

Old English:

- **wæcce**
(watchfulness)
- **wæcce**
(remaining awake)

English: wake