USING REFERENCE MATERIALS FOR VOCABULARY

High School English Worksheet

Vocabulary Reference Materials

Reference materials can help you understand unfamiliar words, determine pronunciation, identify parts of speech, find synonyms and antonyms, and understand how words are used.

Common Reference Materials:

Dictionary: Provides definitions, pronunciation, parts of speech, word origins, and sometimes example sentences.

Thesaurus: Provides synonyms and antonyms.

Glossary: Provides definitions of specialized words used in a particular book, subject, or field.

Encyclopedia: Provides detailed information about people, places, events, subjects, and ideas.

Digital Reference Tool: An online or electronic resource that can provide definitions, pronunciation, examples, synonyms, antonyms, and other information.

Part I: Multiple Choice

1. Which reference material would be most useful for finding the definition of an unfamiliar word?

A. Atlas
B. Dictionary
C. Thesaurus
D. Almanac

2. Which reference material would be most useful if you need a synonym for the word **important**?

A. Dictionary
B. Encyclopedia
C. Thesaurus
D. Glossary

3. A student is reading a biology textbook and encounters several specialized scientific terms. Where would the student most likely find explanations of these terms?

A. Glossary
B. Thesaurus
C. Newspaper
D. Atlas

4. Which reference source would be most useful for learning detailed information about the causes and effects of the American Civil War?

A. Thesaurus
B. Encyclopedia
C. Dictionary
D. Glossary

5. Which reference material would help you determine whether a word is a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb?

A. Dictionary
B. Thesaurus
C. Encyclopedia
D. Map

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6. You want to replace the word **angry** with a word that has a similar meaning. Which reference source should you use?

A. Dictionary
B. Thesaurus
C. Glossary
D. Encyclopedia

7. You need to know how to pronounce an unfamiliar word. Which resource would be most helpful?

A. Dictionary
B. Thesaurus
C. Encyclopedia
D. Glossary

8. A glossary in a history textbook is most likely to contain:

A. Every word in the English language
B. Maps of different countries
C. Important terms related to the subject being studied
D. Synonyms for every word

9. Which source would be most useful for finding an antonym for **ancient**?

A. Encyclopedia
B. Dictionary
C. Thesaurus
D. Glossary

10. A student wants to learn the origin and history of the word **democracy**. Which reference source would most likely provide this information?

A. Dictionary
B. Thesaurus
C. Atlas
D. Calculator

Part II: What Reference Material Should You Use?

Directions: Write the letter of the reference material that would be most helpful.

A. Dictionary **B.** Thesaurus **C.** Glossary **D.** Encyclopedia **E.** Digital Reference Tool

11. _____ You need to find the definition of an unfamiliar word.

12. _____ You need three synonyms for the word **beautiful**.

13. _____ You need to understand specialized vocabulary in your chemistry textbook.

14. _____ You need detailed information about the life of Abraham Lincoln.

15. _____ You want to hear how an unfamiliar word is pronounced using an online resource.

16. _____ You need to determine whether **run** is being used as a noun or a verb in a sentence.

17. _____ You want to find an antonym for **generous**.

18. _____ You need background information about the causes of World War II.

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Part III: Using a Dictionary Entry

Directions: Study the sample dictionary entry below and answer the questions.

RESILIENT - *adjective*
Definition: able to recover quickly from difficulties; able to return to an original shape after being bent or stretched
Pronunciation: /ri-ZIL-yənt/
Synonyms: strong, adaptable, flexible
Antonyms: weak, fragile
Example: After losing the championship, the resilient team practiced harder and returned the following year determined to win.

19. What part of speech is **resilient**?

A. noun
B. verb
C. adjective
D. adverb

20. What does **resilient** mean?

A. easily defeated
B. able to recover from difficulties
C. unwilling to change
D. extremely nervous

21. Which word is a synonym for **resilient**?

A. fragile
B. weak
C. adaptable
D. defeated

22. Which word is an antonym for **resilient**?

A. strong
B. flexible
C. adaptable
D. fragile

23. Which sentence uses **resilient** correctly?

A. The resilient glass broke immediately when it was dropped.
B. The resilient student continued working despite several setbacks.
C. The resilient book contained hundreds of pages.
D. The resilient hallway was painted blue.

24. What information does the pronunciation guide provide?

A. The word's origin
B. How to spell the word
C. How to say the word
D. The word's opposite meaning

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Part IV: Guide Words and Alphabetical Order

Directions: Guide words appear at the top of dictionary pages. They tell you the first and last words found on a page.

Suppose a dictionary page has the guide words:
MATERIAL — MATTER

Which words could appear on this page?

25. A. magazine
B. materialize
C. mathematics
D. maximum

26. A. matter
B. mature
C. mattress
D. meadow

27. Which word would most likely appear **before** the guide word **MATERIAL**?

A. material
B. materialize
C. mathematics
D. maternal

28. Which word would most likely appear **after** the guide word **MATTER**?

A. mat
B. mathematics
C. mattress
D. mature

Part V: Choosing the Best Definition

Directions: Use the sample dictionary information to select the definition that best fits the word as it is used in the sentence.

CONDUCT
noun: behavior; the way someone acts
verb: to organize, direct, or lead

29. The teacher praised the student's respectful **conduct** during the assembly.

A. to lead an orchestra
B. behavior or actions
C. to organize an event
D. to carry electricity

30. The scientist will **conduct** an experiment tomorrow.

A. behave respectfully
B. organize or carry out
C. become confused
D. criticize someone

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Part VI: Reference Materials in Real-Life Situations

Directions: Choose the best reference material for each situation.

31. You are writing an essay and want a stronger word than **good**.

A. Thesaurus
B. Encyclopedia
C. Glossary
D. Atlas

32. You are reading a novel and do not know what **melancholy** means.

A. Dictionary
B. Encyclopedia
C. Atlas
D. Almanac

33. Your science textbook contains a glossary at the end of the chapter. You want to know what **photosynthesis** means.

A. Glossary
B. Thesaurus
C. Newspaper
D. Atlas

34. You are researching the causes of the **Great Depression** and need detailed background information.

A. Thesaurus
B. Encyclopedia
C. Dictionary
D. Glossary

35. You are giving a presentation and want to hear the correct pronunciation of a difficult word.

A. Digital dictionary
B. Thesaurus
C. Encyclopedia
D. Glossary

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