

Books

1 Basic vocabulary

Translate the following words into your language:

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. paperback | 5. characters |
| 2. novel | 6. chapter |
| 3. fiction | 7. poem |
| 4. non-fiction | 8. poetry |

2 Kinds of books

1. Put the following into the correct column below:

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|--------------|------------|-----------------|
| encyclopedia | atlas | classic |
| ghost story | textbook | detective story |
| novel | dictionary | autobiography |
| biography | thriller | science fiction |

fiction

non-fiction

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2. In which of the non-fiction books would you:

- look up the meaning of a word?
- look up the height of Niagara Falls?
- find a detailed map of China?

3. Which of the following books would you buy in the situations below?

- a cookery book
- a travel guide
- a children's book
- an autobiography

- You don't like fiction. You prefer to read about the life stories of real people, written by the people themselves.
- You are 20 years old and are leaving home to share a flat with some friends. You've never cooked for yourself before.
- You don't know what to buy your seven-year-old nephew for his birthday.
- You are going trekking in Nepal. You've never been there before.

Most biographies and reference books are hardbacks but most novels are paperbacks.

3 Writers

Match the writers with what they write:

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Authors | a. write poetry. |
| 2. Novelists | b. write about famous people. |
| 3. Poets | c. write any kind of book. |
| 4. Playwrights | d. write articles in newspapers. |
| 5. Journalists | e. write fiction. |
| 6. Biographers | f. write plays. |

4 Novels

Mark each sentence P – if it expresses a positive idea – or N for a negative idea. The phrases in green will help you decide.

- I've just finished a Stephen King novel. I couldn't put it down.
- I just couldn't relate to any of the characters.
- It's no masterpiece but it's very readable.
- The main characters don't really develop and some of the minor characters are very one-dimensional.
- The first few chapters were such heavy going that I gave up.
- It's such a moving story. I couldn't stop thinking about it.
- It's a very simple story but there's no real plot. Nobody seems to have a reason for doing what they do.

Novels are fictional stories invented by the writer although some are based on true stories.

A classic is a famous book which everyone agrees will last, for example, 'Pride and Prejudice' or 'The Three Musketeers'.

What kind of novels do you like?

5 Poetry

Use these words to complete the following:

poems poetry poet verses recite

When we did at school, we had to learn whole by heart and then them for the whole class. Philip Larkin was my favourite I remember the longest poem I had to learn had over 20 !