

- L.3.4** Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
d. Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases *in all content areas.* **CA**
- L.3.6** Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships.



Understand the Standards

Sometimes when you are reading, you will come across words you do not know:

The baker was furious.

You can use a dictionary to find out what *furious* means.

- A **dictionary** tells what words mean. Dictionaries list words in alphabetical order.

To find a word in the dictionary:

1. Look at the first three letters in the word: *fur-*
2. Look at the guide words at the top of each page. **Guide words** tell you which words fall on the page. For example, *furious* falls between the words *fur* and *furrow*. The top of the page might look like this: fur • furrow. All the words on that page would fall between those two words in the alphabet.
3. Find the word, looking for words that begin with *fur-*, then *furi-*.
4. Read the dictionary entry:

furious	<i>adjective</i>	1. showing anger	2. intense
entry word	part of speech	first definition	

Words to Know

dictionary
guide word
thesaurus



A **thesaurus** has both definitions and synonyms, or words with similar meanings. If you wanted to find synonyms for *angry*, you could look in a thesaurus. A thesaurus also lists words in alphabetical order.



Guided Instruction

Complete the activities that follow.

Draw a circle around the guide words you would find on the page for the entry word *dreadful*.

dinner • distant

draw • dream

drop • dry

Try these examples yourself.

1. Draw a circle around the guide words you would find on the page for the entry word *sink*.

silk • sip

stamp • still

ship • shore



2. Read these dictionary entries. Write two meanings for the multiple-meaning word *sink*. One should be a verb, and one should be a noun.

Dictionary entry:

sink *verb* 1 a. to go to the bottom b. to fall or drop to a lower place

sink *noun* a basin with a drain



3. Read this thesaurus entry:

quarrel *verb* argue, bicker, fight, spat

a. Tell two words that are synonyms for *quarrel*.

b. What part of speech is *quarrel* in this entry? _____



On Your Own



In small groups, read each entry. Complete the activities that follow.

Discuss

Example:

Thesaurus Entry:

dreadful *adjective* very bad: appalling, awful, fearful, frightful, horrible, shocking, terrible



Write a sentence using two synonyms from the entry.

Daniel thought the play was horrible and the ending was terrible.

Try these examples yourself.

1 Dictionary Entry:

present *noun* 1. a gift 2. at this time, now

a. Which meaning of the word is used in this sentence? Explain.

She brought her friend a birthday present.

b. Write two sentences, each using the word *present* in a different way.

1. _____

2. _____

2 Thesaurus Entry:

happy *adjective* being or showing good spirits: bright, cheerful, cheery, sunny

Write a sentence using two synonyms for *happy*.

Complete the activities below.

3 Which guide words would be on the top of the page with the word *drape* on it?

- A** drama • draw **C** dome • door
B dream • drive **D** dart • dance

4 Read the dictionary entry below.

grant (*verb*) 1. to allow something

What is the circled part of the entry?

- A** a guide word **C** the part of speech
B the entry word **D** the definition

5 Read the dictionary entry below.

free *adjective* 1. no cost. 2. not in use

free *verb* 1. get rid of. 2. release

Which meaning of *free* is correct in this sentence? Explain how you know.

We did not have any money, so we could only go on the free rides.

6 What is one time when you might use a dictionary? Explain how it would be helpful.



7 You are writing a story and you want to find just the right word to describe your main character. How could you use a thesaurus to help you? How could you use a dictionary?

SAMPLE