

# **USING A DICTIONARY**

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# **Subject**

#### English

# **Prepared By**

[Instructor Name]

# **Grade Level**

5

## **Overview**

This lesson plan covers teaching content for;

- 1. Using a dictionary.
  - Using the knowledge of the alphabets.
  - Locating words and meaning in a dictionary.

# **Objectives**

Students should be able to;

1. Find words in a long list or dictionary.

#### **Assessment Activity**

- 1. Give students a comprehension passage.
- Instruction: In the comprehension passage above, find at least twenty difficult words.
- 3. Look these words in the dictionary.
- 4. Write their meaning, synonyms and antonyms.

# **Summary**

1. The essential fundamentals for teaching vocabulary involve teaching students how to use a dictionary to look up words they don't know, discern the meaning of a word from its context and how to determine a definition of a word using tools such as root words, prefixes and suffixe

## **Activity Starter/Instruction**

- For elementary school children, looking up words in the dictionary is one of the first fundamental lessons a student should learn. Students should understand how most dictionaries work.
- 2. They should:
  - Practice looking up words alphabetically.
  - Be taught that the vast majority of dictionaries define a word by providing its synonyms.
  - Learn the pronunciation guides available in the dictionary and how to use those symbols to help them pronounce words correctly.
- Show the students how to look up words as this is the fundamental first step in teaching young children vocabulary.
- 4. You can then help them to practice these skills by giving them a list of words to look up on a daily basis. They can play games such as dictionary races to see who can look up each of the words the fastest, in order to make this more fun.
- 5. Tell students to keep a dictionary with them at all times.
- 6. Use words periodically that you don't think the students will know, and encourage them

#### **Teacher Guide**

Day 1/ Lesson 1: 50Mins

- 1. Have the students give explanations on what a dictionary is.
- A dictionary is a reference book that provides all kinds of information about words.
- 3. Review the meaning and use of guide words Guide words are found at the top of each page in the dictionary (some dictionaries place them on the far left and right of two facing pages). They tell the first and last words found on that page(s).
- 4. Prepare the following instructions and create a worksheet.
- a. Choose 10 words from your spelling list.
- b. Look them up in the dictionary.
- c. Find the guide words for each spelling word you have chosen.
- d. Write the spelling word, the dictionary page number, and the guide words on the page where the word is found.

Example: Spelling Word- Tradition Page Number- 240 Guide Word- tapir – trapeze

5. This could be used as a center activity or personal assessment.

# Materials Required

- Charts
- Flash Cards
- Course Book
- Dictionary
- Internet
- Computer

#### Additional Resources

- https://www.scholastic.com/content/dam/teplans/migrated-featured-files/dictionary-tea
- https://education.yourdictionary.com/for-te new-vocabulary-words.html
- https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/sites/te kids-dictionary-skills-for-primary-students-le:
- https://minds-in-bloom.com/8-fun-dictionar
- <a href="https://education.yourdictionary.com/for-te">https://education.yourdictionary.com/for-te</a> new-vocabulary-words.html

Additional Notes

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- Teaching vocabulary involves a number of different components.
   First, of course, you want to ensure that students simply learn the correct definition of a word and are able to commit that word to memory.
- However, with millions of words in the English language and many specialized words, teaching vocabulary correctly is about more than helping students memorize words.
- 4. It is about giving students the coping skills necessary to understand what to do if they don't know a vocabulary word, and about installing a lifelong curiosity for learning words and a desire to always know more about the language.
- 5. If you can impart these skills to students, their vocabularies will continue to improve and students will have a firmer, more solid grasp of how to speak and function in a literary world, this will help them throughout their lives.

- to always look up any word that they come across on their own if they are uncertain of the definition.
- Students should keep a vocabulary notebook in which they write down all of the words that they don't know which they look up in their dictionaries.

#### **Guided Practice**

#### Day 2/ Lesson 2: 40Mins

- 1. In this lesson pupils do a fun quiz to develop their dictionary skills.
- Elicit twenty words from the pupils and write them on the board. Pupils can suggest words for things they can see in the classroom. Pupils then work in pairs to put the words into alphabetical order, using a dictionary to check.
- Put pupils into small groups or pairs and give each group a dictionary. Allow learners to use dictionary apps and online dictionaries
- 4. Give each group a copy of the dictionary quiz. Give pupils a limited time to work together to answer all the questions. They should use a dictionary to find out or check their answers.
- Check pupils' answers by

   (a) Going through each question and eliciting feedback orally or
   (b) getting pupils to compare their answers with other pairs/groups.

#### Teacher Guide

#### Day 3/ Lesson 3: 40Mins

- **1.** Ask students to explain why people use dictionaries.
- Take BrainPOP's Dictionary and Thesaurus POP Quiz to quickly assess what students already know.
- Start the BrainPOP Dictionary and Thesaurus movie. Pause and discuss where necessary.
- 4. After the movie, have the students complete the Quiz again.
- 5. Next, give each student a record sheet and pencil.
- 6. Pass out dictionaries to each student or each group of students.
- 7. Explain that each student or group is going to look up a word using the guide words at the top of each page.
- When the students find the word, they write down its page number and guide words.
- Students can share their findings and create dictionary challenges for the other students/groups to find their words using the guide words and a few other clues.
- 10. Students can correct one another's dictionary challenges.