

Using the dictionary

How to find the right meaning of a word in the dictionary

A Shortcuts

Look at the entries for the words in **bold** in these sentences and write down the shortcut under which you would find the appropriate meaning.

- 1 She was a famous **model**. fashion
- 2 What is the **scale** of this map? _____
- 3 He's a **mean** cook – I've never tasted such delicious pasta. _____
- 4 I can't sing the high **note**. _____
- 5 He owns a **chain** of hardware stores. _____
- 6 She hit a brilliant **service** and won the game. _____

B Which word?

Some words or phrases used as shortcuts in the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* are shown below. Can you guess what the headword is? The first one is done for you, and the answer is in **bold**.

- 1 PURPOSE – SHARP END – MAIN IDEA – OPINION/FACT – IN COMPETITION **point**
- 2 MUSIC/DANCING – SOCIAL – WEAPON – IN GOLF – IN CARD GAMES _____
- 3 NOT PRISONER – NO PAYMENT – ANIMAL/BIRD – TRANSLATION – NOT BUSY _____
- 4 NEWSPAPER – EXAM – FOR WRITING/WRAPPING – ARTICLE – ON WALLS _____
- 5 OF CHILDREN – MUSIC – SPORTS/GAMES – ACT/PERFORM – TRICK _____

Now look up your answers in your dictionary and see if you were right!

C Choosing the right meaning

Answer these questions:

- 1 How many meanings are given for the noun **lodge**? _____
- 2 Which of them is connected with animals? _____
- 3 How many meanings are given for the noun **lobby**? _____
- 4 Do any of them refer to a place? _____
- 5 How many meanings can you find for the verb **drill**? _____
- 6 Which of them is to do with making holes? _____
- 7 For the verb **dribble**, three meanings are to do with liquids. In what context is the fourth meaning used?

- 8 The adjective **rambling** can be used to describe buildings. In what other context is it used? _____