

LONGMAN DICTIONARIES

Dictionary as Active Learning Tools

Introduction

This guide discusses the learner dictionaries and defines the Longman Corpus Network. It also explains how you can use the Longman Basic Dictionary of American English, the Longman Dictionary of American English, and the Longman Study Dictionary as active learning tools.

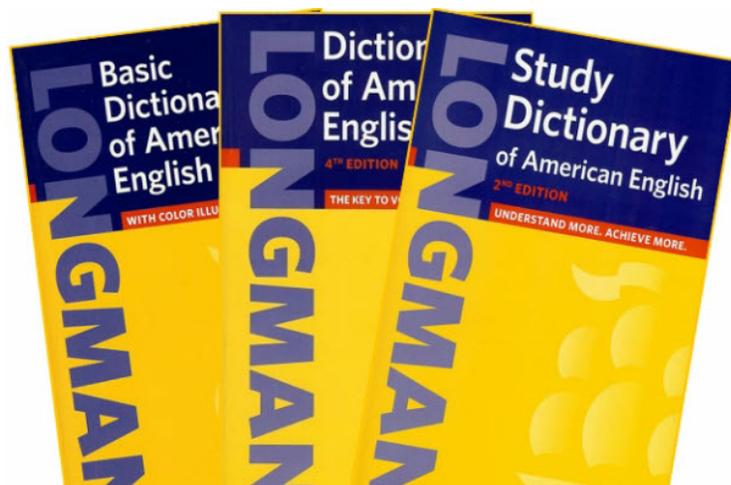
What is a Learner Dictionary?

How can you teach English in a way that will not create additional stress for your students? English language learners (ELLs) and all students who are learning academic English need a comprehensible vocabulary resource that goes beyond a collection of reference information.

Take a look at this standard dictionary definition of brain. Would a student who is new to English be confused by this definition?

brain (brān) n. 1. a. The portion of the vertebrate central nervous system, enclosed within the cranium and composed of gray matter and white matter, that is the primary center for the regulation and control of bodily activities, the receiving and interpreting of sensory impulses, and the exercising of thought and emotion.

The Longman learner dictionaries are active learning tools designed with the students' needs in mind.



Each dictionary offers easy-to-understand definitions, clear example sentences, and hundreds of supporting photos and illustrations.

con·fuse /kən'fju:z/ *verb*

1 to make someone feel that he or she does not understand something: *His directions to the house really confused me, and I took a long time to find it.*

These learning dictionaries are based on the latest research and real-life examples taken from books, magazines, newspapers, and recordings. The Longman Dictionaries support academic language development, vocabulary acquisition, and student writing at appropriate learning levels for students.

Unlike standard dictionaries, the Longman learner dictionaries contain non-circular definitions which draw from limited, high-frequency vocabulary.

brain¹ /brein/ *n.* **1** [C,U] the organ inside your head that controls how you think, feel, and move.

All definitions are written using the Longman American Defining Vocabulary of the 2,000 most common English words. This means that in every dictionary, each definition is clear and simple. There is no word in a definition that is more difficult than the original word. Students do not have to keep looking up words over and over again to understand the true meaning of a word.

match·ing /'mætʃɪŋ/ *adj.* having the same color, style, or pattern as something else: *She wore a green skirt with a matching jacket.*

THESAURUS similar, like, alike, comparable, akin to sth, analogous, identical
→ SIMILAR

Longman Corpus Network

ELL students need exposure to authentic, natural English. All Longman dictionaries are compiled using the Longman Corpus Network. This unique computerized language database contains over 400 million words from all types of written texts, and from real conversation recorded across the United States. The Longman Corpus Network is a diverse, far-reaching group of databases that provides Longman lexicographers and course book writers with a large amount of information about words, usage, language trends, and grammatical patterns.

Each Longman dictionary also provides International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) pronunciation charts. The front matter in each dictionary also contains grammar codes and labels along with a key to the specific dictionary.

Longman Basic Dictionary of American English

The Longman Basic Dictionary of American English is an ideal first monolingual dictionary for beginning ELLs. It contains 10,000 words and phrases and provides over 7,000 natural example sentences that show how words are used in context.

basic /ˈbeɪsɪk/ *adjective*
simple and forming the main or most important part of something: *People need basic skills such as reading and writing.*

The clear definitions, the cartoons, and full-color illustrations make words easy to learn. Usage notes, based on information from the Longman Learner's Corpus, also help students avoid frequent writing errors.

Longman Dictionary of American English

The Dictionary of American English is a comprehensive intermediate level dictionary with 95,000 words, phrases, and meanings based on authentic spoken and written English. This dictionary contains 3,500 content-area vocabulary words from subject areas such as language arts, history, and science and all of the words found on the Academic Word List. Images illustrating concepts accompany some of the definitions.

al-pha-bet /ˈælfəbet/ *n.* [C] **ENG. LANG. ARTS** a set of letters in a particular order, used in writing a language: *the Greek alphabet* [ORIGIN: 1500—1600 Late Latin *alphabetum*, from Greek, from *alpha* + *beta*]

al-pha-bet-i-cal /ˌælfəˈbetɪkəl/ *adj.* arranged according to the letters of the alphabet: *books in alphabetical order* — **alphabetically** *adv.*

alpha particle *n.* [C] **PHYSICS** a PARTICLE (=a very small piece of matter) with a positive charge, that consists of two PROTONS and two NEUTRONS and is sent out by some RADIOACTIVE substances

al-pine /ˈælpain/ *adj.* **EARTH SCIENCES** being in or related to the Alps or other high mountains: *alpine flowers*

Thirty-six thousand sentences include thousands of academic examples and 3,000 Thesaurus boxes explain thousands of synonyms and antonyms in this learning dictionary. This resource also contains an eleven-page picture dictionary covering topic vocabulary such as verbs of movement, IT equipment, and geographical features.

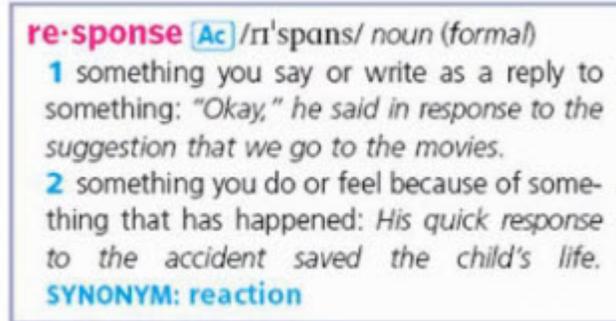


The Dictionary of American English also contains a Learner's Handbook that provides workbook exercises that you can use along with your dictionary. This dictionary contains 3,000 etymologies that show the origins of words and an additional 10,000 can be found on the CD-ROM. The Longman English E-Tutor CD-ROM contains the whole dictionary with pronunciation of all the words, the example sentences, and pronunciation practice. The Teacher's Corner contains downloadable worksheets to help teach dictionary skills.



Longman Study Dictionary of American English

The Longman Study Dictionary of American English is for beginning to intermediate ELLs who want to build their vocabulary and improve their fluency in English. This full-color edition accelerates vocabulary development by highlighting 46,000 words, phrases, and meanings that include academic words and school content vocabulary. More than 20,000 example sentences explain words in context and more than 1,500 word origins help students learn where words come from.



Some of the other features in this learning dictionary include words from the Academic Word List that are highlighted to help students understand academic texts, Integrated Thesaurus boxes explaining words with similar meanings to enrich students' speech and writing, and Word Family boxes that show words with the same root. An integrated color Picture Dictionary helps to provide instant understanding of common topic vocabulary.

The Longman Study Dictionary of American English and the Longman Dictionary of American English are also available online. This resource provides pronunciation and additional example sentences. The Longman Vocabulary Trainer helps users learn and remember new vocabulary. The online Thesaurus helps with vocabulary building and the Study Center provides interactive practice exercises for vocabulary, grammar, reading, writing, and pronunciation and spelling.



Review

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