

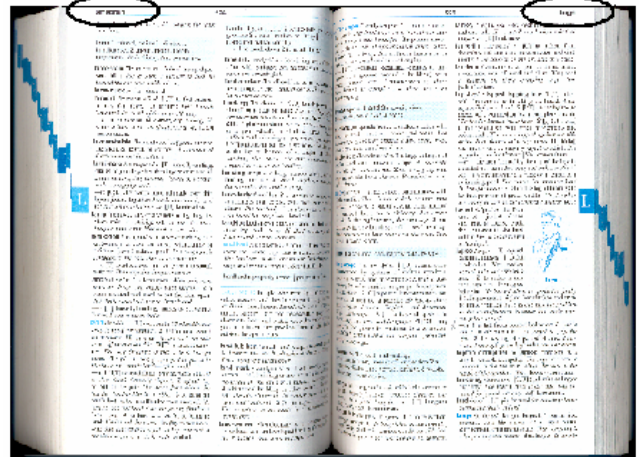
Dictionary Use - Tutor Hints

Words in a dictionary appear in alphabetical order.

Guide Words

Guide Words: These are the words in bold at the top of each page that help to locate an entry word.

- The first guide word is the first word on the page.
- The second guide word is the last word on the page.
- The words listed in between the first and last are in alphabetical order beginning with the first guide word and ending with the last guide word on that page.



Entry Word: This is what we call the word we are in search of. Here is what we can learn from a dictionary entry:

- **the spelling of the word**
- **the number of syllables** - a syllable is a unit of sound. The word "hello" has two (2) syllables or units of sound: **hel - lo**
- **the part of speech** - every word is a part of speech.

n - noun

v - verb

adj. - adjective

adv. - adverb

prep. - preposition

pro. - pronoun

conj. - conjunction

interj. - interjection

- **irregular spellings** - some words have unusual spellings when they are used in certain ways. Example: **Know - knew**
- **definitions** - This is the meaning of the word; there may be more than one. Definitions are arranged by part of speech.
- **synonyms** - These are words that have the same or a similar meaning as the entry word.
- **word history** (also called etymology)- these are shown in brackets. This tells us from which language the word was derived.
- **the pronunciation and phonetic spelling** - This is where you learn how to pronounce the word by sounding it out. Below is a pronunciation key.

Pronunciation Key

ă - hat

ā - pay

âr - care

ä - card

ě - ten

ē - she

ĩ - sit

ī - hi

îr - here

ǒ - pot

ō - go

ô - paw

oi - oil

ou - out

oo - look

oo - cool

yoo - use

ũ - cut

ûr - fur

th - thin

th - this

hw - which

zh - vision

ə - ago, item, easily, gallon, circus

Here is a sample dictionary entry. Look at the pronunciation of *anxious* in the parentheses. Notice that the A in *anxious* sounds like the A in *hat* in the key above:

Anxious (ängk' shəs) *adj.* 1. Uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter; worried. 2.

Attended with, causing or showing anxiety; *spent an anxious night waiting for the test results.* [From Latin *ānxius*, from *angere*, to torment. - **anx'ious • ly** *adv.* - **anx'ious • ness** *n.*