

Exercises

4.1

Some learner's dictionaries have guide words at the beginning of the definition, which give core meanings so you can find a simple definition quickly. Most of the dictionary entries below for raise use guide words.

Read the entries and the sentences below them. For each sentence, identify the best definition of raise by writing a guide word or a brief definition.

raise /reɪz/ v [T]

1 ▶ **MOVE** to move or lift something to a higher position or to an upright position. *The flag is raised at school every morning. 1 Raise your hand if you know the answer.*

2 ▶ **INCREASE** to increase an amount, number, or level. *a plan to raise taxes / Don't raise your voice at me, young man. (=speak loudly and angrily)*

3 ▶ **IMPROVE** to improve the quality or standard of something. *This bill is all about raising standards in our schools.*

4 ▶ **CHILDREN/ANIMALS/CROPS** to take care of children, animals, or crops until they are fully grown. *They've raised seven children. He wants to try raising corn.*

5 ▶ **GET MONEY/SUPPORT** to collect money, support etc. so that you can use it to help people. *We've raised \$10,000 for cancer research.*

6 raise a question/objection etc. to begin to talk or write about something that you want someone to consider. *Maryam raised the issue of marriage again.*

1. We raised a lot of money at the Walk for Cancer last weekend. *get money/support*
2. She was raised on a farm, but later she moved to the city.
3. Our salaries haven't been raised in four years.
4. They raise corn and wheat on this farm.
5. If you want better quality, you need to raise your standards.
6. I know you're angry, but please don't raise your voice.
7. At the meeting, employees raised questions that management couldn't answer.
8. If you have any questions about the lesson, please raise your hand.

4.2

Look up raise in your own dictionaries (both bilingual and English) and compare the entries with the ones in 4.1 above. Do your dictionaries show the same features (e.g., part of speech, grammar, pronunciation) and in the same way? If not, how are they different?

4.3

Use your English dictionary to find these phrases and expressions. Which word(s) did you find them listed under?

Example: on the tip of my tongue tip: some dictionaries list it under both "tip" and "tongue."

1. in other words
2. better late than never
3. on second thought
4. break a promise
5. no hard feelings
6. every now and then
7. the sooner the better
8. a matter of opinion/time
9. beside the point

4.4

Dictionary quiz: Answer these questions using an English dictionary.

1. You bought half a dozen eggs. How many did you buy? six
2. When you went out, it was very chilly. Were you hot or cold?
3. When you are feeling blue, are you happy or sad?
4. Your friend was climbing the walls last night. How did your friend feel?
5. If you are bilingual, how many languages can you speak?

Using a dictionary (2)

Finding the best meaning

Many words in English have multiple meanings, and sometimes a word can be more than one part of speech (or word class). For example, the word treat can be a noun or a verb, each with several different meanings. Look at these dictionary entries for treat:

treat /tri:t/ v [T] 1 to behave toward someone in a particular way. *Why do you treat me like an idiot? / She treats children the same as adults.*

1 Mr. Parker treats children the same as adults.

2 to consider something in a particular way. *You can treat these costs as business expenses.* 3 to give someone medical attention for a sickness or injury. *Eleven people were treated for minor injuries.* 4 to buy or arrange something special for someone. *We're treating Mom to dinner for her birthday.* 5 to put a special substance on something or use a chemical process in order to protect or clean it. *The wood has been treated to make it waterproof.*

treat² n 1 something special that you give someone or do for him/her. *If you're good, I'll buy you a treat.* 2 [singular] an unexpected event that gives you a lot of pleasure. *Getting your letter was a real treat.* 3 my treat spoken used in order to tell someone that you will pay for something. *Put away your money - dinner's my treat.*

When you meet a new word, you first need to decide which part of speech it is. Then read all the definitions for that part of speech and select one that makes sense for the sentence: "These crops have been treated with insecticide." (verb, definition #5) "You're always taking me out. This time it's my treat." (noun, definition #3)

Finding phrases in a dictionary

Dictionaries explain the meanings of single words and compound words, but they also explain a large number of phrases, e.g., take your time, for the time being, to tell (you) the truth, on the tip of my tongue, sooner or later, How are you?, etc.

Where do you find them?

1. If a phrase contains a noun (or nouns), that is the first place to look. For example, take your time and for the time being are both explained under time. On the tip of my tongue is under tip and tongue.

time /taɪm/ /taɪm/ n ... • Leave the ironing for the time being (=for a limited period) - I'll do it later. • If you take your time, you do something slowly. *Take your time, there's no hurry.* • He's certainly taken his time in answering my letter.

2. If there is a verb, that is the next place to look. For example, you can say that again is under say; to tell (you) the truth is usually under both tell and truth.

say (sb) /seɪ/ v past said /sed/ • (saying) "You can say that again" means I completely agree with you.

tell /tel/ v told, telling ... 13 to tell (you) the truth said in order to emphasize or admit that what you are saying is true: *I don't know how you cope, to tell you the truth.*

truth /tru:θ/ n ... 4 to tell (you) the truth spoken used when you admit something or tell someone your true opinion: *To tell you the truth, I don't care where she went.*

3. If there is no noun or verb (or only the verb be), look up the first word in the phrase (except for prepositions and articles). For example, sooner or later is usually explained under sooner; How are you? is under how.

(See also Unit 5.)