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Dictionary Use

Definition

Dictionary use is the skill of effectively locating and interpreting information in a dictionary to understand words. Dictionaries provide definitions, parts of speech, pronunciation guides, example sentences, and word origins.

Example

Dictionary Feature	Information Provided	Example of Use
Definitions	Meanings of words	Finding what "phenomenon" means
Spelling	Correct letter sequence	Checking whether it's "accommodate" or "accomodate"
Part of speech	Word's grammatical function	Determining if "run" is being used as a noun or verb
Pronunciation guide	How to say the word	Learning to pronounce "epitome" correctly
Multiple meanings	Various definitions of same word	Identifying which meaning of "bank" applies in context
Etymology	Word origins and history	Learning that "astronomy" comes from Greek roots meaning "star arrangement"

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Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

Use dictionary knowledge to answer the following questions about Egyptian pyramid construction.

1. In the dictionary entry for "quarry," which definition BEST applies to the sentence: "Ancient Egyptians transported limestone blocks from the quarry to build the Great Pyramid of Giza"?

- a) a large, deep pool of water
- b) an area where animals are hunted
- c) an excavation site for obtaining stone
- d) a victim or target of pursuit

2. Which part of speech is the word "mason" in the sentence: "The skilled mason shaped the limestone blocks with copper chisels"?

- a) verb
- b) adjective
- c) adverb
- d) noun

3. Based on dictionary pronunciation guides, which word is pronounced with the stress on the second syllable?

- a) pyramid (PIR-uh-mid)
- b) limestone (LIME-stone)
- c) technique (tek-NEEK)
- d) ancient (AIN-shent)

4. The word "ramp" in pyramid construction comes from which language origin according to dictionary etymology?

- a) Latin
- b) French
- c) Greek
- d) Egyptian

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5. In a dictionary, which word would appear FIRST in alphabetical order?

- a) limestone
- b) lever
- c) laborer
- d) lintel

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

Use your knowledge of dictionary components to complete each sentence.

1. The word "hieroglyph" would be found between _____ and _____ in a dictionary.
2. The pronunciation guide for the word "papyrus" would show _____ syllables.
3. The word "alignment" when referring to pyramid construction would be defined as the _____ of structures according to astronomical positions.
4. The part of speech for "precisely" in the sentence "The stones were precisely cut to fit together without mortar" is _____.
5. The plural form of "sarcophagus" according to a dictionary would be _____.

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Dictionary Use – Answer Key

Answer Key

Part 1: Multiple Choice Questions

1. c) an excavation site for obtaining stone
2. d) noun
3. c) technique (tek-NEEK)
4. b) French
5. c) laborer

Part 2: Fill in the Blank

1. "hieratic" and "hierarchy" (or similar words that alphabetically come before and after "hieroglyph")
2. 3 (puh-PIE-rus)
3. arrangement/positioning/placement
4. adverb
5. sarcophagi