




## Introduction

Use the information and exercises in the Oxford 3000 Vocabulary Trainer to help you:

- make better use of your dictionary
- build on vocabulary you already know
- write more fluently
- pass your exams

## 1 Looking at a keyword

Words marked with a key symbol  in this dictionary are part of the **Oxford 3000™**, a list of the 3000 most important words for learners to know. Look at page R99 for more details about this list.

Why are keywords worth special attention? You will probably know their basic meanings, but in each entry there is a lot of additional information about the word and that will help you to expand your vocabulary, building on what you already know. Look at the entry for **condition** and find the following information.

- 1 **Condition** can be a noun or a \_\_\_\_\_.
  
- 2 Look at the blue shortcuts (**STATE OF STH**, etc.). Read these sentences and decide which shortcut is likely to lead you to the right meaning.
  - a *The patient's condition was described as stable.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - b *It was a condition of the contract that the goods would be delivered within three months.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - c *The charity shop will take books, as long as they are in good condition.*  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d *A report on prison conditions criticized overcrowding in our jails.*  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- 3 Look at the **MEDICAL** meaning.
  - a What phrase in **bold** type is used to mean that someone is very seriously ill and may die? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b What phrase is used to mean 'physically unfit'? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c Where can you look at other words that describe types of illness?  
\_\_\_\_\_



- 4 Look at the **CIRCUMSTANCES** meaning and find:
- an adjective that can go with 'conditions' to mean 'very bad'.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - three adjectives that can be used to describe weather conditions.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - an expression that refers to the weather on the roads.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Look at the **RULE** meaning and find the verbs that complete these sentences:
- The fund \_\_\_\_\_ strict conditions on the grants.
  - The country will only be granted financial aid if it \_\_\_\_\_ certain conditions.
- 6 What is the difference between the idioms **on no condition** and **under no condition**? \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What is the difference between **condition** and **state**? The meanings are very similar, but they tend to combine with different words. Fill the gaps in these sentences with either **condition** or **state**, and then check your answers using the **SYNONYMS** box.
- Though old, the book was in perfect \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The building will never be sold in its present \_\_\_\_\_.
  - In the story the stormy weather reflects the characters' emotional \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The fence was in poor \_\_\_\_\_ and in need of repair.
  - In its current \_\_\_\_\_, the website is difficult to navigate – it needs redesigning.
- 8 Look at the verb **condition**. Which of these sentences are grammatically acceptable? Mark them with a tick (✓) or a cross (✗) to show which are right or wrong.
- The laboratory mice were conditioned for fearing the bell. \_\_\_\_\_
  - People are conditioned to believe an expert. \_\_\_\_\_
  - We are conditioned to failure. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 What expression is used in psychology to describe reactions that are learned, rather than natural? \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 If something **conditions** your hair, is it a good thing? \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 Looking at keywords: You win some, you lose some

A Look carefully at the entry for **win** to find the following information.

- 1 Is the verb **win** regular or irregular in its past tenses? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 What about the noun? Is it regular? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Does the pronunciation of **won** rhyme with **gun** or **gone**? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Look at the constructions that are shown in the entry and decide which of these sentences are grammatically correct. Mark them with a tick (✓) or a cross (X).
  - a *He always wins in cards.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - b *They won the seat from the Opposition.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - c *We were winning at three goals to one at half time.* \_\_\_\_\_
  - d *The chances of winning in the lottery are very low.* \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 What is another way of expressing the idiom **you can't win them all**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Where is the main stress in the expression **win something hands down**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Choose the right particle to complete the phrasal verbs in these sentences:
  - a The duke raised an army to try to win **out/back/through** the lands lost in the earlier campaign.
  - b They tried to win us **over/out/back** to their way of thinking.
  - c It is not clear yet which technology will win **over/out/round** in the next generation of televisions.

### LOOKING BEYOND THE ENTRY.

To answer the next two questions, you will need to follow up the cross-references, marked with '–see also...' or '–more at...' at the end of each section within the entry, to find the information in other entries:

- 8 a What expression describes a situation that is a good result for everyone involved? \_\_\_\_\_
- b What expression describes a situation that is bound to end badly?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c What expression describes an attractive facial expression?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d What expression means 'We could be about to produce something successful'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 What does the idiom **win your spurs** mean? \_\_\_\_\_



**B** Now look at the keyword **lose**.

**10** Find the expressions in **bold** type in the examples with **lose** that mean the following:

- a** fall over \_\_\_\_\_
- b** be killed \_\_\_\_\_
- c** no longer be interested \_\_\_\_\_
- d** go bald \_\_\_\_\_
- e** do something quickly \_\_\_\_\_
- f** slow down \_\_\_\_\_
- g** become unemployed \_\_\_\_\_
- h** become too nervous to do something \_\_\_\_\_

**11** Finding opposites and synonyms.

What is the opposite of **lose** in this sentence? *My watch **loses** five minutes a day.* \_\_\_\_\_

What is another word for **lose** in this sentence? *I **lost** my glasses and wasted an hour looking for them.* \_\_\_\_\_

And in this one? *He **ran** faster, dodging through the crowd in an attempt to **lose** the two boys.* \_\_\_\_\_

**12** Looking at grammar patterns.

Fill in the gaps with the right prepositions:

- a** The reigning champion lost \_\_\_\_\_ her young opponent in the final.
- b** They lost \_\_\_\_\_ three goals \_\_\_\_\_ two.
- c** The party lost the election \_\_\_\_\_ 100 votes.

**13** Look at the phrasal verbs with **lose** and decide which fits in each sentence. Remember that you may have to change the form, tense, etc. to make the sentence grammatically correct.

- a** When her daily life gets too much for her, she likes to \_\_\_\_\_ a book.
- b** Single parents have \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of the change in tax law.
- c** Newspapers and television news are both \_\_\_\_\_ the Internet.



## 5 Word formation

**A** Knowing a keyword also involves knowing the other words that can be formed from it. These words are called **derivatives** and they appear in many entries after the symbol ►. Knowing related words will give you more flexibility in how you express yourself. Use the derivatives in the keyword entries for the words in **bold type** in the sentences below to rewrite these sentences without changing the meaning:

e.g. The illustrations in the book were **attractive**.

The book was attractively illustrated

1 The similarity between the paintings was **remarkable**.

The paintings were \_\_\_\_\_ similar.

2 A sore throat may be a sign of an infection caused by **bacteria**.

A sore throat may be a sign of a \_\_\_\_\_ infection.

3 We must ensure that life-saving drugs are **available**.

We must ensure the \_\_\_\_\_ of life-saving drugs.

4 Please let the hotel know in advance if you have any special requirements regarding **diet**.

Please let the hotel know in advance if you have any special \_\_\_\_\_ requirements.

5 The results surprised the people doing the **research**.

The results surprised the \_\_\_\_\_.

6 There has been a **steady** improvement in quality over the last few years.

Quality has improved \_\_\_\_\_ over the last few years.

7 Her teachers always complained that she was **careless**.

Her teachers always complained about her \_\_\_\_\_.

8 He **hesitated** for a moment, then he stepped forward.

After a moment's \_\_\_\_\_, he stepped forward.

9 He was taken to hospital because they **suspected** that he'd had a heart attack.

He was taken to hospital with a \_\_\_\_\_ heart attack.

10 For this task you may need help from a **specialist**.

For this task you may need \_\_\_\_\_ help.



- B** Fill the gaps in the chart with the other members of these word families. If you need help, look up the **WORD FAMILY** boxes at the entries.

**WORD FAMILY**  
**able** *adj.* (≠ unable)  
**ability** *n.* (≠ inability)  
**disabled** *adj.*  
**disability** *n.*

nouns	verbs	adjectives	nouns	verbs	adjectives
		<i>able</i>		<i>explain</i>	
	<i>conceive</i>		<i>force</i>		
	<i>destroy</i>			<i>prove</i>	

- C** In many types of exam, for example the *Cambridge CAE* and *Proficiency in English*, you have to be able to fill a gap in a text with a word related to the one suggested. Use the **WORD FAMILY** boxes at the entries for the word on the right to help you choose the correct word in this passage:

The Pirahã language spoken by the \_\_\_\_\_ of a remote part of the Brazilian rainforest has been puzzling linguists for over 20 years. The Pirahã language has no words for numbers, and when an American researcher, Daniel Everett, tried to teach the Pirahã to count in Portuguese, they seemed \_\_\_\_\_ to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ of number. Some scientists believe that the Pirahã's \_\_\_\_\_ to count is \_\_\_\_\_ of the theory that language affects our \_\_\_\_\_ of the world. Otherwise it seems \_\_\_\_\_ that the Pirahã would fail to learn despite months of \_\_\_\_\_ and practice.

The Pirahã language itself is unusual in a number of other ways. It contains two very rare sounds, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of several sounds depends on the speaker's sex.

Although the \_\_\_\_\_ of the rainforest may eventually \_\_\_\_\_ tribes such as the Pirahã to adapt to modern civilization, at present their culture remains remarkably resistant to change.

**inhabit**  
**able**  
**conceive**  
**able**  
**prove**  
**perceive**  
**explain**  
**repeat**

**pronounce**

**destroy**  
**force**



## 9 Choosing the right collocation

Read Study page R48 on collocation – the way words often appear together. Knowing important combinations is important for speaking and writing natural-sounding English. It is also something that is tested in exams such as the CAE, where, in Paper 3, you have to choose the best word for a context. The choice you make may depend on knowing the right collocation. Using information from the **Oxford 3000** keywords can help you prepare for this.

- A** In the dictionary entries, you will find common collocations printed in ***bold italic*** type within example sentences. Use this information about the words in **bold type** in the sentences below to help you to do the following exercise:

- 1 Find three adjectives that are often used with **accommodation**.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Write down four verbs that you can use with **advice**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Is it possible to say 'answer an advertisement'? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Find three adjectives that are often used with **anxiety**. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Which of the following can you **launch**:  
a) an inquiry    b) an invasion    c) a missile?

- B** Exam practice – choose the right adverb for these sentences:

- 1 The fracture was clearly/obviously **visible** on the X-ray. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 She is a decidedly/highly **respected** researcher in this field. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I harshly/bitterly **regretted** having invited them. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 The question has been hotly/warmly **debated** in schools and colleges.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 The decision was hotly/warmly **welcomed** by the unions. \_\_\_\_\_

- C** Match these nouns and verbs up:

reach	defeat
admit	access
gain	action
take	an agreement
meet	a target

Now check your answers using the examples in the keyword entries. You will find the correct expressions in ***bold italic type***.



## 10 Correcting errors

You can improve the standard of your writing by training yourself to look for certain types of error and using the dictionary to correct them. There are also certain tasks in English exams such as *CAE* and *TOEIC* where you are asked to identify errors. You can prepare yourself by using the information in the dictionary when you practise.

- A** There are 7 spelling mistakes in this text. They are all important words from the **Oxford 3000** list. Find the errors and check the spellings in the dictionary.

The latest developement in the replacement of 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
 books by electronic media has come with the first 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
 novel to be available only as a digital download. 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Some people worry that this will discourage 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 younger generations from reading printed books, 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
 but the author hopes that it will have the oposite 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
 affect, and encourage people to consume 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
 litterature in a new form. So does this 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
 signall the death of the printed book as we 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
 know it? Certainly, it would seem to be another 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
 nail in it's coffin. But storytelling existed before 11 \_\_\_\_\_  
 the printed word, and may yet survive it. 12 \_\_\_\_\_

- B** In the dictionary entries, you will see how to use the word in a sentence – what construction is needed, the correct preposition to use, and so on. Which is the correct construction here? Do you need an –ing form or an infinitive? If you are not sure, check the dictionary entries for the verbs in **bold type**.

- 1 He **denied** taking/to take the money. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Did she **promise** being/to be here? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I **enjoy** reading/to read science fiction. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 **Practise** saying/to say the words aloud. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 They **pretended** not to notice/noticing. \_\_\_\_\_

- C** Look at the sentences below and decide whether the underlined parts are correct or not. Then check the keyword entries for the **bold** word in each phrase to see whether you were right.

- 1 She was **absent** from school for three weeks.
- 2 Will my passport be **accepted** for proof of my identity?
- 3 Have you got **access** at a computer?
- 4 He was **accused** to lie.
- 5 She was **alarmed** at the sight of so many people.