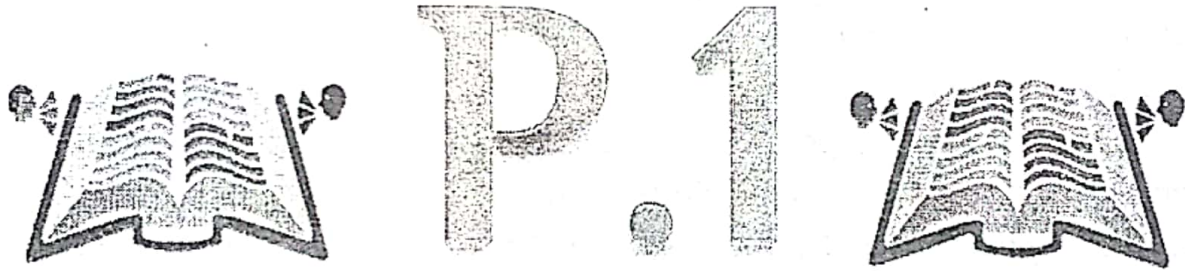# AYDI EST.

Open Learning ✿ Translation

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P.1

L1+L2+L3+L4+L5

Dictionaries

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Introduction to Dictionaries

The "Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary" defines the word "dictionary" as:

- A book that gives a list of the words of a language in alphabetical order and explains what they mean (i.e. monolingual dictionary), or gives a word for them in a foreign language (i.e. bilingual dictionary),

- A book that explains the words that are used in a particular subject (i.e. specialized dictionary), or

- A list of words in electronic form (e.g. computer's spellchecker or e-dictionary)

The term 'dictionary' came into the English language from the Latin word 'dictionarium,' whose origin in Latin is 'diction' which means 'a saying'.

Dictionaries were produced in China, Greece, the Islamic world and other complex early cultures. The first modern examples of lexicography, however, are thought to be the Nathan Bailey's Universal Etymological English Dictionary (1721) and his larger Dictionarium Britannicum (1730) which served Samuel Johnson in preparing his Dictionary of English Language (1755) which is considered to be the first dictionary standard work in English.

The next great lexicographer was an American, Noah Webster, whose immensely popular Spelling Book, first appeared in 1783, followed by his Compendious Dictionary of the English Language (1806). Webster's American Dictionary of English Language has been skillfully revised and abridged over the years, thereby retaining its popularity.

The major concern of a dictionary is to give the meaning(s) of the entries it includes. If a dictionary is bilingual those meanings are to be given in in the target language, taking into consideration linguistic and cultural aspects of meaning.

There are also dictionaries for medical, economic, diplomatic, artistic, literary, political and other academic, practical intellectual

terms, fields and activities in human life.

In addition to listing the words in alphabetical order and giving their meaning, the dictionary provides other information related to the words listed in there. Such information includes, for example but not restricted to:

Orthography and syllabication:

Orthography is the system of spelling in a language. Syllabication is the division of words into syllables (units, each of which contains a vowel or one or more consonants).

A dictionary includes spelling of every entry in a particular language. The dictionary also highlights the different spellings of a word, if any, as is the case in some British and American spelling of certain words such as (for instance):

British English	American English
Labour	Labor
Neighbour	Neighbor
Metre	Meter
Centre	Center
Programme	Program

As for syllabication, some dictionaries divide a word into the basic syllables it is made up of.

Phonetics:

Phonetics is the study of speech sounds and how they are produced (i.e. pronunciation).

A dictionary provides a guide for pronouncing words in addition to their phonetic transcription. In English, which is our language in consideration, there is no one to one relationship between the letters comprising a word and the sounds through which it is produced.

An English dictionary shows such lack of matching, which is so frequent in the case of English vowels: a vowel letter may have a

Vowel letter (a)	Sound
Fat	æ
Fate	eɪ
Far	ɑː
Fall	ɔː

number of vowel sounds:

Vice versa: a vowel sound may have a number of vowel letters:

Vowel sound (i:)	Letters
Eat	ea
People	eo
Deceive	ei
believe	ie
See	ee

The English dictionary also shows the differences in phonetic transcription and pronunciation between British and American English:

Word	British English pronunciation	American English pronunciation
Farm	/fɑːm/	/fɑːrm/
Go	/gəʊ/	/goʊ/
Mother	/ˈmʌðəʳ/	/ˈmʌðər/

Morphology and syntax:

Morphology is the study of the forms of words (morphemes). *Syntax is the rules for the way words and phrases are put together to form sentences in a language.*

A dictionary points out what happens to words under inflection and derivation, reflecting any change in the meaning of an entry there from.

The morphemes in English are of two types: *bound* (dependent and can't stand alone) and *free* (independent and can stand alone and be called words).

The bond morphemes are affixes (prefixes, infixes and suffixes) that are added to the free morphemes for:

➤ **Inflection** (modification to express a different grammar category): in such process the part of speech of a word doesn't necessarily change. The inflectional morphemes (affixes) rather indicate certain grammatical properties associated with verbs, nouns or adjectives such as gender (hero, heroin), number (boy, boys), case (he, him) and tense (shave, shaves, shaved).

However, the 3rd person "s", plural "s", past or past participle "ed" and verb progressive marker "ing" are such affixes which don't change the grammatical category.

➤ **Derivation** (modification to change the part of speech): in such process the meaning doesn't necessarily change. The derivational morphemes (affixes) change the part of speech, as is the case with the following suffixes:

o "tion": hesitate (v) – hesitation (n)

o "dom": free (adj) – freedom (n)

o "ness": happy (adj) – happiness (n)

However, some derivational morphemes can change the meaning while they don't change the part of speech, as is the case with the following prefixes:

"un": ambitious – unambitious

"pre": determines – predetermines.

For each rule there is an exception. This is where a dictionary guides.

Classification of Dictionaries

Dictionaries are classified by:

1- **Number of languages**: this classification has the following types under it:

a. Monolingual dictionaries which are explanatory in one language, like the English-English dictionaries we use here.

b. Bilingual dictionaries which translate or provide equivalent/s of words in another language, like the English-Arabic or Arabic-English dictionaries.

c. Multilingual dictionaries which translate or provide equivalent/s of words in more than one language, like some English-French-Arabic dictionaries.

2- **Object of description:** this classification has the following types under it:

a. Linguistic dictionaries which describe words as entries or language units, along with their meaning and other respective details such as orthography, phonetic transcription, part of speech, derivatives, ...etc. These are the details we studied earlier.

b. Encyclopedic dictionaries which provide extralinguistic information on all branches of knowledge. They deal with concepts and facts rather than words.

3- **Ways of language unit description:** this classification has the following types under it:

a. General dictionaries which contain multi-aspect word description, i.e. the vocabulary as a whole. The Oxford English Dictionary is an example of this type.

b. Special dictionaries which reveal some aspects of words or relations among them. They cover certain part of the vocabulary rather than the vocabulary as a whole. In this type of dictionaries, the words are selected based on:

➢ The sphere in which they are used, like technical/specialized dictionaries,

➢ The type of entries, like idioms, phrasal verbs, acronyms, ... etc.

➢ The relations among them, like synonyms, antonyms, ... etc.

4- **Selection of vocabulary:** this classification has the following types under it:

a. Concordances: dictionaries recording vocab of some author or work, like the concordances of the Bible.

b. **Glossaries:** dictionaries dealing with and explaining difficult words like the UN glossary or the glossary of dictionary terms.

c. **Biographical** dictionaries which provide details on influential authors, poets, musicians, leaders, ... etc. like the Meriam Webster's Biographical Dictionary.

d. **Etymological** dictionaries which deal with the origins and roots of words, like the Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology.

5- **Time:** this classification has the following types under it:

a. **Diachronic** dictionaries which reflect the development of vocabulary by recording the history of form and meaning of every word registered, like The Oxford English Dictionary.

b. **Synchronic** dictionaries which are concerned with present-day meaning and usage of words, like the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English.

6- **Coverage:** this classification has the following types under it:

a. Large-sized dictionaries containing over 80,000 entries.

b. Concise/medium-sized dictionaries containing 70,000-80,000 entries.

c. Pocket/small-sized dictionaries containing up to 30,000 entries.

7- **Size:** this classification has to do with the size of the printed dictionary. It has the following types:

a. Big

b. Middle-sized

c. Pocket-sized

8- **Form:** this classification has to do with the format in which the dictionary is made. It has the following types:

a. Book

b. CD-ROM

c. Internet (online)

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Learner's dictionaries:

Learner's dictionaries are English-English dictionaries that have been complied for language learners. They are of different difficulty levels, from elementary dictionaries with simple definitions or a small word list like the 'Oxford Wordpower Dictionary,' to near-native-level dictionaries such as the 'Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary.'

Main features/aspects covered with respect to the entries in Learner's dictionaries:

- Spelling
- Pronunciation
- Meaning
- Examples and stylistic notes (cultural connotations)
- Vocabulary building advice
- Study notes on how to use the dictionary

Learner's dictionaries are different from native-speaker dictionaries. They are written with a special defining vocabulary that are the most common and useful words in English. Learner's dictionaries have been made using a large corpus of real English samples taken from real-world examples. This means that the dictionary makers have looked at millions of words of English to see how the language is actually used.

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Abbreviations and Grammar Labels:

abbr.	Abbreviation	NZE	New Zealand English
adj.	Adjective	pl.	Plural
adv.	Adverb	pp	Past participle
AmE	American English	prep.	Preposition
AustralE	Australian English	pron.	Pronoun

BrE	British English	pt	Past tense
C	Countable noun	sb	Somebody
conj.	Conjunction	ScotE	Scottish English
det.	Determiner	sing.	Singular
etc.	Et cetera = (and so on)	sth	Something
IrishE	Irish English	symb	Symbol
n.	Noun	U	Uncountable noun
NorthE	Northern English	v.	Verb

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Symbols:

~	Replaces the headword or any entry
■	Shows new part of speech in an entry
▶	Derivative(s) section of an entry
⚠	Taboo
IDM	Idiom(s) section of an entry
PHR V	Phrasal verb(s) section of an entry

Labels:

Approving expressions show that you feel approval or admiration, for example feisty, petite.

Disapproving expressions show that you feel disapproval or contempt, for example blinkered, newfangled.

Figurative language is used in a non-literal or metaphorical way, as in He didn't want to cast a shadow on (= spoil) their happiness.

Formal expressions are usually only used in serious or official language and would not be appropriate in normal everyday conversation. Examples are admonish, besmirch.

Humorous expressions are intended to be funny, for example fisticuffs, ignoramus.

Informal expressions are used between friends or in a relaxed or unofficial situation. They are not appropriate for formal situations. Examples are <u>bonkers, dodgy</u>.

Ironic language uses words to mean the opposite of the meaning that they seem to have, as in <u>You're a great help, I must say!</u> (= no help at all).

Literary language is used mainly in literature and imaginative writing, for example <u>aflame, halcyon</u>.

Offensive expressions are used by some people to address or refer to people in a way that is very insulting, especially in connection with their race, religion, sex or disabilities. You should not use these words.

Slang is very informal language, sometimes restricted to a particular group of people, for example people of the same age or those who have the same interests or do the same job. Examples are <u>dosh, gnarly</u>.

Specialist language is used by people who specialize in particular subject areas, for example <u>accretion, adipose</u>.

Taboo expressions are likely to be thought by many people to be obscene or shocking. You should not use them.

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<u>The following labels show other restrictions on the use of words:</u>

Dialect describes expressions that are mainly used in particular regions of the British Isles, not including Ireland, Scotland or Wales, for example <u>beck, nowt</u>.

Old-fashioned expressions are passing out of current use, for example <u>beanfest, bothersome</u>.

Old use describes expressions that are no longer in current use, for example <u>ere, perchance</u>.

Saying describes a well-known fixed or traditional phrase, such as a proverb, that is used to make a comment, give advice, etc., for example <u>actions speak louder than words</u>.

™ shows a trademark of a manufacturing company, for example Band-Aid, Frisbee.

Key to verb patterns:

Intransitive verbs	[V] verb used alone *A large dog appeared.* [V+adv./prep.] verb + adverb or prepositional phrase *A group of swans floated by.*
Transitive verbs	[VN] verb + noun phrase *Jill's behavior annoyed me.* [VN+adv./prep.] verb + noun phrase + adverb or prepositional phrase *He kicked the ball into the net.*
Transitive verbs + two objects	[VNN] verb + noun phrase + noun phrase *I gave Sue a book for Christmas.*
Linking verbs	[V-ADJ] verb + adjective *His voice sounds hoarse.* [V-N] verb + noun phrase *Elena became a doctor.* [VN-ADJ] verb + noun phrase + adjective *She considered herself lucky.* [VN-N] verb + noun phrase + noun phrase *They elected him president.*
Verbs used with clauses or phrases	[V that] [V (that)] verb + that clause *He said that he would prefer to walk.* [VN that] [VN (that)] verb + noun phrase + that clause *Can you remined me that I need to buy some milk?* [V wh-] verb + wh- clause *I wonder what the job will be like.* [VN wh-] verb + noun phrase + wh- clause *I asked him where the hall was.*

	[V to] verb + *to* infinitive *The goldfish need to be fed.* [VN to] verb + noun phrase *to* infinitive *He was forced to leave the keys.* [VN inf] verb + noun phrase + infinitive without 'to' *Did you hear the phone ring?* [V -ing] verb + -ing phrase *She never stop talking!* [VN -ing] verb + noun phrase + -ing phrase *His comments set me thinking.*
Verbs + direct speech	[V speech] verb + direct speech *'it's snowing,' she said* [VN speech] verb + noun phrase + direct speech *'Tom's coming to lunch,' she told me.*

There are more details about the details on verbs, along with details related to nouns, phrasal verbs and idioms in the 'Study Pages' in the dictionary.

Thank You

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