



# How would a writer use this word?

Your dictionary helps you understand what a word means and how to use it with the definition, *and* an example sentence. In some Oxford dictionaries, there are example sentences that are from your favourite authors which show how they use words.

**poltergeist** *NOUN* **poltergeists**  
 a ghost or spirit that throws things about noisily  
 Peeves was the school poltergeist, a grinning, airborne menace who lived to cause havoc and distress. — J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*  
**WORD HISTORY** from German *poltern* 'to make a disturbance' and *Geist* 'a spirit or ghost'



## GETTING STARTED

Put one of the following words in each sentence.

barrage

chunky

yummy

bedraggled

afterwards

1. Those \_\_\_\_\_ dumplings were stuffed with pork, chives and spring onions and were absolutely delicious!

*Adeline Yen Mah, Chinese Cinderella*

4. The phone was a fairly \_\_\_\_\_ black thing that had probably gone out of fashion within a couple of months.

*Keith Gray, Malarkey*

2. Twig quaked under the \_\_\_\_\_ of insults and recriminations.

*Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell, Stormchaser*

5. At three o'clock on the afternoon of May 20, 1916, three \_\_\_\_\_, hairy men staggered into Stromness.

*Paul Dowswell, True Polar Adventures*

3. This is the story of a Polish family, and of what happened to them during the Second World War and immediately \_\_\_\_\_.

*Ian Serraillier, The Silver Sword*



## MOVING ON

Write down which word in the sentence is being described in the definition column. Check the dictionary definition to see if you are right!

	EXAMPLE	DEFINITION	WORD
1.	There were dinky little bottles of shampoo and bath foam so we had the bath brimming with bubbles. <i>Jacqueline Wilson, Lola Rose</i>	attractive small and neat	
2.	No one has ever worked out a simple formula for telling you whether a very big number is a prime number or what the next one will be. <i>Mark Haddon, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i>	a rule or statement expressed in symbols or numbers	
3.	The Moon orbits around Earth once every 28 days but not quite in a perfect circle. <i>Kjartan Poskitt, The Gobsmacking Galaxy</i>	curved path round a planet, moon, or star	
4.	Witches never bothered with elementary road safety. <i>Terry Pratchett, Wyrd Sisters</i>	dealing with the simplest stages of something; easy	
5.	Lily says I have an overactive imagination and a pathological need to invent drama in my life. <i>Meg Cabot, The Princess Diaries</i>	excessively active	

How many did you get right?

2 = NOVICE

5 = EXPERT

10 = MAESTRO



You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities