

5 Word classes

When you look up a headword, your dictionary gives you its **word class**, e.g. adjective, adverb, noun, or verb.

indigo *NOUN*
a deep-blue colour.
[from Greek *indikon* = something from India]

indirect *ADJECTIVE*
not direct.
▷ **indirectly** *adverb*



GETTING STARTED

Use your Oxford dictionary to find the word classes of these words and write them in the correct column of the table below.

- pugnacious chic chick puffin modernize sombre
- delivery krypton germinate there position afford
- sometime pull giddy slipshod sloppy irrepressible

ADJECTIVE	ADVERB	NOUN	VERB

Write an example for each word class.

- Adjectives** are words that describe a person place or thing _____
- Adverbs** answer questions such as when? where? why? how? and how much? _____
- Nouns** are used to name people, places or things _____
- A **verb** can describe an action or process _____



MOVING ON

Some words can be more than one word class. How many word classes are the following?

1. date 3. light 5. prime 7. limit 9. cheat
2. good 4. rush 6. superior 8. love 10. oblong
11. Find a word with four word classes. _____

How many did you get right? 10 = NOVICE 20 = EXPERT 30 = MAESTRO

5 You can use your Oxford School Dictionary and your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities