

6 Finding the definition

Build up your vocabulary and knowledge by looking up words to find out what they mean, and how and when to use them.



GETTING STARTED

Look at the three possible definitions given for each word. Tick the definition you think is right. Then use your Oxford dictionary to find out if you were correct.

WORD	POSSIBLE DEFINITIONS	YOUR DEFINITION	DICTIONARY DEFINITION
1. albumen	the white of an egg		
	musicians who perform on a musical compilation		
	a person or animal with no colouring		
2. bismuth	a loud and aggressive person who uses crude language		
	a mythical creature, half cat half moth		
	a greyish white metal		
3. galoshes	the gloves worn by an Irish leprechaun		
	a pair of waterproof shoes worn over ordinary shoes		
	snails commonly used in French cooking		
4. hyperbole	the world cup final in American football		
	the curve formed when a cone is cut by a plane		
	deliberate exaggeration		
5. scrimmage	the pursuit of a loose ball after a scrum in rugby union		
	saving money by avoiding all unnecessary spending		
	a confused struggle		
		SCORE	



MOVING ON

Work with a partner. Choose a group of words and create three definitions for each word – include the correct one. Test your partner to see if they can identify the correct definition for each word.

1.
fatuous
dystrophy
codicil

score
3

2.
fracas
obsequious
ebullient

score
3

3.
gargantuan
gurdwara
screed

score
3