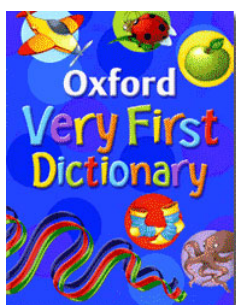


A Guide to School Dictionaries and Thesauruses

Selecting the right dictionary or thesaurus for your child is vital for improving their language skills and vocabulary development. But with so many different titles to choose from, how do you know which one to buy?

Our simple guide will help you to identify which dictionaries and thesauruses most closely match the needs and ability of your child and shows how the Oxford Children's range gradually progresses to support your child's development.

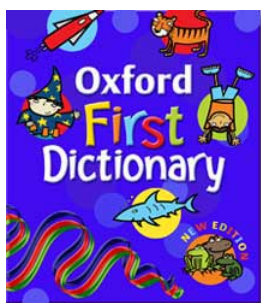
I'd like to buy my son a first dictionary. He is 4 years old but not starting school until next year. Which one should I choose?



Oxford Very First Dictionary

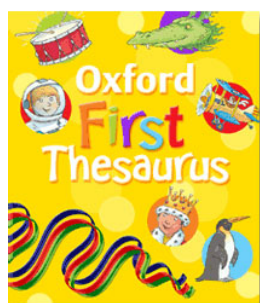
Your son needs to be introduced to the alphabet, alphabetical order, and first words and meanings in very simple language. The *Oxford Very First Dictionary* is easy to use and is an exciting first step into the world of dictionaries. Each page is clearly laid out: you can point to the alphabet on every page, spot that the letter you are in is highlighted and see how the carefully selected words and their meanings are all brightly illustrated. Take a look at the Days of the Week, Numbers and Colours at the back too.

I think we should have a dictionary at home now that my daughter has started primary school. I'd like to give her as much help as possible with her reading and writing. But which one should I choose?



Oxford First Dictionary

Dictionaries can be lots of fun as well as linking with the renewed KS1 Framework at school, and this one has brand new illustrations and up-to-date text as well. You'll find carefully chosen words with their part of speech and plural alongside simple, easy-to-read meanings. You can show your daughter how to become a Word Explorer with the sections on spelling, simple grammar, opposites, time, seasons and colours and shapes too – all the key words for those first weeks at school.

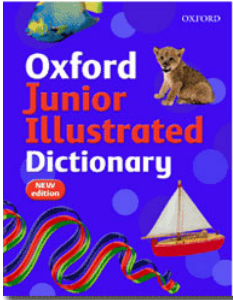


Oxford First Thesaurus

This is the companion thesaurus that will help your daughter with her writing. This is an engaging and absorbing book, with hundreds of alternative words and opposites given alongside the illustrations. It's a really appealing way to help your daughter enjoy her independent writing.

My second daughter is in Y1 and is no longer interested in the very young dictionaries. Is there something more challenging to keep her interested?

As your daughter now knows how to use a dictionary, she needs more vocabulary coverage but will still enjoy having an illustrated dictionary or thesaurus. You should try these:



Oxford Junior Illustrated Dictionary

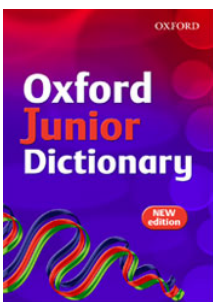
This will be a real winner because your daughter will find example sentences from many of her favourite authors such as Dick King-Smith in this dictionary! The clean, clear page layout and the illustrated entries make sure she will still be able to find the words she needs easily. The word family panels – a key Framework link – give related words to help build vocabulary. This also has a *Become a Word Explorer* section which is packed with help, from spelling and grammar to word origins organised by topics and words we easily confuse.



Oxford Junior Illustrated Thesaurus

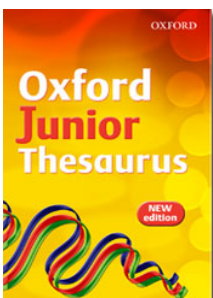
As your daughter starts with written work, this new thesaurus will help her write creatively and effectively. Again, it has a clear and easy-to-use layout, but now with panels on words that are often overused (like 'nice' and 'good') and word webs (words that are related to the entry: ideal for topic work) and writing tips (vocabulary to help with creative writing). She will enjoy the formal and informal letters which are in the *Become a Word Explorer* section, along with top ten tips on writing stories.

My son is 7 years old. I want to buy him something a little more advanced than the illustrated dictionaries. What should I choose?



Oxford Junior Dictionary

This is a brand new edition and will both challenge and appeal to your son – it comes with inspiring example sentences from the best children's authors, Dick King-Smith, Roald Dahl, Jacqueline Wilson and more. All the KS2 vocabulary is covered, along with blue grammar panels giving clear explanations on key grammar topics, and grey word family panels showing words that belong to the same family and how to use them. All these tie in to Framework initiatives that will help build his vocabulary and language skills. Another extra help are the Spelling panels warning against common spelling mistakes. The really useful Word Explorer section will get your son familiar with prefixes, suffixes, word origins and more.



Oxford Junior Thesaurus

A common problem for young writers, highlighted by the Framework, is the tendency to use the same words repeatedly in their independent written work. The *Oxford Junior Thesaurus* has everything your son needs to improve his writing. It includes panels on words that are often overused (like 'nice' and 'good'), word webs (words that are related to the entry: ideal for topic work) and writing tips (vocabulary to help with creative writing). The Word Explorer section includes constructive help with different writing styles and vocabulary to enable your son to write creatively and effectively.

Is there something comprehensive I can buy to help all of my son's work at Primary school? He sometimes needs a bit of motivating...

Oxford Primary Dictionary and Oxford Primary Thesaurus



The *Oxford Primary Dictionary* is the perfect dictionary for motivating boys at KS2 - it contains real example sentences taken from the best children's books. Encourage your son to spot sentences from Roald Dahl and J K Rowling, and many more, illustrating the entries. All the KS2 spelling lists and cross curricular entries are included, as well as up-to-the-minute ICT terminology so you'll find 'blog' and 'texting' in this edition too.

The *Oxford Primary Thesaurus* is a new edition this year and is the most comprehensive thesaurus at this level. It has been written with the young writer firmly in mind - so it includes lots of help with register (to make sure formal or informal words are used in the right contexts), overused words (like 'nice' and 'good'), writing tips (plenty of ideas for describing and writing about topics in creative ways) and word web panels (to help provide plenty of related vocabulary around an entry). The Word Explorer section is a comprehensive supplement of vocabulary, grammar help, word origins, and writing tips to help your son to enjoy writing in a way that he may not have done before.

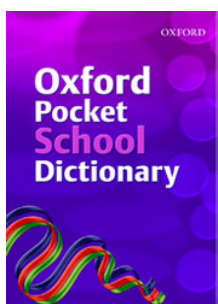


Oxford Children's Dictionary and Oxford Children's Thesaurus

If your son finds the *Primary Dictionary* and *Thesaurus* too challenging, and would like a dictionary that has colour illustrations and comprehensive vocabulary coverage, then choose these. They are smaller in size, still packed with headwords – enough material to see him through to the start of secondary school.

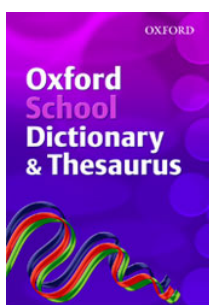
My daughter will be starting secondary school and I've been asked to buy her a dictionary. What should I buy for her first year?

Oxford Pocket School Dictionary



If your daughter has been told to carry a dictionary to every class in her rucksack, the *Oxford Pocket School Dictionary* is exactly what she needs. This is the same text as the large format, best-selling *Oxford School Dictionary*, it has comprehensive and up-to-date vocabulary, plus a central supplement on grammar and using language accurately, to help her with Y7 and above. This title is also available as a Mini School Dictionary, without the supplement.

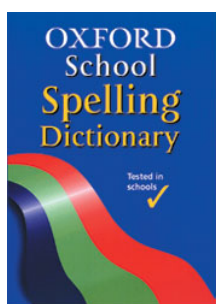
Oxford School Dictionary and Thesaurus (2-in-1 volume)



If you're looking for a one-stop-shop solution, then buy this. Our combined dictionary and thesaurus contains text from the *Oxford Concise Dictionary* and *Oxford Concise Thesaurus*. Each page is split into two - the dictionary entries appear at the top of the page and their corresponding thesaurus entries at the bottom. A great price for an easy-to-use dictionary and thesaurus.

My son is having a problem with his spelling, what can I buy to help?

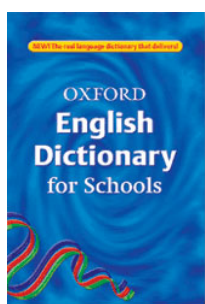
Oxford School Spelling Dictionary



As your son wants quick spelling help, and doesn't want to be distracted by meanings, he will find the *Oxford School Spelling Dictionary* a real help. All the words are listed alphabetically, with no meanings to distract. One question that is often asked is, if you don't know how to spell a word, how can you look it up? This dictionary helps with this problem too by directing you around the alphabet to enable you to locate the word you're looking for. For example, start looking at 'f' for words that begin with 'ph' and you'll be directed to look under 'ph' too, or for 'knife' under 'k' and so on. Some extra spelling tips are scattered throughout the text, in panels to firmly establish key spelling rules and footnotes make sure you choose the right meaning where words may possibly be confused. A useful book to have on the table while your son does his homework.

My son has just started Lower Secondary school and I want him to have one dictionary to take him all the way through. What should I buy?

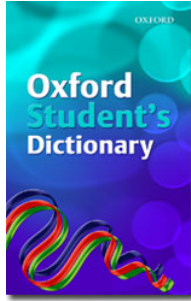
Oxford English Dictionary for Schools



New and written exclusively for KS3, this comprehensive *Oxford English Dictionary for Schools* provides everything your son needs for his secondary school career. It contains all the KS3 curriculum words, and good KS4 coverage, and is very easy-to-use. Plus there are thousands of real example sentences from the best children's authors - J K Rowling, Philip Pullman, David Almond and more - to show how words are used in context. Panels in the text highlight grammar topics that will give on the spot support for tricky language issues such as apostrophes and when to use them, prefixes, suffixes, and much more. There is a real wealth of information in this dictionary - and it is carefully targeted to the age group.

My daughter has just started her GCSEs and I want to buy her a dictionary that she can use at home and at school. What do you recommend?

Oxford Student's Dictionary



The top level dictionary in the range, the *Oxford Student's Dictionary* is ideal for GCSEs because it includes high-level vocabulary, as well as superb cross-curriculum vocabulary, from Biology to Physics, to Information Technology, right across the board. Because of this when your daughter is working at home without teacher support, she will find entries in this dictionary that would not be in an adult dictionary. Clear and easy to use, this is an excellent dictionary for 14+.

My daughter is at primary school and has just started learning a foreign language. Is it worth buying her something at this age?

Yes – seeing the words and their translations will help to fix the language in your daughter's mind. In our bilingual picture dictionaries there are colourful illustrations from everyday situations such as going shopping, bath and bedtime, which your daughter will enjoy. They are illustrated by David Melling, so if you have his best-selling picture book *The Kiss that Missed*, the illustrations will be familiar too.

Oxford First French Words Oxford First Spanish Words Oxford First German Words



My daughter is already familiar with some Spanish vocabulary, I think she may be ready to move to using a dictionary. What are my options?

Oxford Primary Spanish Dictionary / Oxford Primary French Dictionary



We have brand new primary dictionaries for Spanish and French specifically written for children at primary school, learning a language for the first time. Meeting all the requirements of the new Framework for Languages in KS2 with an easy-to-use layout, this is perfect!

Each dictionary has a 32-page illustrated colour section in between the two language sections focusing on the topics and themes your daughter will need at this level - in the classroom, eating out, on holiday, hobbies and so on. The alphabetical sections are made very easy to use with English in one colour and the language, French or Spanish, in another. Throughout there are every-day sentences and phrases to help with those early language steps. Panels on the culture of each country give great snippets of information to build your daughter's knowledge of the country and its people.

My son is starting secondary school and will soon be learning French. I have an old adult dictionary somewhere which I use for holidays – can he use this?

Your son really needs a dictionary designed for his needs. Your old adult dictionary will not necessarily focus on school curriculum words. The *Oxford School French Dictionary* contains syllabus vocabulary and directly supports the curriculum in all aspects. The clear layout and sign-posting will lead your son straight to the correct translation. Grammar is provided in a straightforward manner without distracting symbols and abbreviations. Difficult areas such as verbs are treated in a separate section. A special supplement on everyday life and culture will allow him to get a real feel for the country.

**Oxford School French Dictionary
Oxford School Spanish Dictionary
Oxford School German Dictionary
Oxford Study Italian Dictionary**



Also available in handy-size mini format
**Oxford Mini School French Dictionary
Oxford Mini School Spanish Dictionary
Oxford Mini School German Dictionary**

I want to make sure that my daughter has one bilingual dictionary to take her through secondary school. What should I buy?

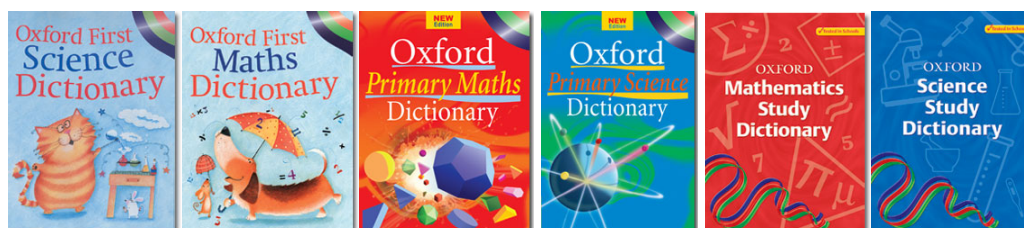
Oxford Learner's French Dictionary / Oxford Learner's Spanish Dictionary



These dictionaries contains all the examination vocabulary your daughter needs, along with advice and tips to support her learning. Example sentences cover everyday life and show how vocabulary should be used. A colour illustrated section in the middle makes key themes fun and accessible as well as providing lots of essential topic vocabulary and phrases. Special attention is paid to high usage verbs and mini-info boxes give essential cultural information. Comprehensive but clear and easy-to-use, these dictionaries will ensure your daughter is prepared for her exams.

Also available to support your child

We are delighted to offer you and your child a range of subject dictionaries for Maths and Science covering ages 5-16 years. Perfect for classwork and homework support.



Why do I need to buy a children's dictionary? Can't my child use an adult dictionary instead?

Our children's dictionaries and thesauruses have been conceived and put together specifically for children and the school curriculum. Our complete children's range caters for a child from three years right up to A Level, with every level designed to match the unique requirements of each child.

We are unique in this respect, as many of our competitors simply tailor their adult dictionaries for children, without considering the way in which children use dictionaries and the way in which they process language.

If your child is an able 14-year-old and enjoys expanding their literacy and language skills then you may want to consider a larger dictionary with more coverage and adult conventions. For most children, however, it is essential that they have a children's dictionary and thesaurus that is accurately matched to their needs.

Allow your child to progress at a rate that suits them. The Oxford Children's range is designed to enable children to become proficient dictionary and thesaurus users. Once they have mastered the entire range they will then be fully equipped to tackle our excellent range of adult dictionaries.