

Vocabulary Power

Lesson 20 Using Reference Skills

Using a Dictionary: Multiple-Meaning Words

In using a dictionary, you've noticed that many words have more than one meaning. These different meanings are numbered with the most common meaning being given first. Use the dictionary entry for the word *index* to answer the questions below.

index (in *r* deks) *n.* **1.** Something that serves to guide or point out, especially: **a.** An alphabetized list of names, places, and subjects treated in a printed work, giving the page(s) on which each item is mentioned **b.** A thumb index **c.** A table, file, or catalog **2.** Something that reveals or indicates; a sign **3.** An indicator or pointer, as on a scientific instrument **4. Mathematics.** **a.** A number or symbol, often written as a subscript or superscript to a mathematical expression, that indicates an operation to be performed **b.** A number derived from a formula, used to characterize a set of data

EXERCISE

Read each sentence. Then, from the entry above, write the meaning of *index* that fits the sentence.

1. The consumer price **index**, known as the CPI, measures the average change in the prices of goods and services purchased for day-to-day living.

Meaning of *index* _____

2. Her facial expression was an **index** of her mood.

Meaning of *index* _____

3. When I looked up "Charlemagne" in the **index** of my history textbook, I was referred to page 472 for a description of his reign.

Meaning of *index* _____

4. The librarian directed me to this Web site for an **index** to publications of the U.S. Government.

Meaning of *index* _____

5. The **index** on the sundial cast a sharp shadow; from it, I estimated that the time was three o'clock in the afternoon.

Meaning of *index* _____

6. In the mathematical expression x^{10} , the **index** 10 indicates that you should multiply x by itself 10 times.

Meaning of *index* _____



Vocabulary Power



Review: Unit 5

EXERCISE

Circle the word in parentheses that best completes each sentence.

1. All members of the jury must be fair and (impervious, impartial, implausible).
2. His performance was (implausible, laudable, insipid) even though he did not win the race.
3. In the debate, his main (contention, deference, conjecture) was that immigrants are an asset to the nation.
4. Keeshia was (immaculate, indiscriminate, incongruous) in choosing her daily wardrobe; she grabbed the first outfit she saw.
5. In (sustenance, deference, conjecture) to her grandmother's wishes, Mia always closed the door to her room before practicing her clarinet.
6. I know Pete finds Saturday morning cartoons (impartial, infallible, insipid) because he said, "There's nothing original or exciting about them."
7. Monkeys have (reprehensible, prehensile, cursory) hands and feet that allow them to grasp and swing from branches.
8. The sign is (unpretentious, unobtrusive, unprecedented) because it is small and painted to blend in with the surroundings.
9. Kevin's car is always in (impartial, imperturbable, immaculate) condition; he washes and waxes it every Saturday.
10. Alaska is not part of the (contiguous, amorphous, effluent) United States.
11. The results of the fundraiser for new computers were (unprecedented, impervious, tangential) in the history of our school.
12. To be a successful manager, you must be (amorphous, incongruous, tactful) and succinct.
13. My favorite science fiction movie has a(n) (indiscriminate, insipid, amorphous) character with shape-changing abilities.
14. The halls echoed with students' (sustenance, mirth, contentions) as they prepared for summer vacation.
15. We purchased the house by a beautiful, (cursory, infallible, effluent) stream.