

Getting to Know your Dictionary

Good English-English dictionaries are a treasure trove of information. However, the best dictionary in the world is not much good if you don't know how to use it.

Part A

Choose what you think is the right answer without a dictionary.

(1) Your friend had a wonderful trip, but unfortunately it had to be cut short because of

- a death in the family?
- death in the family?

(2) You open your dictionary to search for

- informations on a certain word?
- information on a certain word?

(3) In which case are you saying "No"?

- if you impose sanctions on something?
- if you sanction something?

(4) In which of the following did the man end up in the police station?

- when she turned him off?
- when she turned him on?
- when she turned him in?
- when she turned him down?

(5) What is the difference between "a clap" and "the clap"?

(6) Which of these do some people use when they are angry?

- Almighty God
- God Almighty

(7) On which syllable does the main stress go?

category analysis vary variety

(8) In America people would say that trains have

- coaches?
- cars?

(9) If you hate overcrowded trains you should avoid

- to travel at weekends?
- travelling at weekends?

(10) British Rail announced that due to exceptional snowfalls masses of snow had to be

- shoveled?
- shovelled?

away before trains could leave Inverness.

(11) When a problem is really important, it is a

- big problem?
- serious problem?
- major problem?

(12) Height rhymes with

- weight?
- light?

Part B

Now use the dictionary. See if you can find a clear answer to the questions.

Part C

So what kinds of information does the dictionary give you?

Make a list.