

To find out more about the information in the **Oxford American Dictionary**, look at the Guide to the Dictionary on pp. vii–ix.

**A. Look at these two entries from your Oxford American Dictionary.**

The image shows two dictionary entries for the word 'sum'. The first entry is for the noun form, and the second is for the verb form. Numbered callouts (1-10) point to various parts of the entries:

- 1: The word 'sum' and its phonetic transcription.
- 2: The part of speech 'noun'.
- 3: The first definition of the noun.
- 4: The second definition of the noun.
- 5: The idiom 'in sum'.
- 6: The part of speech 'verb'.
- 7: The phrasal verb 'sum (sth) up'.
- 8: The definition of the phrasal verb.
- 9: The word 'conclusion' mentioned in the phrasal verb definition.
- 10: The word 'conclusion' mentioned in the phrasal verb definition.

Now match the numbered parts of the dictionary text with **ten** of the fourteen different types of information listed below.

- 1 ..... 2 ..... 3 ..... 4 ..... 5 ..... 6 ..... 7 ..... 8 ..... 9 ..... 10 .....

- a. Numbers on words with the same spelling but different parts of speech
- b. Part of speech – noun, verb, etc.
- c. An important word belonging to the Oxford 3000
- d. An item from the Academic Word List of vocabulary used a lot in textbooks and lectures
- e. Pronunciation
- f. A particular subject area where the word or meaning is used
- g. Grammar information – countable and uncountable nouns, etc.
- h. Different meanings of a word
- i. A link to a related term
- j. Example sentence showing how the word is used
- k. Help with using the word in particular situations – informal, formal, etc.
- l. An idiom using the word
- m. Forms of a word – parts of the verb, plurals of nouns, etc.
- n. A phrasal verb using the word

**B. Doctor Dictionary**

See if you can help solve these problems. In each case, look up the word in **bold print** and give the answer to the problem. Then say which feature of the dictionary entry gave you the answer. You have to choose one of the features listed below.

- a. syllable dots
- b. derivatives
- c. stress marks
- d. preposition used after a word
- e. opposites
- f. other ways of saying something
- g. irregular plurals

	What's the problem?	What's the answer?	Where's the answer?
1.	Do you say <b>vegetable</b> or <b>vegetable</b> ?		
2.	Is there an adjective formed from <b>sugar</b> ? I want to say "a ..... drink".		
3.	Is there a less formal way of talking about a <b>dormitory</b> ?		
4.	What's wrong with " <b>Listen</b> what she says"?		
5.	My sister said something that was not very <b>kind</b> – so was it non-kind, inkind, unkind or something else?		
6.	"Baked <b>potato</b> " is correct, so I guess "mashed <b>potatos</b> " is OK, isn't it?		
7.	How do I divide the word " <b>tomorrow</b> " into syllables?		

Most people think of a dictionary as a source of meanings and spelling, but your **Oxford American Dictionary** also has information about the grammar of words.

**Countable/Uncountable Nouns**

Most noun entries are marked with [C] or [U]. A countable noun has both a singular form and a plural form, and in the singular, it must have an article or determiner in front of it. An uncountable noun has no plural.

**Singular/Plural Nouns**

Some nouns are marked with [sing.] or [pl.] to show that they are always followed by a singular verb (e.g. **bloodstream**) or a plural verb (e.g. **police**).

**Transitive/Intransitive Verbs**

Verb entries are marked with [T] or [I] to indicate whether they are transitive and have a direct object, or intransitive, without a direct object.

Other grammar information includes usage (e.g. **deafen** is usually passive and **deserve** is not used in the continuous tenses) and placement (e.g. **awake** is not used before a noun).

**ad-vice** /əd'vaɪs/ noun [U] an opinion that you give someone about what he/she should do: *She took her doctor's advice and quit smoking.* ♦ *Let me give you some advice...* ♦ *You should get some legal advice* (= ask a lawyer to tell you what to do).

**GRAMMAR**

Advice is an uncountable noun, so we cannot say "an advice" or "some advices." We can say *a piece of advice* and *a lot of advice*.

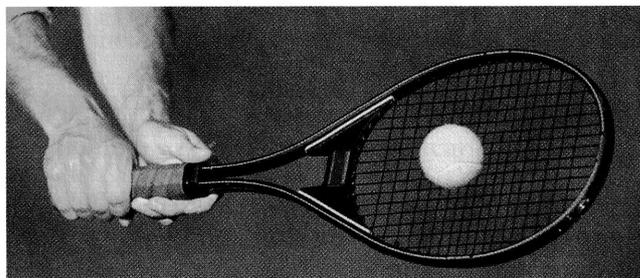
**A.** Use your dictionary to check whether the noun in **bold** is countable or uncountable. Put *a* or *an* in front of it if it is countable, and nothing if it is uncountable.

1. By providing ..... **shade**, this tree provides ..... **protection** for the delicate flowers at its base.
2. Sue is ..... ardent **supporter** of ..... new **law** that would ban smoking in all public places.
3. The police arrested the man for ..... **arson**, but he said this is ..... **crime** he didn't commit.
4. Daniel's father made ..... **fortune** in the sale of ..... Egyptian **cotton**.
5. It's virtually impossible to repair ..... plastic **cup** if it has ..... small **leak**.
6. In that area of Europe, ..... **castle** is almost always surrounded by ..... **moat**.

**B.** If the verb in **bold** is intransitive, choose the correct preposition that should follow. If the verb is transitive, circle --- to indicate that no preposition can follow it.

1. In the movie, the main character **murders** (at, in, on, ---) her uncle.
2. The team from Lincoln High **walloped** (by, in, with, ---) our school in the game.
3. When I **leaned** (by, for, on, ---) the freshly painted wall, my shirt got paint on it.
4. Everyone considered him to be rude because he didn't **greet** (at, for, to, ---) anyone in the morning.
5. The students **listened** attentively (at, for, to, ---) everything the teacher said.

**C.** What is wrong with these sentences? Study the entry for the **bold** words, identify the problem and correct the sentences.



1. Kevin loves tennis. He is **avid**.
2. Mr. Kilgore gives us three or more **homeworks** every night.
3. Your research paper received an F because it is **devoid** in original writing.
4. My mom always **says** me to clean up my room.
5. The police **hounded** to the suspect until he confessed to the crime.
6. That plan will definitely work. It's **sure-fire**.
7. Jim has been **paralegal** in a law firm near my office since 1999.
8. Do you think these jeans are **suiting** me?
9. An amoeba is a very small **alive** creature.
10. This **bacteria** causes disease in very hot climates.