

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 syllable dots.
- 2: The part of speech 'noun'.
- 3: The pronunciation /sʌm/.
- 4: The definition of the noun.
- 5: The definition of the verb.
- 6: The idiom 'in sum'.
- 7: The example sentence for the idiom.
- 8: The phrasal verb 'sum (sth) up'.
- 9: The definition of the phrasal verb.
- 10: The example sentence for the phrasal verb.

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

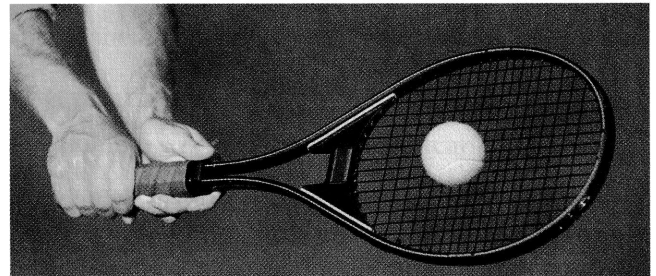
A. Use your dictionary to check whether the noun in **bold** is countable or uncountable. Put *a* or *an* in front of it if it is countable, and nothing if it is uncountable.

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.