

DICTIONARY SKILLS WORKBOOK

Volume 2

Written by
Martha Godwin

Edited by
Noel Putnam

Martha Godwin spent 31 years in the classroom before retiring. Middle school mathematics was her primary teaching assignment, but she also taught evening courses in English at Texarkana College. Working in a small district gave Godwin the opportunity to gain experience in teaching a variety of classes and coaching a variety of UIL events. She continues to return to her home campus to teach Dictionary Skills and has coached her 5th – 8th grade Dictionary Skills teams to first place finishes for the past 8 years.

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~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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www.hexco.com

P.O. Box 199 • Hunt, Texas 78024

Phone: 830.367.3825 • Fax: 830.367.3824

Email: hexco@hexco.com

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INTRODUCTION

This workbook introduces students to the myriad of valuable features available in the *Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary*. By giving students a series of exercises, the facets of the dictionary are explored.

Students will learn to navigate within a dictionary and how much powerful, technical data is included. Locate all the following by learning the format and features of the dictionary:

What are the *guide words* for the page on which the word *concordance* is found?

What is a cross-reference for *kaftan*?

What is a *usage note* for the word *lento*, and what does the word mean?

How do you find the equivalence for weights and measures?

Where and what was *Salop*?

What is the *copyright* symbol?

When did St. Joan D'Arc live?

What is the etymology for the word *rhinoceros*?

What are several synonyms for the word *assert*?

What does *exhaustive* mean?

How would *galvanize* be used in a phrase?

What is the word history of *berserk*?

What does the abbreviation *et al* mean, and what is the actual Latin for the phrase?

What is the plural of *raccoon* and of *hippopotamus*?

What is the alternate spelling of *although*?

How should you divide *experimentally* if it needs to spill onto another line?

What does *pedestrian* mean when used as an adjective?

The *Intermediate* contains pronunciations, definitions, and parts of speech for each word. It often contains other information, such as forms of verbs, plurals of nouns, usage phrases, and some etymology and synonym information.

The goal of this workbook is to encourage a student to delve enthusiastically into the features of the *Intermediate Dictionary* to comprehend all manner of the information available

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TEACHER'S GUIDE	2
SKILL 1: Alphabetizing	4
SKILL 2: Syllabification	6
SKILL 3: Parts of Speech	7
SKILL 4: Plurals & Verb Tense	8
SKILL 5: Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs	9
SKILL 6: Synonyms	10
SKILL 7: Etymology	11
SKILL 8: Word Histories	13
SKILL 9: Chemical Elements Table	15
SKILL 10: Geologic Time	16
SKILL 11: Measures and Weights	17
SKILL 12: Metric System	18
SKILL 13: Table of Numbers	19
SKILL 14: Planets	20
SKILL 15: Time Zones	21
SKILL 16: Abbreviations	24
SKILL 17: Biographical Names	25
SKILL 18: Geographical Names	26
SKILL 19: Signs and Symbols	27
SKILL 20: Look Up Page Numbers	28
SKILL 21: Using Guide Words	29
SKILL 22: Syllabification	30
SKILL 23: Biographical Names	31
SKILL 24: Match Words to Meanings	32
SKILL 25: Geographical Names	33
ANSWER KEYS	34
INDEX	45

SKILL 5: Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs

Study the "Forms of Adjectives and Adverbs" section in the "Using Your Dictionary" section in the front of your dictionary, and then answer the following questions. For each adjective or adverb, fill in the blanks with the comparative and superlative forms.

Adjective/Adverb	Comparative Form	Superlative Form
1. bad	_____	_____
2. hot	_____	_____
3. cold	_____	_____
4. light	_____	_____
5. smart	_____	_____
6. dumb	_____	_____
7. lively	_____	_____
8. mute	_____	_____
9. needy	_____	_____
10. pale	_____	_____

SKILL 8: Word Histories

Study the "Word Histories" section from the "Using Your Dictionary" section in the front of your dictionary.

Answer each question using the information provided in the Word History paragraph for each word.

1. The word "tuxedo" can be traced back to the name of a village in southeastern _____.
2. The French word *volume*, which came from the Latin *volumen*, was originally used to refer to _____ rolls but later was used for bound books as well.
3. In 1895, a scientist from what country developed the X-ray? _____
4. The linnet bird gets its name from the _____ seeds it eats, which is derived from the Latin *linum*.
5. The Latin word *cancer*, meaning " _____ ," was also given as a name to several diseases.
6. The word "alarm" comes from Italy where its first use was as a call to arms to _____.
7. The word biscuit is derived from the French *pain biscuit* or " _____."

SKILL 13: Table of Numbers

Use the "Table of Numbers" from your dictionary to answer the following questions.

1. What is the Roman numeral for 50? _____
2. In the American system, how many zeroes are in a septillion? _____
3. In the British system, 10^{24} is a/an _____.
4. What is the Arabic numeral for the Roman numeral XXV? _____
5. 10^{33} in the American System is a/an _____.
6. In which system does a sextillion have more zeroes?
Circle one: American British
7. What is the Roman numeral for two hundred? _____
8. How many zeroes are in an American trillion? _____
9. 10^{30} in the British system is a/an _____.
10. Which is the larger number? nonillion quadrillion
11. What is the Arabic numeral for the Roman numeral XXI? _____
12. What number in the British system has 60 zeroes? _____
13. What number in the American system has 18 zeroes? _____
14. What number in the British system has 9 zeroes? _____