

DICTIONARY SKILLS WORKBOOK

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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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We are a small company that listens! If you have any questions or if there is an area that you would like fully explored, let us hear from you. We hope you enjoy this product and stay in contact with us throughout your academic journey.

~ President Hexco Inc., Linda Tarrant

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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.

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SKILL 2: Syllabification

Study the rules for syllabification under the "Centered Dots and Hyphenation" section from pages 10a-11a in the front of your dictionary. Take special note of the use of hyphens in the pronunciation of the word to indicate the syllabification. Also remember that spelling counts. Misspelled answers are counted wrong.

Divide each word into syllables, using a forward slash / between syllables.

1. either _____
2. bromide _____
3. opposite _____
4. catechism _____
5. osteopath _____
6. skipper _____
7. leaguer _____
8. dormitory _____
9. oleo _____
10. steroid _____
11. defy _____
12. cider _____
13. revocable _____
14. liquor _____

SKILL 13: Table of Numbers

Use the "Table of Numbers" from pages 538-539 in your dictionary to answer the following questions.

1. In the American system, how many zeroes are in a decillion? _____
2. In the British system, how many zeroes are in a decillion? _____
3. What is the Roman numeral for 24? _____
4. What is the name of 10^{12} in the British system? _____
5. What is the Arabic numeral for the Roman numeral XXXI? _____
6. How many zeroes are in an American billion? _____
7. What is the Roman numeral for 2000? _____
8. 10^{48} is a/an _____ .
9. What is the Roman numeral for 600? _____
10. How many zeroes are in a British nonillion? _____
11. How many zeroes are in an American nonillion? _____
12. In which system does a quadrillion have more zeroes?
Circle one: American British
13. How many zeroes are in a British milliard? _____
14. In which system does an octillion have more zeroes?
Circle one: American British

SKILL 16: Abbreviations

Use the "Abbreviations" section from pages 939-944 in your dictionary to answer these questions.

For what does each of these abbreviations stand?

- 1. vs _____
- 2. sc _____
- 3. Switz _____
- 4. vert _____
- 5. lc _____
- 6. Jam _____
- 7. prof _____
- 8. It _____
- 9. cat _____
- 10. Flem _____
- 11. BTW _____
- 12. Afr _____
- 13. bor _____
- 14. FICA _____
- 15. hwy _____
- 16. Capt _____
- 17. addn _____
- 18. AK _____
- 19. hp _____
- 20. canc _____