

Word Learning Strategy: Appropriate Dictionary Usage

The **dictionary** is reference tool designed to deepen the understanding of words through definitions, nuanced uses, multiple meanings, parts of speech, morphological structures, synonyms, and pronunciation.

Often dictionaries are used in ways that aren't helpful to deepening the understanding of the term.

Five Meaningful Uses of the Dictionary

1. Scan multiple meanings and nuanced uses of the word.
2. Determine the precise meaning of an unknown word.
3. Study the various uses of the words changed by morphological structure.
4. Explore the origin of the word.
5. Identify synonyms of the word.

Bark¹ (verb) ← Part of Speech

1. a: to make the characteristic short loud cry of a dog
b: to make a noise resembling a bark
2. to speak in a curt, long, and usually angry tone: **snap**
3. to utter in a curt loud usually angry tone: *an officer barking*
4. to advocate by persistent outcry: *barking their wares*

↑ Shades of Meaning

Bark² (noun) ← denotes multiple meanings

1. the tough exterior covering of a woody root or stem
2. a candy containing chocolate and nuts that is made in a sheet and broken into pieces

Bark³ (noun)

1. a small sailing ship

