Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Level A

1. Which of these would be the headword in a dictionary entry?
   A) circles  
   B) circling 
   C) circle

2. Which of these words would be the headword in a dictionary entry?
   A) delete  
   B) deleted  
   C) deleting

3. If you saw n after the headword in a dictionary, what would it mean?
   A) The word is new  
   B) The word is a noun  
   C) It is not a real word

4. If you saw the abbreviation coll. in a dictionary entry, what would it mean?
   A) The word is used mainly in college.  
   B) The word has been collected.  
   C) It is a colloquial word

5. What is the purpose of a glossary in a book?
   A) It is a list of all the words in that book.  
   B) It is a list of the chapters in that book.  
   C) It explains the meaning of unfamiliar words found in that book.

6. Which of these words is most likely to be found in the glossary to a book on childcare?
   A) immunization  
   B) horoscope  
   C) renovation

7. Which of these words is most likely to be found in the glossary to a book on healthy living?
   A) debit  
   B) nutrition  
   C) mortgage
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

8. Which of these words is not likely to be found in the glossary to a book on healthy living?
   A) protein  
   B) photocopier  
   C) aerobic exercise

9. If you saw the word invincible in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   A) impossible to defeat  
   B) difficult to defeat  
   C) easy to defeat

10. If you saw the word saunter in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
    A) he is walking slowly in a relaxed way  
    B) he walked slowly in a relaxed way  
    C) to walk slowly in a relaxed way
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Level B

1. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define?

‘not very strict in giving punishments’

A) punitive
B) lenient
C) leisurely

2. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define?

‘to bring an industry under the control of the government’

A) nationalize
B) centralize
C) minimize

3. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define?

‘a room or building which has walls and a roof made of glass, often holding a lot of plants’

A) conservation
B) conservative
C) conservatory

4. What is an etymological dictionary?

A) a dictionary that gives the meaning of specialist words?
B) a dictionary that tells you how to pronounce words
C) a dictionary that gives the origins of words

5. What is a thesaurus?

A) a dictionary that gives the meaning of specialist words?
B) a book that lists groups of words that have similar meanings
C) a book that tells you how to pronounce words

6. If you saw the word **docile** in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?

A) tame and easy to manage
B) fierce and frightening
C) cheap and easy to afford
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

7. If you saw the word ambiguous in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   A) with two possible meanings
   B) having two hands
   C) wanting to be successful in life

8. If you saw the word vivisection in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   A) wearing something brightly coloured
   B) cutting something in half
   C) doing experiments on live animals for research purposes

9. Which of these three words would come first in the dictionary?
   A) compartment
   B) comparison
   C) company

10. In which order would these words be found in a dictionary?
    A) overdraft  overdue  overtake
    B) overdue  overdraft  overtake
    C) overtake  overdue  overdraft
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Level C

1. Which of these are you most likely to find at the back of a text book?
   A) dictionary
   B) thesaurus
   C) glossary

2. If you were not sure about the meaning of the word stationery, where would you look?
   A) dictionary
   B) thesaurus
   C) glossary

3. If you saw the word stationery in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   A) a place where a train stops
   B) not moving
   C) paper, pens and things used for writing

4. If you saw the word statutory in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   A) done by choice
   B) sculpture of a person in a public place
   C) required or controlled by law

5. If you saw sound (n) in a dictionary, which would be the right definition?
   A) to seem that way from something you have heard
   B) something you can hear
   C) strong and healthy

6. If you saw right (adj) in a dictionary, which would be the right definition?
   A) to make something correct
   B) on the other side from the left side
   C) something that you should be allowed
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

7. “I want to complain about the poor service at your restaurant. The service was slow and there was no service at all after 9.00pm”

If this was the start of your complaint letter and you wanted to avoid using the word ‘service’ three times, what reference book could you consult?

A) dictionary
B) glossary
C) thesaurus

8. Which of these words might you find in a thesaurus entry under the word supervisor?

A) foreman
B) employee
C) workman

9. Which of these words would not be found in a thesaurus entry under the word report?

A) bulletin
B) novel
C) account

10. Which of these words would not be found in a thesaurus entry under the word schedule?

A) programme
B) agenda
C) school
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Answers

Level A

1. Which of these would be the headword in a dictionary entry?
   The correct answer is: C. Circle would be the headword. The other two words have been modified by adding endings.

2. Which of these words would be the headword in a dictionary entry?
   The correct answer is: A. Delete would be the headword. The other two words have been modified by adding endings.

3. If you saw n after the headword in a dictionary, what would it mean?
   The correct answer is: B. N after a headword means the word is a noun.

4. If you saw the abbreviation coll. In a dictionary entry, what would it mean?
   The correct answer is: C. Coll means colloquial. A colloquial word is one that we use in everyday speech, but is not usually written down in Standard English.

5. What is the purpose of a glossary in a book?
   The correct answer is: C. A glossary is usually found at the end of a book and it gives the meanings of new and unfamiliar words in the book. It is like a dictionary but only covers the words in that book.

6. Which of these words is most likely to be found in the glossary to a book on childcare?
   The correct answer is: A. Immunization is an important issue for parents and carers. The other two words are less likely to be found in that type of book.
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

7. Which of these words is most likely to be found in the glossary to a book on healthy living?

   The correct answer is: B. A book on healthy living is likely to involve information about nutrition. Words like mortgage and debit are more likely to be found in the glossary to a book on finance.

8. Which of these words is not likely to be found in the glossary to a book on healthy living?

   The correct answer is: B. Types of food (such as protein) and types of exercise (such as aerobic exercise) are likely to be found in a glossary to a book on healthy living. Healthy living is unlikely to involve a photocopier.

9. If you saw the word invincible in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?

   The correct answer is: A. Invincible means impossible to defeat.

10. If you saw the word saunter in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?

    The correct answer is: C. Definitions in dictionaries use the infinitive form of the verb (to walk) rather than the past tense (he walked) or the present tense (he is walking).
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Level B

1. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define? ‘not very strict in giving punishments’

   The correct answer is: B. Lenient means ‘not very strict in giving punishments’.

2. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define? ‘to bring an industry under the control of the government’

   The correct answer is: A. Nationalize means ‘to bring an industry under the control of the government’.

3. If you saw this definition in a dictionary, which word would it best define? ‘a room or building which has walls and a roof made of glass, often holding a lot of plants’

   The correct answer is: C. A conservatory is ‘a room or building which has walls and a roof made of glass, often holding a lot of plants’.

4. What is an etymological dictionary?

   The correct answer is: C. An etymological dictionary gives the origins of words.

5. What is a thesaurus?

   The correct answer is: B. A thesaurus is a book that lists groups of words with similar meanings. It can be very useful for writing.

6. If you saw the word docile in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?

   The correct answer is: A. The word docile means ‘tame and easy to manage’. It is usually used to refer to animals.
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

7. If you saw the word ambiguous in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   
   The correct answer is: A. The word ambiguous means ‘with two possible meanings’.

8. If you saw the word vivisection in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   
   The correct answer is: C. Vivisection means ‘doing experiments on live animals for research purposes’.

9. Which of these three words would come first in the dictionary?
   
   The correct answer is: C. All three words begin with COMPA. You need to look at the 6th letter. In company, the 6th letter is N which comes before R.

10. In which order would these words be found in a dictionary?
    
    The correct answer is: A. You have to look at the 5th letter -D comes before T and then the 6th letter -R comes before U.
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

Level C

1. Which of these are you most likely to find at the back of a text book?
   The correct answer is: C. A glossary is a list of specialist words and their meanings usually found at the back of a textbook.

2. If you were not sure about the meaning of the word stationery, where would you look?
   The correct answer is: A. You would look for the meaning in a dictionary.

3. If you saw the word stationery in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   The correct answer is: C. Stationery is a word for things to do with writing.

4. If you saw the word statutory in a dictionary, which definition would fit it best?
   The correct answer is: C. Statutory means required or controlled by law (as in statutory employment rights).

5. If you saw sound (n) in a dictionary, which would be the right definition?
   The correct answer is: B. The (n) after the word sound means that this definition is of its meaning as a noun. That definition is ‘something you can hear’.

6. If you saw right (adj) in a dictionary, which would be the right definition?
   The correct answer is: B. The (adj) after the word right means that this word is an adjective. That definition is ‘ the other side from the left side’ (as in ‘It hurts on my right side’).
Dictionaries and indexes quiz

7. “I want to complain about the poor service at your restaurant. The service was slow and there was no service at all after 9.00pm”

If this was the start of your complaint letter and you wanted to avoid using the word ‘service’ three times, what reference book could you consult?

The correct answer is: C. A thesaurus lists words with similar meanings and gives you a choice of words to use.

8. Which of these words might you find in a thesaurus entry under the word, supervisor?

The correct answer is: A. Foreman is another word for a supervisor. A thesaurus lists words that have similar meanings.

9. Which of these words would not be found in a thesaurus entry under the word report?

The correct answer is: B. A bulletin or an account are similar to a report (and are both non-fiction) but a novel is fiction and so it is unlike a report. You would not find it under report in a thesaurus.

10. Which of these words would not be found in a thesaurus entry under the word schedule?

The correct answer is: C. A thesaurus lists words with similar meanings. The word school does not mean the same as schedule.