



# PURPOSES OF A DICTIONARY

## To Improve Literacy

### 1 What is a dictionary?

A dictionary is a book or electronic resource that lists the words in alphabetical order, typically for Western languages and gives their meaning and the equivalent word in another language.

### 2 What is the purpose?

Dictionaries serve as a reference tool for words by providing their meanings, correct spelling, their etymology (origin) and punctuations. It also helps with expanding vocabulary, improving communication skills and ensuring accurate written and verbal communication.

### 3 Types of dictionaries

The most common types of dictionaries are:

- **Monolingual:** Defines words in the same language. **Bilingual:** Translates words and phrases in two languages.
- **Thesaurus:** Lists synonyms and is used to find alternatives for over-used words. **Specialized dictionaries:** Used for slang terms.

### 4 Vocabulary improvement

Dictionaries are used to help with expanding vocabulary by regularly checking words and introducing new terms by providing detailed information on these words, grammatical usage, the origins and other translations.

### 5 Comprehension & Spelling

- It contributes to comprehension by providing understanding and context of words, allowing for a deeper grasp of full texts.
- Serves as a very reliable tool for checking the correct spelling of words.

### 6 Grammatical accuracy

Dictionaries contribute grammatical accuracy by providing information on word classes (verb, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections) and grammatical relations which help with improving grammar accuracy when writing.