

Theme: Books. Dictionaries.

Составить рассказ по теме «Books», используя лексику и вопросы

Vocabulary/ Expressions	
bedtime reading	(n) something to read in bed before you go to sleep
a classic	(n) of the highest quality
an e-book	(n) a digital book
couldn't put it down	(idiom) wasn't able to stop reading a book
to flick through	(v) to look quickly through a book
hardback	(n) a book with a rigid cover (see 'paperback' below)
a historical novel	(n) a story set in the past
a page turner	(n) a book that you want to keep reading
paperback	(n) a book with a flexible cover (see 'hardback' above)
to read something from cover to cover	(idiom) to read a book from the first page to the last

- **Do you like reading books? Why or why not?**
- **What (kinds of) books do you like to read?**
- **Did you read much when you were a child?**

Describe a favourite book in your childhood. You should say:

- What is it
- Who is the writer of the book
- What was the story of the book
- and explain why it is your favorite book from childhood.

Describe a book that you enjoyed reading. You should say:

- When you first read it
- What it was about
- Why you enjoyed
- And say whether this book is popular in your country.

- Do you think it's a good idea to teach children to read when they are very young?
- How do you think reading habits will change in the future?

DICTIONARIES

As I want to speak English well first of all I need a good dictionary. There are many types of dictionaries: monolingual, bilingual, specialized in any branch of industry, scientific and technical, with illustrations, dictionaries of abbreviation and others. Dictionaries usually give us information on spelling, pronunciation and meaning.

Sometimes dictionaries give us etymologies that show the origin and development of words, explanations on synonyms and on their proper usage. Usually dictionaries have separate sections in the back of the book for common abbreviations, signs and symbols, biographical, biblical and mythological names, geographical names.

Dictionaries contain the wealth of information. Different dictionaries can be used for various purposes. For example, Dictionary of Synonyms can be used when you cannot think of a word to express your exact meaning, or when you want to add variety to your speech or writing.

As soon as a learner has the confidence to read simple English sentences, he can use a monolingual dictionary. A monolingual dictionary explains the word by using other words already known, it provides simple definitions and notes to help a learner to use the vocabulary in context. There are hundreds of words with no exact equivalent, which need examples before they are fully known. A word in isolation is a dead word. It comes to life when it occurs in a sentence.

The equivalent of the word can be found by the learner in the mother tongue in a bilingual dictionary, so a bilingual dictionary has some claims to usefulness.

One of the first dictionaries was written by Dr Samuel Johnson. He finished it in 1755, and the dictionary contained around 40 000 entries.

The English language has grown more than ten times bigger since then, and most dictionaries have grown bigger, too.

Dictionaries have changed a lot in the last few years. Thanks to modern technology we have dictionaries on CD. To look up the word in computer we simply type the word and the computer finds the word immediately. It also gives a lot of extra information. It shows how to pronounce the word, tells what kind of word it is a noun, verb, adjective or pronoun, define words and give examples of them.

Taking all above mentioned into consideration I would like to buy the new edition of Oxford English Dictionary on CD. I need the dictionary with 20 000 entries, which provide general information on people and things. I go to the shop and ask how much such dictionary costs.

VOCABULARY

monolingual ['mɒnəʊ'lɪŋgw(ə)l] - одноязычный

bilingual [baɪ'lɪŋgw(ə)l] - двуязычный

abbreviation [ə,bri:vɪ'eɪ(ə)n] - аббревиатура, сокращение

etymology [ˌeti'mɒlədʒɪ] - этимология

origin ['ɔrɪdʒɪn] - происхождение

sign [saɪn] - знак; символ

to contain [kən'teɪn] - содержать (иметь) в себе, включать

wealth [welθ] - богатство, достаток

purpose ['pʊ:pəs] - назначение, цель; замысел

variety [və'raɪəti] - разнообразие

confidence ['kɒnfɪd(ə)ns] - уверенность, убежденность

to occur [ə'kɔː] - встречаться, попадаться

mother tongue [tʌŋ] - родной язык

entry ['entri] - статья (в словаре, энциклопедии, справочнике и т.п.)

to define [dɪ'faɪn] - определять, давать точное определение (слова)

to provide [prə'vaɪd] - давать, предоставлять; обеспечивать (чем - with)

QUESTIONS

1. Why do we need dictionaries?
2. What types of dictionaries do you know?
3. What information do dictionaries give us?
4. What is the usual structure of dictionaries?
5. When can a learner use a monolingual dictionary?
6. How often do you use dictionaries? What dictionaries do you usually use?