

Vocabulary Strategy

LANGUAGE REFERENCES

In addition to general dictionaries and thesauri, language references include the following types of books:

Type of Language Reference	Uses	Example
Usage dictionary	To understand the subtle differences in how similar words are used in actual language	<i>Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage</i>
History of Language	To find detailed information about a word's origin	<i>Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Etymology</i>
	To learn about a word named after a person	<i>New Dictionary of Eponyms</i>
Other specialized dictionaries	To find the meaning of common English expressions	<i>Oxford Dictionaries of Idioms</i>
	To find a rhyme for a word	<i>Oxford Dictionaries of Rhymes</i>
	To understand the meaning of a foreign word or phrase in an English text	<i>Oxford Essential Dictionary of Foreign Terms in English</i>
Book of Quotations	To find a famous quotation that contains a certain word or is associated with a certain person	<i>Bartlett's Familiar Quotations</i>

Directions: Answer each question below based on the information in the chart above.

- Where would you turn to find out how *Prince Albert coat* got its name? _____
- Where could you find a word that rhymes with *character*? _____
- Where would you turn to find the origin of the word *bungalow*? _____
- Where could you find the meaning of the foreign term *bas blue*? _____
- Where could you find a quote associated with Jonathan Swift? _____
- Where would you turn to find the meaning of the idiom *the tip of the iceberg*? _____
- Where could you find out the difference between *consumption* and *consumptive*? _____