

Vocabulary Strategy

USING A DICTIONARY

As Macaulay was celebrating the fruits of human innovation, an American lexicographer named Noah Webster compiled a dictionary that promoted the innovation of English spelling. Study this entry from a general dictionary, based on Webster's.

¹ **coun•te•nance** \ˈkoun-tĕ-nān(t)s, ˈkount-nān(t)s\ *n* [ME *contenance*, fr. MF, fr. ML *continentia*, fr. L, restraint, fr. *continent-*, *continens*, prp. of *contin•re* to hold together — more at CONTAIN] (13c) **1** *obs* : BEARING, DEMEANOR **2** *a* : calm expression **b** : mental composure **c** : LOOK, EXPRESSION **3** *archaic* **a** : ASPECT, SEMBLANCE **b** : PRETENSE **4** : FACE, VISAGE; *esp* : the face as an indication of mood, emotion, or character **5** : bearing or expression that offers approval or sanction : moral support
² **countenance** *vt* —**nanced**; —**nancing** (1568) : to extend approval or toleration to : SANCTION — **coun•te•nanc•er** *n*

Directions: Use the sample entry to answer these questions.

ENTRY WORD → points to first entry word *countenance*

DEFINITION → points to first definition

BULLET → points to first bullet in first entry

PRONUNCIATION → points to first pronunciation in first entry

PART OF SPEECH → points to *n* in the first line of definition

ETYMOLOGY → points to *ME* in the first line of definition

RELATED WORD → points to the very last word in the second entry

- 1.** Where should you avoid hyphenating *countenance*?

- 2.** Which syllable in *countenance* receives the most stress?

- 3.** Where would you find additional information about the etymology of *countenance*?

- 4.** In the first definition, what part of speech is *countenance*?

Use that form of the word in a sentence.

- 5.** In the second definition, *countenance* is a *vt*, meaning “verb transitive”.

Write a sentence using *countenance* as a verb transitive.
