

8 BEST ONLINE DICTIONARIES FOR LEARNING ENGLISH

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ABSTRACT

The article is devoted to the study of different dictionaries, which is useful to learn English language. Online word references are a superb device for people who are ravenous for information. These word references have stretched out for ramifying in different perspectives. Moreover, these word references are likewise offering the element of interpretation. They can make an interpretation of words into various dialects, for example, interpretation in Korean, Italian, Turkish, Chinese, English, German, Spanish, Japanese and so forth. The translations are just a tick away.

Keywords: Longman Contemporary Dictionary, Oxford living dictionaries, Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, Macmillan Dictionary, Collins dictionary, dictionary.com, Urban Dictionary.com, Multitran.

INTRODUCTION

In the age of computer technology, it is impossible to imagine learning a foreign language without an online dictionary or translator. Paper dictionaries are gradually fading into the background, because everyone who has a computer, tablet and phone uses word translation applications and programs that have a number of undeniable advantages over traditional paper dictionaries.

Firstly, online dictionaries provide all the necessary information in seconds, just enter the desired word and expression in the search field.

Secondly, online programs and dictionaries have many times more features and functions than their paper counterparts. Electronic dictionaries give the maximum number of word meanings, explanations, examples, for which there simply is no place in a paper dictionary.

Thirdly, online dictionaries are interactive. For example, they allow not only to see transcription, but also to hear how a word is pronounced. Some dictionaries even have the opportunity to listen to examples or read interpretations of user explanations. In addition, online dictionaries do not take up space and you can always carry them with you.

Research methodology

I want to emphasize is that you can use online dictionaries for free. The vast majority of online English dictionaries contain complete and comprehensive information in the public domain, for which you do not have to pay. If you need a specialized dictionary, or advanced features, this may require a fee. Online dictionaries function only when connected to the Internet. And if you want to install the electronic version of the dictionary on your computer, download additional dictionaries on various topics, then you will most likely have to pay for a license. What online dictionary do you use?

Almost everyone to whom I asked this question, without hesitation, calls Google Translate. It is easy to use and provides a ready translation. But Google Translate will not be included in our list of recommended online dictionaries. I do not recommend using Google Translate to learn English for either my students or you. This is not a dictionary, but a translator. He does not teach you to study and does not make you think. If your level of English is already Pre-intermediate and higher, then you need to switch to monolingual explanatory dictionaries and forget about translations into Russian.

But which dictionary to choose? How to find a suitable one?

Especially for you, I chose the best, most popular online dictionaries, most of which are monolingual, that is, they do not give translations into Russian, which you are so used to, but offer interpretations of words in English. Monolingual online dictionaries are sure to come in handy when learning English, so read the descriptions, choose the one that you like best and use it!

Discussion

Longman Contemporary Dictionary

If your Pre-intermediate level or higher, then this online dictionary is suitable for you.

- The explanations of the words are in English, but they are quite simple.
- You can listen to the British and American pronunciation.
- Information is given on how often the word is used.
- The dictionary offers many examples of the use of words.
- You can listen to sample sentences.
- Stable combinations are given, combinations with prepositions.
- The difference between the American and British translation options is explained.

Explanations are provided from the Longman Business Dictionary, so the dictionary can be used both for those who are taking the General course, and for students of the Business English course.

Oxford living dictionaries

This monolingual dictionary is also suitable for Pre-Intermediate level and above.

- The explanations are brief, the transcription is proposed and the pronunciation of the word can be heard.
- Initially, one or two examples are given, due to which information is easy to perceive.
- It is possible to get more examples and synonyms by clicking on the More Examples or Synonyms buttons.

The British version is offered by default, but in the top menu you can switch to the dictionary of American English to listen to the American version of pronunciation and find out the meaning and features of the use of the word in American English.

There is a thesaurus in which synonyms are presented, as well as synonyms from various dialects. Sustainable combinations are given, idioms with a keyword. The Grammar section has a lot of useful information: differences in the use of words, grammar tips, punctuation rules, and more.

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

This is a monolingual dictionary for high and advanced levels, it is suitable for Upper-Intermediate and Advanced levels, for preparing for the FCE, CAE, CPE exams, as compared with the first two dictionaries, the interpretations are more extensive and presented in a more complex language.

- More “advanced” explanations are given, more synonyms, antonyms, examples of the use of words.
- You can listen to the British and American pronunciation.

Recommended reading articles that discuss the intricacies of using similar-meaning words and synonyms. Separately, additional examples and information about the origin of the word are offered. Detailed explanations of the meaning of phrasal verbs with examples. A separate block gives idioms, including the word you are interested in, with explanations and examples.

Macmillan Dictionary

This dictionary is suitable for everyone, starting from Pre-Intermediate level and above.

- Interpretations are simple and there is an opportunity to see how often a word is used, as well as possible word forms.
- Presented transcription, you can listen to how the word is pronounced.

By default, the British version of the dictionary works, but you can change the settings to the American version. If you want to get information about the origin of the word, lists of synonyms, you can go to the thesaurus, which offers comprehensive explanations, nuances, differences in the use of words.

- Combinations with prepositions, examples of their use are given.
- Convenient transition to articles on idiomatic expressions.

The dictionary offers detailed explanations of the meaning of phrasal verbs with examples and the ability to get more information in the thesaurus.

Collins dictionary

I can not recommend you the Collins dictionary, the paper analogues of which are so popular that they have become reference books for many who study English.

Online dictionary combines dictionaries of different levels. The first block with the word meanings is from the Collins English Dictionary and is suitable for Pre-Intermediate and higher. Below you can find a block with more detailed and complex interpretations of the word, which is presented by COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary.

In addition to the usual functions (transcription, pronunciation of a word, information on frequency of use), information is provided on the origin of the word, on how popular the word was in a certain period of time, which can be selected on the scale. The dictionary provides an extensive list of synonyms of the word with examples of use in the sentence, as well as the antonyms of the word.

The most important feature that distinguishes this online dictionary from others is the availability of a word translation in more than 20 languages of the world. All these functions make the dictionary interface a bit “overloaded” compared to others, but you can easily get used to it.

Dictionary.com

A monolingual dictionary focused on those who study the American version of the English language. You can listen to how the word is pronounced, and the transcription is presented in two formats: in the usual International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) format and in the syllable transcription format, between which you can switch.

- Pronunciation, spelling and word meanings are given by American.
- The dictionary thesaurus offers a long list of synonyms and explains the difference between the two.

- There is information about the origin of the words.
- The forms of the word (related forms) and the antonyms of the word are given.
- The dictionary gives examples of use, both historical and modern, borrowed from blogs, media, and video.

The dictionary is integrated with the Collins English Dictionary, so it is also possible to study the meaning of the word in British English.

Urban Dictionary.com

If you watch videos, read blogs in English, then you can not do without a dictionary of modern slang, and Urban Dictionary is a great example of such a dictionary. However, this is a monolingual dictionary, which means that all interpretations and explanations are in English.

This is perhaps the most modern dictionary, because it is daily updated and updated by ordinary users. Very convenient search, you can search for single words or phrases.

In this dictionary you will find the interpretation and explanation of the meanings and nuances of the meanings of slang, slang, profanity and even obscene phrases, words and expressions. Users have the opportunity to vote for an explanation, so you can determine the accuracy of the information. The dictionary contains not only profanity, but also stable expressions, idioms and phrases that are used in colloquial speech, but often do not fall into ordinary dictionaries.

Multitran

If, nevertheless, you cannot do without Russian translations, or if you want to test yourself, then use Multitran. This is a bilingual online dictionary for translators.

- Multitran gives a lot of word meanings in various topics, explaining the shades of meanings and nuances.
- In the English-Russian version of the dictionary there is a transcription, but you can't listen to the word here.
- In the English-Russian version there is an opportunity to get examples of using phrases with the word you need in various topics.
- And in the Russian-English version there are many different translation options on various topics.
- Suggestions with examples of use are present, but all for all words and not all meanings.

The multitran is also replenished by users, they add different meanings of words in different topics, as well as possible options for translating the word into Russian. As you can see, there is a choice, and it is quite large. If you are still not a very active user of online dictionaries, then it is worth a try, you will see how convenient, fast and useful it is.

CONCLUSION

Dictionaries are valuable since in the event that they are modern they can enable us to comprehend what somebody may mean when they utilize a specific word, or they assist researchers with seeing how a word used to be utilized if the lexicon is in regards to word use of a prior spot, language or time. Choose the dictionary that suits your level, with a pleasant interface for your use. Pay attention to the functions that you need and the version of the language you are learning: British or American. The use of monolingual online dictionaries will necessarily have a positive impact on your study, as they will teach you to think not in translations, but in interpretations, and besides, you will receive much more information than the old-fashioned paper dictionary is ready to give you.

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