Navigating the World of Research
By Margaret Grimm

Week 1: Resource – Dictionary and Thesaurus

Day 1: Dictionary – in print

What is a dictionary? A dictionary word entry may provide”

1. Spellings and variations in spellings
2. Parts of speech
3. Pronunciations
4. Meanings
5. History
6. Usage
7. Options for if capitalized or hyphenated or word divisions
8. Cross-references
9. Multiple spellings used
10. Explanations of abbreviations and symbols
11. Homographs (words with same spelling but different meanings or parts of speech)

What do you need to know to use a dictionary?

1. Alphabetical order: At the top of each page in the dictionary are two guide words. These guide words indicate what words alphabetically are contained on that page.
2. Root words

Day 1: Practice

1. Which of the following words would you find on a page with goose and gosh as guide words?
   geese  giggle  gorp  goose egg  go over  Gorgonzola  gossip  GOP
2. What is the root word of eclipsing?
3. How many parts of speech does the word American have?
4. What does the abbreviation ca stand for?

5. What does the chemical symbol Fe stand for?

6. What is another spelling for the word favour? Find another spelling for pollywog?

7. Is a hyphen used in the compound word year round?

8. What is the history behind the word yabber?

9. How is the term Sunday punch used?

10. Use the word sulk as a noun appropriately in a sentence.

**Day 2: Dictionary - online**

http://www.worldbookonline.com/student/dictionary?lu=a&cl=3

When using the online dictionary, knowing alphabetical order is not needed, but knowing root words is helpful.

**Day 2: Practice**

1. If you were acting indecorously, what would you be doing?

2. Use palaver or its variations in a sentence.

3. What is another word for a palooka?

4. What punctuation marks are you unfamiliar with?

5. When should you use punch-out instead of punch out?

6. Use the word forward in a sentence for each definition listed.

7. What word is charity cross-referenced to?

8. What year was the word crop duster used earliest?

9. Should the word gargantuan be capitalized?

10. When is gesundheit used?

11. What is the root word in the phrase get a move on? What is its definition?
Day 3: Thesaurus – in print

What is a thesaurus? Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary, 11th Edition (2004), defines thesaurus as “TREASURY or STOREHOUSE and a book of words or of information about a particular field or set of concepts: especially, a book of words and their synonyms.” Some dictionaries provide synonyms with the entries, but a thesaurus is a broad treasury of related words.

For example, when writing and you need a word that means more than get or you have used get quite often, use a thesaurus to discover words that have similar meanings (synonyms) or opposite meanings (antonyms), as needed.

What do you need to know to use a thesaurus?

A thesaurus is similar to a dictionary in that the words are in alphabetical order in an index. After looking up a word in the index, you then have a list of similar words to decide what best fits. Section numbers refer to headings, not pages. Some words and phrases have many options; others a few. Again, knowing the root word and parts of speech are necessary.

In your thesaurus (print copy), turn to the index where all the words are listed alphabetically. Before the index should be a page describing the variations in type, headings, and UPPER CASE use. Read this to understand best usage of the index.

Day 3: Practice

1. What options does the index in the thesaurus give for the word hard?

2. To find a synonym for hard as used below, which index entry would you choose?

   The task was hard to complete without the instructions.

   Hard times call for determination.

   Her hard heart discouraged the family.

   The rain could not penetrate the hard ground.

3. Find three synonyms for lumberman. What key topic is lumberman under? What context should you use each synonym you listed?

Day 4: Thesaurus – online

Day 4: Practice

In the paragraph below, look up the italicized words and find the appropriate synonym to take its place. Choose the word that best fits and best describes. Choose a word that fits who would be reading the text.