



# LANGUAGE ARTS

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 4

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# Language Arts 804

## Words and How To Use Them

### 1. UNDERSTANDING WORDS 5

---

USING THE DICTIONARY | 6

USING A THESAURUS | 8

FOLLOWING WRITTEN DIRECTIONS | 16

SPELLING | 18

SELF TEST 1 | 21

### 2. PRONOUNCING WORDS 23

---

DIACRITICAL MARKS | 23

ACCENT MARKS | 26

SPELLING | 28

SELF TEST 2 | 30

### 3. USING WORDS CORRECTLY 33

---

STANDARD AND NONSTANDARD USAGE | 33

CONFUSING WORDS | 36

SPELLING | 38

SELF TEST 3 | 40



**LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet.** Please remove before starting the unit.

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# Words and How To Use Them

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## Introduction

The ability to speak and to write is a gift from our Creator, God. The world's best speakers and writers have shown their appreciation of this gift by being diligent students of language. They have found that the study of words is both interesting and enjoyable, and that learning the exact meaning of each word enables them to express precisely the thoughts they wish to convey.

You need only to look into God's Word to understand the value of words. God spoke, and the world was formed. The whole universe was brought into being by His Word. He speaks today through His written Word, the Bible, and lives are changed.

Words are extremely important. By men's words the destinies of nations have been changed. Words bring joy or sadness, information or misinformation, truth or error. Words can point people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, or they can cause them to stumble on the road to destruction.

To help you to *discriminate* between words of similar meaning and to help you to express exactly what you want to say, you will be introduced to the use of the **thesaurus**. You also will learn more about the dictionary and how to use it. You will understand why it is better to avoid slang and vulgar expressions. Above all, you will have the joy of increasing your ability to master the English language.

## Objectives

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Identify synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in your reading.
2. Use synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in your writing.
3. Define synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, and locate them in the dictionary.
4. Follow written directions.
5. Read and pronounce unfamiliar words after looking them up in the dictionary.
6. Distinguish between long and short vowels by means of diacritical marks.
7. Avoid the use of words and expressions that are not considered standard English.
8. Eliminate slang expressions and nonstandard English from your writing and speaking.
9. Define and use some new words.
10. Spell correctly common words related to your needs.
11. Recognize and spell correctly some words that are often misspelled.

# 1. UNDERSTANDING WORDS

God created words so that you might be able to communicate easily with Him and with those around you. You often use words that mean the same thing, for example, when you describe the Lord Jesus as holy and pure. In this section of the LIFE PAC, you will learn more about words that mean the same or nearly the same thing, but that are spelled and pronounced differently. Such pairs of words are called **synonyms**.

God is holy. From the beginning He has hated evil and loved good. He separated evil from good as carefully as He separated the light from the darkness. Light and darkness, good and evil, day and night are all opposites. In

this section you will study words which are opposites. Words with opposite meanings are **antonyms**.

God created the ant. God also created your aunt. The words, *ant* and *aunt*, sound the same. The words *ant* and *aunt*, however, are spelled differently. In this section you will study these “sound-alike” words, or **homonyms**.

As you learn about these special kinds of words, you will be learning more about using a dictionary and a thesaurus. You also will learn more about following directions.

## SECTION OBJECTIVES

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Identify synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in your reading.
2. Use synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms in your writing.
3. Define synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms, and locate them in the dictionary.
4. Follow written directions.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.**

**abbreviation** (u bre' ve a' shun). Shortened form of a word or phrase.

**antonym** (an' tu nim). A word that means the opposite of another word. Example: love and hate.

**diacritical mark** (di' u krit' u kul märk). A mark placed over a letter to show its pronunciation.

**homonym** (hom' u nim). A word that has the same pronunciation as another but a different meaning. Example: I and eye.

**personnel** (per' su nel'). Persons employed in any work.

**pronunciation** (pru nun' se a' shun). A way of pronouncing words.

**questionnaire** (kwes' chu nār'). A written or printed list of questions, used to gather information.

**synonym** (sin' u nim). A word that means the same or nearly the same as another word. Example: faith and trust.

**thesaurus** (thi sor' us). A book that lists synonyms.

**Note:** All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

## USING THE DICTIONARY

To use a dictionary skillfully, a student needs to know something about the history of dictionaries. The student also needs to study how dictionaries are arranged, what they contain, and how they are used. Reading the preface and any material at the beginning of your dictionary is important because it tells how to use it.

The first important dictionary in the United States was written by Noah Webster, a Christian educator. In 1806 he published a small dictionary. He spent the next twenty-two years writing his great dictionary, called *An American Dictionary of English Language*. Since that time many more dictionaries have been published and revised as the language changes.

Words in a dictionary are arranged in alphabetical order. Dictionaries show how words are spelled and how words are divided into syllables.

They also show which words are begun with a capital letter. Definitions of words are given. Synonyms, antonyms, and homonyms are sometimes listed. Many dictionaries give the language or languages from which a word comes and the meaning of the word in the original language. Some dictionaries have illustrations that help readers to understand certain words.

The **pronunciation** of words is shown by the use of accent marks that indicate which syllables are to be stressed and by **diacritical marks** that indicate the pronunciation of vowels.

A good way to establish the “dictionary habit” is to use the dictionary whenever you encounter a word that is not familiar to you. A notebook is useful for writing down the word, its definition, and perhaps its use in a sentence. In this way you can make your own dictionary.



### Answer the following questions.

- 1.1 What is the title of the dictionary you are using? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.2 What is the name of the company that published it? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.3 Does the dictionary contain a pronunciation key? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.4 If so, on what page(s)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.5 Does the dictionary mention synonyms and how to use them? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.6 If so, on what page? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

1.7 How are words arranged in a dictionary? \_\_\_\_\_

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1.8 Write a paragraph explaining how a student can acquire the “dictionary habit.” \_\_\_\_\_

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## TEACHER CHECK

initials

date

Sample entry from **THE WORLD BOOK DICTIONARY**, Clarence L. Barnhart, Editor-in-Chief. A Thorndike-Barnhart Dictionary, Field Enterprises Education Corporation, Chicago c., 1969.

Notice the **abbreviation** *Syn.* in the given dictionary entry. A **synonym** is a word that means the same, or nearly the same, as another word.

**ad-just** (ə just'), v.t. **1.** to fit or adapt (one thing to another): *to adjust a seal to the height of a child.* **2.** to put in proper order, position, or relation; arrange: *to adjust a radio dial, adjust one's clothes, adjust the aim of a gun to allow for distance and wind.* **3.** to arrange satisfactorily; set right; settle: *to adjust a difference of opinion.* **4.** to establish the amount of money to be paid in settlement of (an insurance claim, a bill, etc.). — v.i. **1.** to accommodate oneself; get used: *Freshmen soon adjust to school life.* **2.** to have its angle, focus, height, etc., changed so as to fit different users: *These field glasses adjust with a screw.* [< earlier French *adjuster* < Old French *ajuster* < a- for + *juste* straight, right, learned borrowing from Latin *justus*] —**Syn.**, v.t. **1. Adjust, adapt, accommodate** have in common the idea of fitting one thing or person to another. **Adjust** emphasizes the idea of matching one thing to another: *I have to adjust my expenditures to my income.* **Adapt** emphasizes the idea of making minor changes in a thing (or person) to make it fit, suit, or fit into something: *I adapted the pattern to the material.* **Accommodate** emphasizes that the things to be fitted together are so different that one must be subordinated to the other: *I have to accommodate my desires to my income.* **2.** regulate, fix. **3.** reconcile.



Look up the word **adjust** in your dictionary and write two synonyms for it in the blanks.

1.9 \_\_\_\_\_

1.10 \_\_\_\_\_

*Adapt* and *accommodate* are synonyms for *adjust*. However, the three words express slightly different *shades* of meaning.



Look up **adapt** and **accommodate** in your dictionary, then write one sentence for each word to show that you understand the shades of meaning.

1.11 **adapt** \_\_\_\_\_

1.12 **accommodate** \_\_\_\_\_



**Rewrite the following sentences, substituting appropriate synonyms for the italicized words.** You may use a dictionary.

- 1.13** My *boss* gave me the *job* of *fixing* the payroll today. My a. \_\_\_\_\_ gave me the b. \_\_\_\_\_ of c. \_\_\_\_\_ the payroll today.
- 1.14** It seems *dumb* to *fix* that *ancient car*; you'll only have *trouble* with it. It seems a. \_\_\_\_\_ to b. \_\_\_\_\_ that c. \_\_\_\_\_ d. \_\_\_\_\_; you'll only have e. \_\_\_\_\_ with it.

**Complete this activity.**

- 1.15** Explain the difference between a definition and a synonym. Use your dictionary if you need to.
- a. definition \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- b. synonym \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**USING A THESAURUS**

Finding the right synonym is so important that entire books have been compiled to help writers and speakers find the best words to express their ideas. Such a book is called a thesaurus. A dictionary may list synonyms but a thesaurus usually classifies synonyms according to the ideas they represent, providing an alphabetical index of those ideas. The index refers the reader to a long list of words

expressing various shades of meaning for each idea. A thesaurus may also be organized in dictionary form, listing the entries alphabetically. Here are two entries from a well known thesaurus, *Roget's International Thesaurus*.

Look at the words in the box labeled Figure 1. Notice that seven words are listed under the word *adapt*.

**adapt**  
 accommodate 26.12  
 conform 82.3  
 modify 139.6  
 orient 289.12  
 music 461.47  
 accustom 640.10  
 fit 718.8

| Figure 1

**26.12 fit, suit, accommodate, reconcile, adapt; tailor; dovetail, fadge, square.**

| Figure 2



**Write the seven words in the blanks below.** Also write the numbers you find after each word. (Watch the decimal points!)

- |             |       |       |
|-------------|-------|-------|
| <b>1.16</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.17</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.18</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.19</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.20</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.21</b> | _____ | _____ |
| <b>1.22</b> | _____ | _____ |

Each of the seven synonyms for *adapt* has a slightly different shade of meaning. The numbers refer the reader to a section of the thesaurus. The first number is 26.12. Section 26 is the twenty-sixth numbered section. Suppose that section 26 is on page 11, which lists the

numbers from 26.2 to 27.4. Under 26.12 are eight other synonyms for *accommodate*. The reader can choose the one with the shade of meaning that best serves his propose. These eight synonyms are classified under the general concept, or idea, of *agreement*.



**Using a thesaurus, look up the following nouns and write three synonyms for each.**

- 1.23** worship \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.24** Christian \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 1.25** Bible \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The habits of looking up synonyms in a thesaurus and using the dictionary when you see a new word will help you to write more interesting compositions and will add a sparkle to your conversation. Suppose you were to receive a letter from a friend that said some-thing like this:

“The weather here is nice. I had a nice time riding my nice horse...Spring is such a nice time of year, isn’t it?”

The letter does not make very interesting reading. However, if the writer had used some synonyms for the word *nice*, the result would have been quite different:

“The weather here is delightful. I had an enjoyable time riding my spirited horse...Spring is such a pleasant time of year, isn’t it?”



**Write a paragraph.**

**1.26** Explain why you think the second paragraph is better than the first.

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**TEACHER CHECK**

\_\_\_\_\_ initials

\_\_\_\_\_ date



### Read the paragraph.

Over a hundred years ago the camel was brought into the United States as a pack animal. Although camels are not very *docile*, this quality did not *deter* the owners of the animals from bringing them to the deserts of the American Southwest, which are similar to the arid parts of the African desert. Seventy-five camels were brought to this region during the years 1856 and 1857. The animals found the climate to be *congenial* and they began to multiply. However, many of the people in the *vicinity* did not like them, and they were neglected. Some escaped; others were sold to circuses. The last camel was seen in Arizona in 1913.

**Write in each blank a word from the list below.** The word you choose should be a synonym of the italicized word in the original paragraph.

agreeable  
hinder

beautiful  
area

obedient  
enrich

dry  
unyielding

- 1.27** Although camels are not very a. \_\_\_\_\_, this quality did not b. \_\_\_\_\_ the owners of the animals from bringing them to the deserts of the American Southwest, which are similar to the c. \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the African desert. Seventy-five camels were brought to this region during the years 1856 and 1857. The animals found the climate to be d. \_\_\_\_\_ and they began to multiply. However many of the people in the e. \_\_\_\_\_ did not like them. Some escaped; others were sold to circuses.

**Match the synonyms below by writing the correct letter in each blank.**

- |             |                   |                  |
|-------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>1.28</b> | _____ odd         | a. occur         |
| <b>1.29</b> | _____ end         | b. smart         |
| <b>1.30</b> | _____ large       | c. big           |
| <b>1.31</b> | _____ stout       | d. harmless      |
| <b>1.32</b> | _____ world       | e. strange       |
| <b>1.33</b> | _____ happen      | f. earth         |
| <b>1.34</b> | _____ similar     | g. finish        |
| <b>1.35</b> | _____ merciful    | h. fat           |
| <b>1.36</b> | _____ intelligent | i. alike         |
| <b>1.37</b> | _____ innocent    | j. compassionate |

In some dictionaries you will find the abbreviation *ant*, which stands for the word **antonym**. A list of antonyms usually follows a list of

synonyms in the dictionary. An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. For instance, the opposite of *clever* is *stupid*.



**Circle the word in each line that is opposite in meaning from the first word in that row.**

- |             |           |          |              |            |               |
|-------------|-----------|----------|--------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>1.38</b> | life      | food     | man          | death      | breath        |
| <b>1.39</b> | infinite  | first    | God          | finite     | everlasting   |
| <b>1.40</b> | wrong     | right    | darkness     | sin        | pain          |
| <b>1.41</b> | obedience | love     | rebellion    | power      | truth         |
| <b>1.42</b> | freedom   | joy      | peace        | home       | bondage       |
| <b>1.43</b> | powerful  | strong   | funny        | hopeful    | weak          |
| <b>1.44</b> | love      | mercy    | joy          | hate       | beauty        |
| <b>1.45</b> | skillful  | helpful  | beneficial   | awkward    | dexterious    |
| <b>1.46</b> | hostile   | friendly | entertaining | unfriendly | rugged        |
| <b>1.47</b> | undaunted | safe     | lonely       | talkative  | afraid        |
| <b>1.48</b> | loathe    | destroy  | love         | hate       | accept        |
| <b>1.49</b> | dormant   | active   | talkative    | educated   | distinguished |

Like synonyms, antonyms have different shades of meaning. Few words mean exactly the opposite of another. Although *black* and *white* represent opposites in color, many shades are in between.

Some antonyms are considered opposites; but they are, in fact, not opposed to each other. *Husband* and *wife*, *brother* and *sister*, and

*question* and *answer* are word pairs of this type. The words *right* and *wrong*, on the other hand, are true opposites. The Book of Proverbs contains many sets of antonyms, such as *wise* and *foolish* or *wickedness* and *righteousness*. Careful selection of antonyms for use in writing and speaking is as important as careful selection of proper synonyms.



**Circle the two antonyms in each of the following proverbs.**

- 1.50** "He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit."  
(Proverbs 12:17)
- 1.51** "There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief."  
(Proverbs 12:21)
- 1.52** "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."  
(Proverbs 12:24)

# SELF TEST 1

For each pair of italicized words, write *A* for antonym, *H* for homonym, or *S* for synonym (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.01 \_\_\_\_\_ The judge *announced* the verdict and *declared* the case dismissed.
- 1.02 \_\_\_\_\_ The water was neither *hot* nor *cold*.
- 1.03 \_\_\_\_\_ He is *surely* right in his answer and his brother is *certainly* wrong.
- 1.04 \_\_\_\_\_ *Scores* of boys flocked to the ball game and *numerous* men accompanied them.
- 1.05 \_\_\_\_\_ *Would* you please bring some *wood* for the fireplace?
- 1.06 \_\_\_\_\_ The arithmetic problems were *difficult* but the language exercises were *easy*.
- 1.07 \_\_\_\_\_ Is that the *right* way to *write* the address?
- 1.08 \_\_\_\_\_ When we are *generous* with our praise we shall find that others will not be *stingy* with us.
- 1.09 \_\_\_\_\_ *Our* class will be dismissed in an *hour*.
- 1.010 \_\_\_\_\_ *Small* beginnings in business often result in *large* profits later on.

Write the correct answer in the blank (each answer, 4 points).

- 1.011 Words that have the same or nearly the same meaning are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.012 Words that sound alike but have different meanings and spellings are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.013 The abbreviation for synonym is \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.014 Words that are opposite in meaning are called \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.015 The best place to find a synonym for a word is the \_\_\_\_\_ or a thesaurus.
- 1.016 One source a writer can use to find synonyms for words is *Roget's International* \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.017 The words *hymn* and *him* are \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.018 Following \_\_\_\_\_ carefully prevents errors.
- 1.019 The words *veil* and *vale* are \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 1.020 *Good* is a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for *bad*.

Identify the following pairs of words by writing in the blanks the correct abbreviations: Synonyms (Syn.); Antonyms (Ant.); or Homonyms (Hom.) (each answer, 2 points).

1.021 \_\_\_\_\_ tardy - late

1.024 \_\_\_\_\_ respect - admire

1.022 \_\_\_\_\_ peel - peal

1.025 \_\_\_\_\_ stingy - generous

1.023 \_\_\_\_\_ holy - wholly

Write a homonym for each of the following words (each answer, 2 points).

1.026 \_\_\_\_\_ sealing

1.031 \_\_\_\_\_ prey

1.027 \_\_\_\_\_ rain

1.032 \_\_\_\_\_ alter

1.028 \_\_\_\_\_ medal

1.033 \_\_\_\_\_ sum

1.029 \_\_\_\_\_ knight

1.034 \_\_\_\_\_ coarse

1.030 \_\_\_\_\_ die

1.035 \_\_\_\_\_ bough

Underline the correct word in each set of parentheses (each answer, 2 points).

1.036 My cousin asked me to lend her some money for the bus (fair, fare).

1.037 The list on the bulletin (bored, board) shows which committee will (meet, meat) today.

1.038 The (some, sum) of seventy-five and twenty-six is one hundred (one, won).

1.039 When the pilot (herd, heard) the weather report, he changed the (coarse, course) of the plane.

1.040 "For as I passed (bye, buy, by), and beheld your devotions, I found an (altar, alter) with this inscription, (TOO, TWO, TO) THE UNKNOWN GOD..." (Acts 17:23)

88 110	<b>SCORE</b> _____	<b>TEACHER</b> _____	initials	date
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