Using the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English CD-ROM NEW UPDATED EDITION

The following is an overview of the main features of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English CD-ROM.

This CD-ROM is packaged with the book version of the Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English and is an extremely useful tool for learning English both during and after a language course.


The purpose of this document is to make you aware of the main features of the program in order to use it as effectively as possible.

Start the program by double-clicking the desktop icon.

Parts of the dictionary window explained

As you type into the Search box the dictionary starts to look for the word. If the word you want appears in the list, click on it to go directly to the dictionary entry for that word.

If you make a spelling mistake the dictionary will suggest words. Click on the correct one to go to the entry.
Sometimes the word you have searched for appears in several headwords. Click on the orange button to expand the entry you want.

To return to this list, click on the orange button again.

At the top of the definition there are a number of features that give extra information about the word.

These features are explained below.

**Pronunciation**

Click on the speaker symbol at the top of the entry to open the pronunciation box.

Click on the blue speaker symbols to hear the model spoken with British or American pronunciation.

Click on the red button once to start recording and again to stop the recording. (You need a microphone to do this)

Click on the last blue speaker symbol to hear your recording. Compare it with the model pronunciation and try again.

Click on the blue arrow in the bottom right corner to practise all the examples sentences from the entry. Again you can listen to the model, record yourself and compare. Some of the examples sentences are spoken with British accents and some with American.
Word frequency

The 3000 most frequent written and spoken words are indicated in this way:

**W1** Most frequent 1000 written words  
**W2** Between 1001 and 2000 most frequent written words  
**W3** Between 2001 and 3000 most frequent written words  

**S1** Most frequent 1000 spoken words  
**S2** Between 1001 and 2000 most frequent spoken words  
**S3** Between 2001 and 3000 most frequent spoken words

This classification is based on a computer analysis of language usage databases called corpora. The same system is used in the book version of the dictionary.

This classification can help you decide how important it is to learn a particular word.

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**Example sentences**

Many entries in the dictionary have a number of example sentences which show the word in context. Click on the blue speaker symbol to hear each sentence. Some of the sentences are spoken with British accents and pronunciation and some with American. Hold your mouse over the symbol before clicking to see which accent is used.

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**Cross-referencing**

Double-click any word in the main entry window and the dictionary will look up that word and display its entry in a separate window.

Click on Go to entry to display the word in the main window or click on the X to close the window.
Phrase bank

This displays a list of how the word is used in phrases from other entries in the dictionary.

Click on each phrase to go to the entry which uses the phrase.

This allows you to see words that go together.

Examples bank

This gives a list of extra examples showing how the word is used.

Double-click any word to look it up.

This helps you to see how the word is used.

Activator

This suggests other vocabulary related to the word.

Click on the red button to switch to the main Activator window.

The word produce is part of the entry for the word make.

The Activator is a vocabulary expansion tool. It can help you to increase the number of words that you use by showing you words with similar or related meaning and uses.
**Exercises**

Click on the green *Exercises* button to access a range of activities to test your vocabulary, grammar, listening etc.

**Grammar**

Click on the yellow *Grammar* button to see information on the main areas of English grammar.

**web/email POP-UP**

Click on the purple *web/email POP-UP* button. The dictionary window is replaced by a smaller window. This can be used together with Internet Explorer and programs from Microsoft Office such as Outlook, Word and PowerPoint.

**POP-UP with Internet Explorer.**

The second paragraph of this BBC news report uses the word *kitsch*. Hold the mouse over this word and POP-UP will automatically look it up.

**POP-UP with Microsoft Outlook email program.**

Double-click a word in an email then press the *Control* (Ctrl) key on your keyboard to look it up.