

Using a dictionary.

You will have to get used to using a dictionary during your German lessons and while you do your homework. You will need one of the larger dictionaries, similar to what we use in class.

These types of dictionary are much bigger than you have been used to using. There are still 2 sections – German to English and English to German. In other parts of the dictionary you may find some useful essay phrases, verb tables and other useful information.

Using a dictionary is not just about looking up the word that you want and writing the first translation that you see. You must use all the information that you are given before you can make a correct choice.

Looking up nouns in the dictionary.

The gender of the noun is found after it. It will either say *der*, *die* or *das* or it will have an 'm', 'f' or 'n'. You will then find the genitive ending if there is one. Then follows the plural ending.

Looking up verbs in the dictionary.

You will see 'v' after the verb. Verbs will always have a small letter. If the verb is separable, the prefix will be underlined.

After the verb, it will tell you if it is regular or not.

Looking up adjectives.

After the word you will find 'adj' after it. You will sometimes find adjectives in among the information for nouns and verbs, so check there too.

Tasks.

- 1) Look up the following German words in the dictionary and say whether they are nouns, verbs or adjectives. You also need to write their meanings.

darstellen
leben
Hase
schweißig
Schatz
grüßen
bieten
nährisch
arm
Rentner

2) Now find the underlined words in each of these sentences, in German, ensuring that you have placed each word into the right context (that is, have you checked the correct meaning of the word).

- a) I need an advantage on my wages, please.
- b) We saw an exciting football match.
- c) I was stuck in a huge traffic jam.
- d) I am frozen.
- e) They play golf every Friday at Rossendale Golf Course.
- f) She hates jam on her toast.
- g) This summer I did a French course.
- h) I need a match to light my candles.
- i) That's a brilliant sale – they've frozen their prices!
- j) I need to advance my knowledge of the German language.