

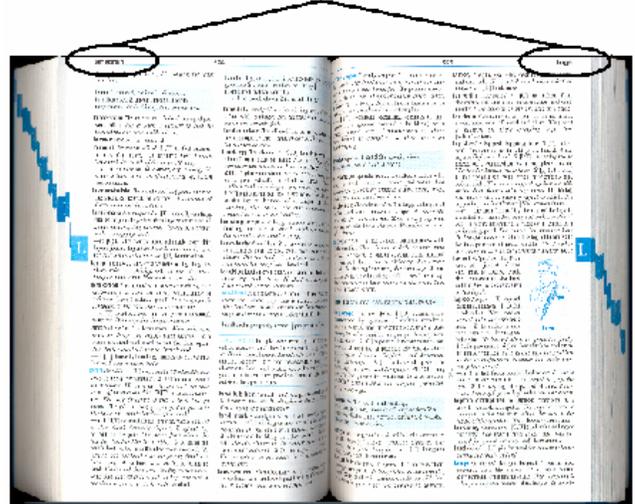
# Dictionary Use - Tutor Hints

Words in a dictionary appear in alphabetical order.

## Guide Words

**Guide Words:** These are the words in bold at the top of each page that help to locate an entry word.

- The first guide word is the first word on the page.
- The second guide word is the last word on the page.
- The words listed in between the first and last are in alphabetical order beginning with the first guide word and ending with the last guide word on that page.



**Entry Word:** This is what we call the word we are in search of. Here is what we can learn from a dictionary entry:

- **the spelling of the word**
- **the number of syllables** - a syllable is a unit of sound. The word "hello" has two (2) syllables or units of sound: **hel - lo**
- **the part of speech** - every word is a part of speech.

n - noun	v - verb	adj. - adjective	adv. - adverb
prep. - preposition	pro. - pronoun	conj. - conjunction	interj. - interjection

- **irregular spellings** - some words have unusual spellings when they are used in certain ways. Example: **Know - knew**
- **definitions** - This is the meaning of the word; there may be more than one. Definitions are arranged by part of speech.
- **synonyms** - These are words that have the same or a similar meaning as the entry word.
- **word history** (also called etymology)- these are shown in brackets. This tells us from which language the word was derived.
- **the pronunciation and phonetic spelling** - This is where you learn how to pronounce the word by sounding it out. Below is a pronunciation key.

### Pronunciation Key

ă - hat	ā - pay	â - care	ä - card	ě - ten	ē - she	ï - sit
ī - hi	î - here	ǒ - pot	ō - go	ô - paw	oi - oil	ou - out
oo - look	oo - cool	yoo - use	Û - cut	û - fur	th - thin	th - this
hw - which	zh - vision	ə - ago, item, easily, gallon, circus				

Here is a sample dictionary entry. Look at the pronunciation of *anxious* in the parentheses. Notice that the A in *anxious* sounds like the A in *hat* in the key above:

**Anxious** (ängk' shəs) *adj.* 1. Uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter; worried. 2. Attended with, causing or showing anxiety; *spent an anxious night waiting for the test results.* [From Latin *ānxius*, from *angere*, to torment. - **anx'ious • ly** *adv.* - **anx'ious • ness** *n.*