

NATIONAL DICTIONARY DAY

http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/10/national_dictionary_day.html

CONTENTS:

The Reading / Tapescript	2
Phrase Match	3
Listening Gap Fill	4
Listening / Reading Gap Fill	5
Choose the Correct Word	6
Multiple Choice	7
Spelling	8
Put the Text Back Together	9
Scrambled Sentences	10
Discussion	11
Student Survey	12
Writing	13
Homework	14

ALL ANSWERS ARE IN THE TEXT ON PAGE 2.

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It falls on this day because that is the birthday of America's most famous dictionary maker, Noah Webster, who was born in 1758. It is a day for us all to get out our dictionaries and start using them more often. We all need dictionaries. Many people have paper dictionaries and others use online ones on their computers or mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many languages. We also have dictionaries for specific areas. There are pronunciation dictionaries, medical dictionaries and even a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for this day take place in schools. It is a good day for teachers to improve the dictionary-using skills of their students.

My dictionary says a dictionary is "a book that lists the words of a language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning, or that gives the meaning in a different language". It also says a dictionary is "a reference book on any subject, the items of which are arranged in alphabetical order". An example of this is a dictionary of quotations. We start using dictionaries when we are very young. There are special versions for children and there are even picture dictionaries. Some people might say you have swallowed a dictionary. This means you use lots of long and difficult words when you speak. Another interesting expression is to say someone is a walking dictionary. This means a person knows the definition of every word.

PHRASE MATCH

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. America's most famous | a. their dictionaries |
| 2. get out | b. more often |
| 3. start using them | c. place in schools |
| 4. others use online | d. dictionary maker |
| 5. celebrations for this day take | e. skills |
| 6. dictionary-using | f. ones |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. in alphabetical | a. quotations |
| 2. a reference | b. a dictionary |
| 3. a dictionary of | c. book |
| 4. special versions for | d. order |
| 5. you have swallowed | e. of every word |
| 6. a person knows the definition | f. children |

LISTENING GAP FILL

October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It _____ because that is the birthday of America's most famous dictionary maker, Noah Webster, who was born in 1758. It is _____ get out our dictionaries and start using them more often. We all need dictionaries. Many people have paper dictionaries and others use _____ computers or mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many languages. We also have dictionaries _____. There are pronunciation dictionaries, medical dictionaries and even a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for _____ in schools. It is a good day for teachers to improve the _____ skills of their students.

My dictionary says a dictionary is "a book that _____ language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning, or that gives _____ different language". It also says a dictionary is "a reference book on any subject, _____ are arranged in alphabetical order". An example of this is a dictionary of quotations. We start using dictionaries when we are very young. There are _____ children and there are even picture dictionaries. Some people _____ swallowed a dictionary. This means you use lots of long and difficult words when you speak. Another interesting expression is to say someone is a walking dictionary. This means a person _____ of every word.

WHILE READING / LISTENING GAP FILL

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It _____ on this day because that is the birthday of America's most famous dictionary _____, Noah Webster, who was born in 1758. It is a day for us all to get out our dictionaries and start using them more _____. We all need dictionaries. Many people have paper dictionaries and others use _____ ones on their computers or mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many languages. We also have dictionaries for _____ areas. There are pronunciation dictionaries, _____ dictionaries and even a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for this day take _____ in schools. It is a good day for teachers to improve the dictionary-using _____ of their students.

online
medical
falls
maker
skills
place
specific
often

My dictionary says a dictionary is "a book that _____ the words of a language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning, or that _____ the meaning in a different language". It also says a dictionary is "a reference book on any _____, the items of which are arranged in alphabetical order". An example of this is a dictionary of quotations. We start using dictionaries when we are very _____. There are special versions for children and there are even _____ dictionaries. Some people might say you have swallowed a dictionary. This means you use lots of long and _____ words when you speak. Another interesting _____ is to say someone is a walking dictionary. This means a person knows the _____ of every word.

gives
picture
difficult
subject
definition
lists
expression
young

CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

Delete the wrong word in each of the pairs of *italics*.

October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It *fallen / falls* on this day because that is the birthday of America's most famous dictionary maker, Noah Webster, who was *birthday / born* in 1758. It is a day for us all to *get / put* out our dictionaries and start using them more often. We all need dictionaries. Many people have *paperless / paper* dictionaries and others use online ones on their computers or mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many *languages / language*. We also have dictionaries for specific *area / areas*. There are pronunciation dictionaries, medical dictionaries and even a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for this day take *space / place* in schools. It is a good day for teachers to *improvement / improve* the dictionary-using skills of their students.

My dictionary says a dictionary is "a book that *lasts / lists* the words of a language in alphabetical *disorder / order* and gives their meaning, or that gives the meaning in a different language". It also says a dictionary is "a reference book on any subject, the items of which are *arranged / arrangement* in alphabetical order". An example of this is a dictionary of quotations. We start *used to / using* dictionaries when we are very young. There are special *version / versions* for children and there are even picture dictionaries. Some people might say you have *swallowed / gulped* a dictionary. This means you use lots of long and difficult words when you speak. Another interesting expression is to say someone is a *running / walking* dictionary. This means a person *knows / known* the definition of every word.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It (1) _____ on this day because that is the birthday of America’s most famous dictionary maker, Noah Webster, who was (2) _____ in 1758. It is a day for us all to get out our dictionaries and start using them more often. We all need dictionaries. Many people have (3) _____ dictionaries and others use online ones on their computers or mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many languages. We also have dictionaries for (4) _____ areas. There are pronunciation dictionaries, medical dictionaries and (5) _____ a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for this day take place in schools. It is a good day for teachers to (6) _____ the dictionary-using skills of their students.

My dictionary says a dictionary is “a book that (7) _____ the words of a language in alphabetical order and gives their meaning, or that gives the meaning in a (8) _____ language”. It also says a dictionary is “a reference book on any subject, the items of which are (9) _____ in alphabetical order”. An example of this is a dictionary of quotations. We start using dictionaries when we are very young. There are special versions for children and there are even (10) _____ dictionaries. Some people might say you have (11) _____ a dictionary. This means you use lots of long and difficult words when you speak. Another interesting expression is to say someone is a walking dictionary. This means a person knows the (12) _____ of every word.

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. | (a) fallen | (b) falls | (c) fell | (d) falling |
| 2. | (a) born | (b) birth | (c) birthday | (d) birthing |
| 3. | (a) paperless | (b) papered | (c) paper | (d) papers |
| 4. | (a) specifics | (b) specifically | (c) specify | (d) specific |
| 5. | (a) ever | (b) never | (c) even | (d) evens |
| 6. | (a) improve | (b) proof | (c) prove | (d) improvise |
| 7. | (a) lists | (b) listless | (c) listing | (d) listings |
| 8. | (a) difference | (b) different | (c) differently | (d) differences |
| 9. | (a) arrangement | (b) arranging | (c) arranges | (d) arranged |
| 10. | (a) pictured | (b) picturesque | (c) picture | (d) picturing |
| 11. | (a) swallowed | (b) swallows | (c) swallow | (d) swallowing |
| 12. | (a) define | (b) defined | (c) defines | (d) definition |

SPELLING

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. It flsla on this day
2. start gunis them
3. others use nilone ones
4. delciam dictionaries
5. teachers to evirmop
6. dictionary-using kslsli

Paragraph 2

7. a book that stlsi the words
8. gives the gniamen
9. in alphabetical drreo
10. special sevnoirs for children
11. interesting snexisorep
12. the nitdniioef of every word

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

Number these lines in the correct order.

- (1) October the 16th is National Dictionary Day. It falls on this day because that is the birthday of America's most famous
- () often. We all need dictionaries. Many people have paper dictionaries and others use online ones on their computers or
- () dictionary. This means you use lots of long and difficult words when you speak. Another interesting expression is to say
- () this day take place in schools. It is a good day for teachers to
- () someone is a walking dictionary. This means a person knows the definition of every word.
- () book on any subject, the items of which are arranged in alphabetical order". An example of
- () mobile phones. Some people have dictionaries in many languages. We also have dictionaries for specific
- () order and gives their meaning, or that gives the meaning in a different language". It also says a dictionary is "a reference
- () My dictionary says a dictionary is "a book that lists the words of a language in alphabetical
- () children and there are even picture dictionaries. Some people might say you have swallowed a
- () this is a dictionary of quotations. We start using dictionaries when we are very young. There are special versions for
- () areas. There are pronunciation dictionaries, medical dictionaries and even a Harry Potter dictionary. Most of the celebrations for
- () improve the dictionary-using skills of their students.
- () dictionary maker, Noah Webster, who was born in 1758. It is a day for us all to get out our dictionaries and start using them more

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. famous most America's maker dictionary.

2. us all to get out our dictionaries A day for.

3. have also We areas specific for dictionaries.

4. place for in this schools day take Celebrations.

5. day to It good teachers a for improve is.

6. that words language book the a A lists of.

7. different a in meaning the Gives language.

8. dictionary of a quotations example is of An this.

9. for are versions children There special.

10. the definition A of person every knows word.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.ESL Holiday Lessons.com

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

Copyright © www.ESL Holiday Lessons.com

THE NATIONAL DICTIONARY DAY SURVEY

Write five questions about National Dictionary Day in the table. Do this in pairs/groups. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.

Without your partner, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

Return to your original partner(s) and share and talk about what you found out. Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

WRITING

Write about National Dictionary Day for 10 minutes. Show your partner your paper. Correct each other's work.

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find more information about National Dictionary Day. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about National Dictionary Day. Write about what happens around the world. Include two imaginary interviews with people who did something on this day.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. POSTER: Make your own poster about National Dictionary Day. Write about will happen on this day around the world.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.