

USING A THESAURUS

A thesaurus helps you find words to make your language more interesting, and to help you say exactly what you want to say. It gives you words which have the same meaning as the word you thought of. These are called *synonyms*.

It may give you words which mean the *opposite* of the word you thought of.

It will often give you words which are useful when you are talking or writing about a particular *topic*.

Remember that a thesaurus does not give you explanations or definitions of what words mean. If you want to know what a word means, you need to look it up in a dictionary like *The Oxford Illustrated Junior Dictionary*.

IN THIS THESAURUS YOU WILL FIND...

Headwords

The words you look up are printed in heavy black type, so that they are easy to find.

→ **bolt** *verb*

1 Remember to bolt the back door.

OTHER VERBS YOU MIGHT USE ARE **to bar** **to fasten** **to lock**

2 The horse bolted.

OTHER VERBS ARE **to escape** **to run away**

For other words, see run

3 Don't bolt down your food!

OTHER VERBS ARE **to gobble** **to gulp**

Examples

Sentences or phrases showing how you might use the word are printed in ordinary type.

Related words

Sometimes we give lists of words which are specially interesting. These entries are in the boxes. Many of these are not lists of synonyms, but lists of words related to a topic.

book *noun*

VARIOUS KINDS OF BOOK ARE

Album **annual** **atlas** **diary** **dictionary** **directory** **encyclopedia** **hymn** **book**
novel **paperback** **story book** **thesaurus**

bottom *noun*

1 the bottom of a wall

OTHER WORDS YOU MIGHT USE ARE **base** **foot** **foundation**

The opposite is **top**

→ 2 the bottom of the sea

ANOTHER WORD IS **bed**

The opposite is **surface**

Numbers

When a word has more than one meaning, or if it is used in more than one way, we number the different uses.

Antonyms

If the word you look up has a useful opposite, it comes after the synonyms.

Synonyms

Words which mean the same as the word you look up are the synonyms. These are words you might use instead of the word you look up. They are printed in bold black type.

Text extract from "The Oxford Illustrated Junior Thesaurus" by Alan Spooner, © 1999, Alan Spooner, (1999, Oxford University Press)