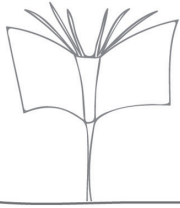


MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



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Making use of red words and black words in MD

Worksheet

www.macmillandictionary.com

► Activity 1

As you use the *Macmillan Dictionary*, you'll notice that some headwords are **red**, and most are **black**. Look at the entries for the following words and answer the questions below: *cobble* (noun), *double* (verb), *halt* (verb), *mouth* (noun), *risk* (verb), *unsettle* (verb).

- a What differences do you notice between the headwords shown in red, and those shown in black?

- b What difference can you see between the entry that belongs to a red headword, and the entry that belongs to a black headword?

► Activity 2

The words in the paragraph below are all red words in the dictionary, except for four. Study the paragraph, and guess which four words are shown as black in the dictionary. Write down the reasons for your guesses.

A survey carried out has found some shocking lapses of etiquette in the messages passed around by people under 20.

Many youngsters prefer to send e-mail rather than write a letter, but the survey reveals that most have no conception of what counts as proper manners when penning a digital missive.

► Activity 3

Why do the red headwords have one, two or three stars? Which words are more familiar to you, those with one star, or those with three stars?

Here is some useful information about the red words in the *Macmillan Dictionary*:

The red words are the 7,500 most frequently used words in English. These are the words speakers use every day to express themselves in speaking and writing, and the words you will most frequently hear and read. Therefore the red words are the ones you are more likely to need to learn to use. For that reason these entries contain more information on how you can use them.

The most frequent 2,500 words have ★★★.
The next most frequent 2,500 words (i.e. 2501–5000) have ★★, and the next most frequent 2,500 words (i.e. 5001–7500) have ★.