

# NATIONAL DICTIONARY DAY

[http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/10/national\\_dictionary\\_day.html](http://www.eslHolidayLessons.com/10/national_dictionary_day.html)

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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. \_\_\_\_\_

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**DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)**

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# 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.**



## 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.