

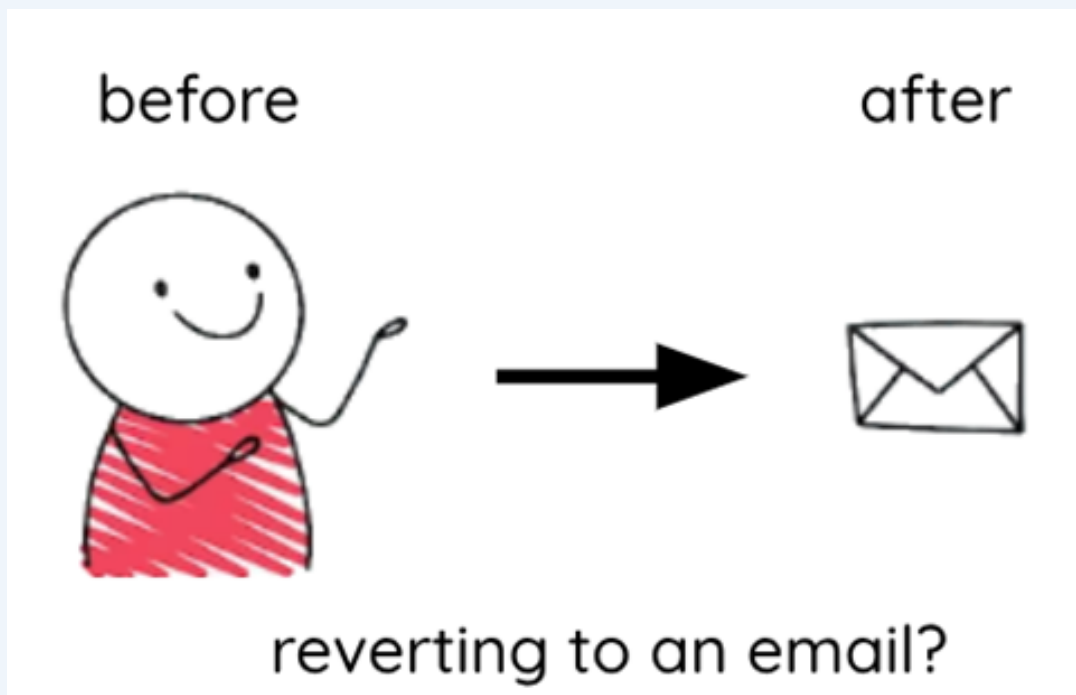


WHAT IT MEANS TO KNOW A WORD



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If you say you will **revert** to an email, are you replying to the email or turning back into the form of an email?

In standard English, **revert** means to “**return to a previous state**”

—although the usage of **revert** has since taken on the meaning of to **reply**, “**its usage in that manner is largely limited to South Asia and South East Asia**”, and is predominantly used in corporate contexts.

Read more about how the knowledge of the meaning of words affects our students and what we can do to help them!

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WHAT IT MEANS TO KNOW A WORD DEFINITION

When we say we **know** a word, we probably often mean that we know its meaning. However, there is more to a word than its definition. Being aware of its various other aspects can help our students become better at applying their vocabulary knowledge to reading comprehension and writing. In this article, we will take a look at the different aspects of what it means to know a word.

The first example is dedicated to the importance of a word's definition.

Let's take a look at the following words:

wizened

Is a *wizened* man wise or old?

mortified

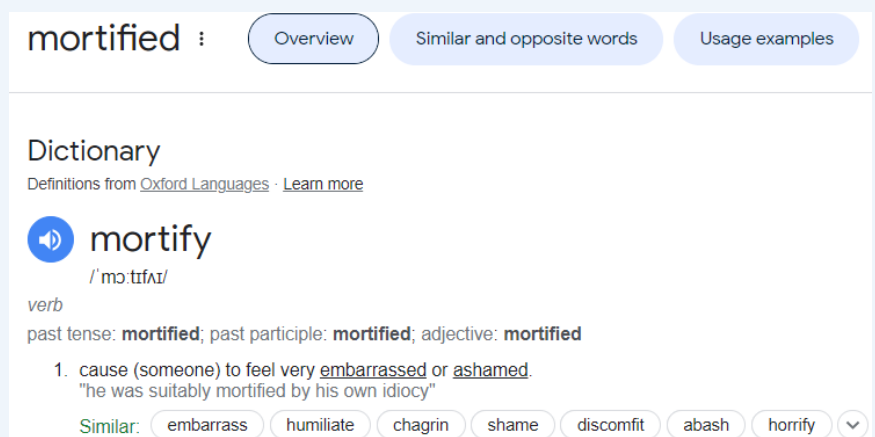
If you are *mortified*,
are you terrified or embarrassed

These words are sometimes used inaccurately. They may also look similar to other words hence, students may misinterpret the meaning. In standard English, *wizened* means *old*, and *mortified* means *to be embarrassed*.

For students, using a word incorrectly would result in the weakening of an argument in their writing, or they may have an inaccurate understanding of a comprehension passage, which then leads to the wrong answer. It is thus important that they know what a word means and not assume its meaning.


A quick and easy way to check the definition of words is to search in Google, "**<word> meaning**".

For a more detailed explanation with examples, we recommend using **Collins Dictionary**. With most students having access to smart phones or their PLDs (portable learning devices), we should encourage them to be more active in finding out the meanings of unfamiliar words.



mortified : [Overview](#) [Similar and opposite words](#) [Usage examples](#)

Dictionary
Definitions from [Oxford Languages](#) · [Learn more](#)

 **mortify**
/ˈmɔːtɪfaɪ/
verb
past tense: **mortified**; past participle: **mortified**; adjective: **mortified**

1. cause (someone) to feel very embarrassed or ashamed.
"he was suitably mortified by his own idiocy"

Similar: [embarrass](#) [humiliate](#) [chagrin](#) [shame](#) [discomfit](#) [abash](#) [horrify](#) [▼](#)



SAME (SAME) BUT DIFFERENT



However, the learning should not stop there. If students only check the word once, they may soon forget the meaning without any repeated exposure or application to concretise the word in their mind. What can students do in this case?

They can keep an online vocabulary log of words they come across, including the meaning, a pictorial reference, and example sentences. In some of my classes, I get my students to work together on a vocabulary log on **Padlet**.

There are probably many other options available, so do find which one suits you or your child best!

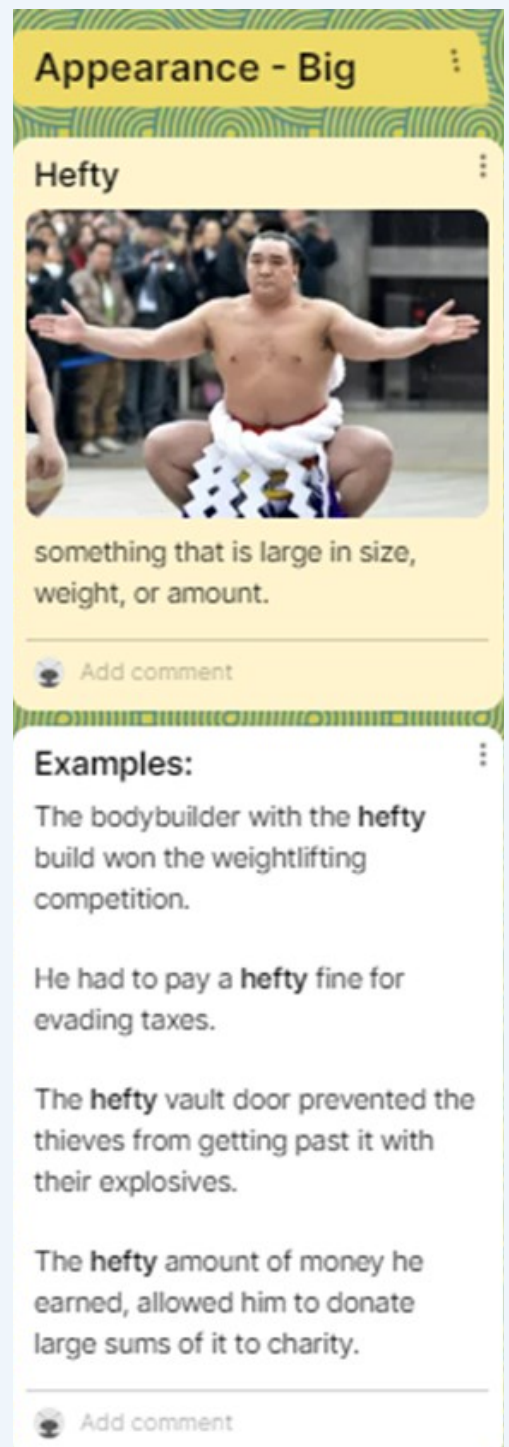
Here is a simple example that students can follow. They can then periodically refer to their own vocabulary log to refresh their memory, and also make efforts to use these words in their writing.

For more information on the iReaCH programme and how it can help your child, visit our website at: www.das.org.sg/services/programmes/ireach.html




iReaCH™

The primary aim of iReaCH™ is to support learners in Reading Comprehension and Writing through the deliberate use of vocabulary instruction and educational technology, allowing them to better manage these higher order tasks expected of them in school.



Appearance - Big

Hefty



something that is large in size, weight, or amount.

Add comment

Examples:

The bodybuilder with the **hefty** build won the weightlifting competition.

He had to pay a **hefty** fine for evading taxes.

The **hefty** vault door prevented the thieves from getting past it with their explosives.

The **hefty** amount of money he earned, allowed him to donate large sums of it to charity.

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