

English-English dictionaries provide a lot more information than the meaning of the word you are looking up. These dictionaries tell you the grammatical properties of the word, how the word is used, example sentences, and sometimes other words with opposite meanings.

TASK 1 Understanding the information in dictionary definitions

- 1 Read the definition of *incentive* taken from the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. Match sentences 1–6 with abbreviations from the dictionary entry.

incentive AW /ɪn'sentɪv/ *noun* [C, U] ~ (for/to sb/sth) (to do sth) something that encourages you to do sth; *tax incentives to encourage savings* ◇ *There is no incentive for people to save fuel.* **OPP** disincentive

- 1 these nouns are countable, which means you can give them a number (1, 2, 3 ...)
- 2 these nouns are uncountable, which means they are not used in the plural form
- 3 these words are frequently used in academic texts in any discipline
- 4 this means a word with the opposite meaning
- 5 somebody
- 6 something

TASK 2 Processing the information in dictionary definitions

- 1 Read the dictionary entries below. Write the definition of each entry as a full sentence.

Example: *An incentive is something that encourages you to do something, for example 'tax incentives encourage savings.'*

psychologist AW /saɪ'kɒlədʒɪst/ *noun* a scientist who studies and is trained in psychology: *an educational psychologist* ◇ *a clinical psychologist* (= one who treats people with mental DISORDERS or problems)

intensity AW /ɪn'tensəti/ *noun* (pl. -ies) 1 [U sing.] the state or quality of being intense; *intensity of light / sound / colour* ◇ *intensity of feeling / concentration / relief* ◇ *He was watching her with an intensity that was unnerving* ◇ *The storm resumed with even greater intensity.* 2 [U, C] (technical) the strength of sth, for example light, that can be measured: *varying intensities of natural light*

- 2 Select three more words from the texts or video transcripts in your course material. Look up the words in a dictionary and write the definition as a full sentence.
- 3 Select three words from your area of study and write a definition for each one as a full sentence. Then look up the words in a dictionary and compare the dictionary definitions with your sentences.