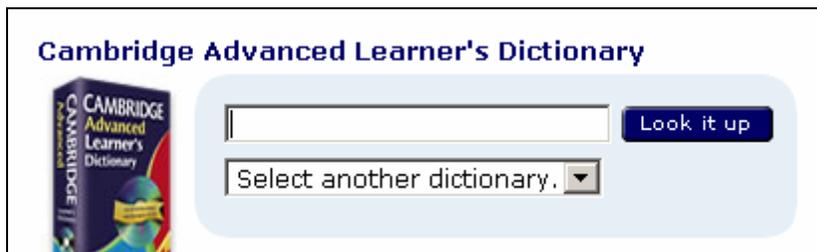


9. USING ONLINE SOURCES TO FIND THE MEANING OF WORDS

WHEN YOU ARE READING BOOKS AND ARTICLES

To find the meaning of most words:

- Go to *Cambridge Dictionaries Online* at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>
- Choose the *Advanced Learner's Dictionary*.
- Enter the word in the search box, and click "Look it up."



<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>

- On the search results page, you may find several words and phrases listed with a very short definition in parentheses.
- Choose the word whose definition is closest to how the word is used in your reading.
- For more help in using this dictionary, see the Worksheet: *Using a Dictionary*.

If you cannot find the meaning of the word at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>:

- Go to the *Merriam Webster's Dictionary Online* at <http://m-w.com>
- Enter the word in the search box, and click "Search."

If the word is a specialized term that is used in a specific discipline (e.g., sociology):

- Go to: <http://libraries.cuny.edu/resource.htm>
- Click on *Oxford Reference Online* in the green "General/Reference" list.
- Enter the word(s) in the search box. Put phrases (e.g., "*ascribed status*") in quotes.
- You may see several definitions on the Results page. Choose the definition from the dictionary of the subject you are studying (e.g., *A Dictionary of Sociology*).

WHEN YOU ARE WRITING A PAPER

If you want to find words that have similar meanings (so you do not repeat words):

- Go to *Merriam Webster Online* at <http://m-w.com>
- Click on "Thesaurus" above the search box.
- Enter the word in the search box, and click "Search."



<http://www.m-w.com>

- On the results page, you may see different definitions of the word after the numbers "1," "2," and so on. Choose the definition that is closest to how you are using the word in your paper.
- Write down words listed under "Synonyms" (these words have similar meanings).
- Check the exact meaning and use of these words in the *Advanced Learner's Dictionary* at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>