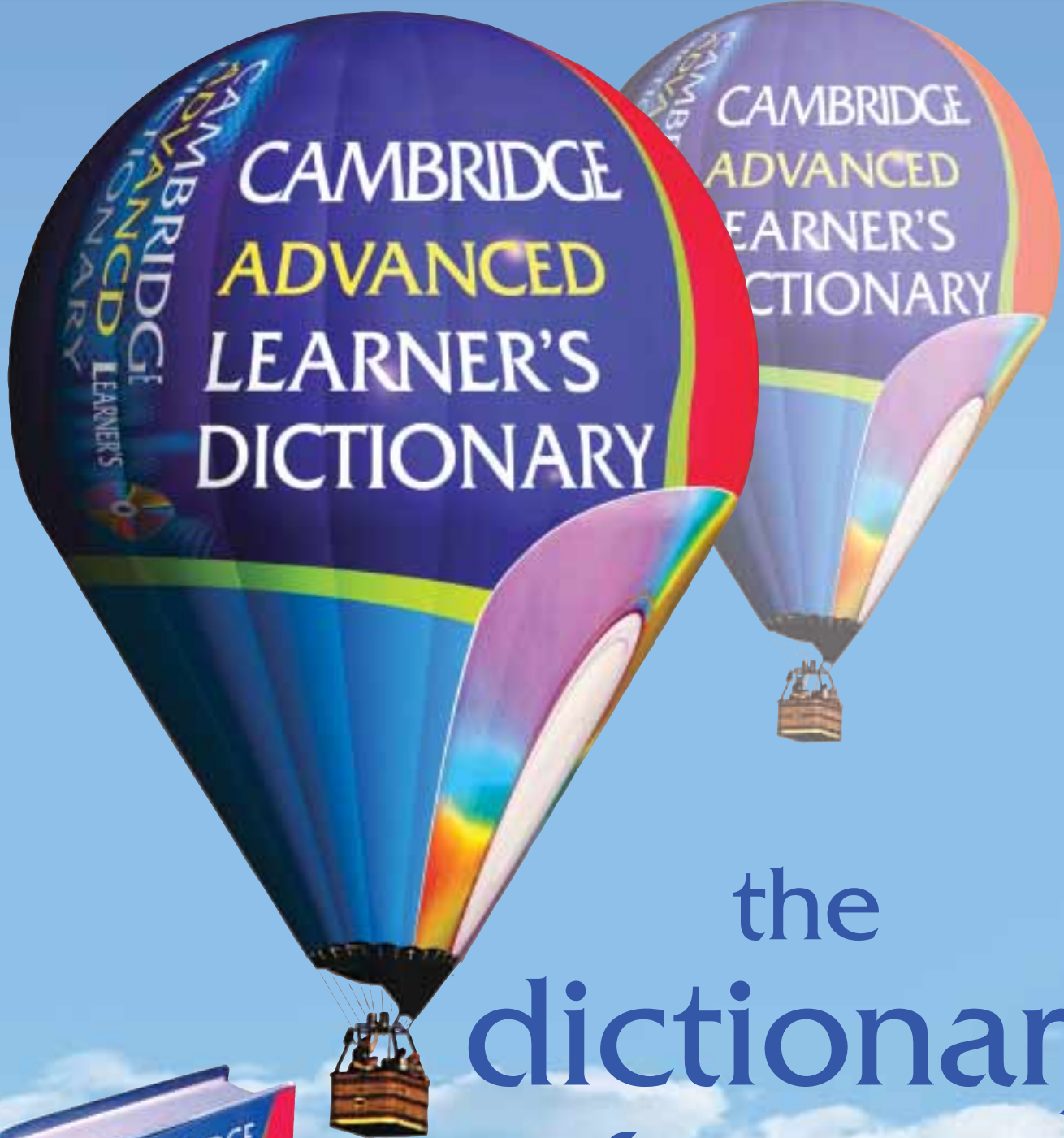
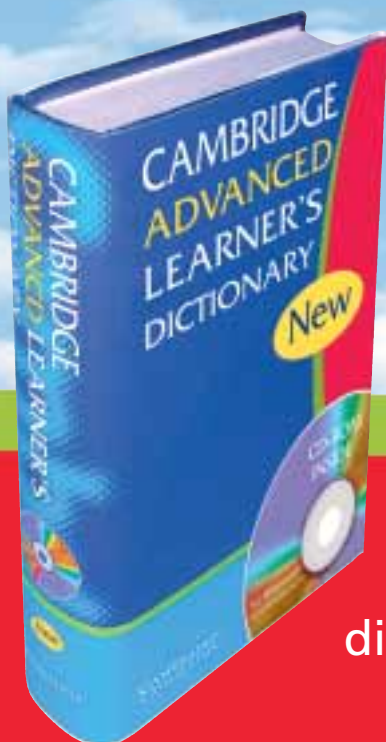


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**wham**

**whaler** /'weɪ.lə/ ⓘ /-lɚ/ *noun* [C] (someone who works on) a boat which is designed for hunting whales

**whaling** /'weɪ.lɪŋ/ *noun* [U] the activity of hunting whales

**wham** [SOUND] /wæm/ *noun* [C], *exclamation* *INFORMAL* used to suggest the sound of a sudden hit: *The boys in the cartoon were punching each other – wham, zap!*

**wham** [SUDDENLY] /wæm/ *exclamation* used to show that something you are describing happened suddenly: *Everything was fine until, wham, the wire snapped.*

**wharf** /wɔːf/ ⓘ /wɔːr/ *noun* [C] plural **wharves** an area like a wide wall built beside the edge of the sea or a river where ships can be tied and goods unloaded: *Canary Wharf*

**what** [QUESTION] /wɒt/ ⓘ /wɑːt/ *determiner, pronoun, exclamation* **1** used to ask for information about people or things: *What time is it?* ◦ *What books did you buy?* ◦ *What did you wear?* ◦ *What size shoes do you take?* ◦ *What happened after I left?* ◦ *What caused the accident?* **2** used in questions which show surprise or lack of belief: *I've just told Peter.* "What?/You did what?" ◦ *What's this I hear? You're leaving?*

**what** /wɒt/ ⓘ /wɑːt/ *pronoun, exclamation* *INFORMAL* used to ask someone to say something again: *"I think we should leave at twelve."* "What?" "I said I think we should leave at twelve." \* NOTE: It is more polite to use 'sorry' or 'pardon?'.  
• **what about?** used to suggest something: *What about Lola – shall we invite her?* ◦ *What about taking a few days off?*  
• **What's that (all) about (then)?** *UK INFORMAL* used when you do not understand why something or someone is so popular or fashionable: *Pierced tongues – what's that about, then?*  
• **what...for?** used to ask about the reason for something: *What are these tools for?* ◦ *What are you doing that for?* ◦ *"We need a bigger car."* "What for?"  
• **what if?** used to ask about something that could happen in the future, especially something bad: *What if the train's late?* ◦ *What if you don't pass your exams?*  
• **What of it?** *INFORMAL* used to rudely say that you do not think something is important: *"That's the third time you've done that!"* "Yeah, what of it?"  
• **What is/are he/she/it/they, etc. like?** said to ask someone to describe someone or something to you: *What was her boyfriend like?* ◦ *"What was the weather like?"* "It rained all week." ◦ *You've seen their new house, haven't you? What's it like?*  
• **what's on** used to mean 'what is happening'. This phrase is often used as the title of the part of a newspaper which tells you about events and entertainment happening in the next week or month.  
• **What's up?** *INFORMAL* used to ask someone what the problem is: *What's up – why does everyone look so serious?* ◦ *What's up with Terry?*

**COMMON LEARNER ERROR**

**What?**  
When you have not heard what someone has said and you want them to repeat it, you can say **What?**, but this is not polite. It is better to say **Sorry?** or **Pardon?**.  
*"It's 10 o'clock."* "Sorry?" "I said it's 10 o'clock."

**W**

**what** [THAT WHICH] /wɒt/ ⓘ /wɑːt/ *pronoun* **1** the thing(s) which; that which: *What I wanted to find out first was how long it was going to take.* ◦ *What really concerned her was how unhappy the child was.* ◦ *She wouldn't tell me what he said.* ◦ *I hadn't got much money on me but I gave them what I had.* ◦ *The letter showed clearly what they were planning.* ◦ *I can't decide what to do next.* ◦ *Have you thought about what to send as a present?* **2** used to introduce something you are going to say: *You'll never guess what – Laurie won first prize!* ◦ *I'll tell you what – we'll collect the parcel on our way to the station.*  
• **what's more** used to add something surprising or interesting to what you have just said: *The decorations were absolutely beautiful and what's more, the children had made them themselves.*

• **what/whatever sb says goes** **What** (also **whatever**) someone says goes means you have to do what they say: *It was Helen's idea and whatever Helen says goes.*  
• **what with** *INFORMAL* used to talk about the reasons for a particular situation, especially a bad or difficult situation: *I'm very tired, what with travelling all day yesterday and having a disturbed night.*

**what** [OPINION] /wɒt/ ⓘ /wɑːt/ *predeterminer, determiner* used to introduce your opinion: *"She can't come."* "What a shame/pity." ◦ *What a lovely view!* ◦ *What nonsense/rubbish!* ◦ *What strange clothes he was wearing.*

**whatchamacallit** /'wɒtʃ.ə.mə.kɔːl.ɪt/ ⓘ /'wɑːtʃ.ə.mə.kɑːlɪt/ *noun* [C] *INFORMAL* used when you are speaking about something or someone whose name you can not remember: *I need a – a whatchamacallit – one of those things that you can caramelize sugar with.*

**whatever** [NOT IMPORTANT WHAT] /wɒt'ev.ə/ ⓘ /wɑː'tev.ə/ *pronoun, determiner* it is not important what is; it makes no difference what (is): *We'll go whatever the weather.* ◦ *Whatever happens, you know that I'll stand by you.* ◦ *Whatever else may be said of him, Mr Meese is not scared of a fight.* ◦ *Whatever the outcome of the war, there will be no winners.* ◦ *Whatever the reason, more Britons are emigrating to Australia today than at any time since the 1950s.*

**whatever** [ANYTHING] /wɒt'ev.ə/ ⓘ /wɑː'tev.ə/ *pronoun, determiner* anything or everything: *I eat whatever I want and I still don't seem to put on weight.* ◦ *"What shall we do tonight then?"* "It's up to you – whatever you want." ◦ *Whatever I say I always seem to get it wrong.* ◦ *Don't, whatever you do, tell Patrick or the world will know!* (= You certainly should not tell Patrick!) ◦ *Do whatever you want – it won't affect me.* ◦ *"So I'll bring red wine then."* "Sure, whatever (= bring that or anything else)." ◦ *Apparently he 'discovered himself' in India, whatever that means* (= although I do not know what that means).

**whatever** [SURPRISE] /wɒt'ev.ə/ ⓘ /wɑː'tev.ə/ *pronoun* used instead of the word **what** to add emphasis to a phrase, usually expressing surprise: *Whatever is he doing with that rod?* ◦ *Whatever's that yellow thing on your plate?* ◦ *Whatever did you say that for?* ◦ *Whatever does she see in him – he's revolting!* ◦ *Whatever made him buy that jacket?*

**whatever** [EMPHASIS] /wɒt'ev.ə/ ⓘ /wɑː'tev.ə/ *adv* **whatsoever**

**whatever** [DISRESPECT] /wɒt'ev.ə/ ⓘ /wɑː'tev.ə/ *adv* *INFORMAL* something that is said to show disrespect to someone who is asking you to agree with them or agree to do something: *"Bryce, could you do what I ask you to once in a while?"* "Whatever."

**whatnot** /'wɒt.nɒt/ ⓘ /'wɑːt.nɑːt/ *noun* *INFORMAL* and **whatnot/and what have you** and other similar things: *You can buy crisps and whatnot at the bar.* ◦ *That'll leave you a bit of time so that you can get the table set and whatnot.*

**what's-her-name** /'wɒts.ə.neɪm/ ⓘ /'wɑːts.ə-/ *noun* [S] (ALSO **whatsname**) *INFORMAL* used for referring to a woman or girl when you cannot remember or do not know her name: *I gave the report to what's-her-name – the new marketing assistant.*

**what's-his-name, whatsname** /'wɒts.hɪz.neɪm/ ⓘ /'wɑːts-/ *noun* [S] *INFORMAL* used for referring to a man or boy when you cannot remember or do not know his name: *Have you invited Mike Whatsname to the party?*

**whatsit** /'wɒt.sɪt/ ⓘ /'wɑːt-/ *noun* [C] *INFORMAL* any object or person whose name you have temporarily forgotten or do not know: *Where's the whatsit that you change channels with?* ◦ *You'd better tell whatsit – what's his name – the guy in charge of stationery.*

**whatsoever** /'wɒt.səʊ'ev.ə/ ⓘ /'wɑːt.səʊ'ev.ə/ *adv* (ALSO **whatever**) used after a negative phrase to add emphasis to the idea that is being expressed: *He has no respect for authority whatsoever.* ◦ *I can honestly say that I have no interest whatsoever in the royal family.* ◦ *There is no evidence whatever to show that this is in fact the case.* ◦ *"Had you any idea what was happening at the time?"* "None whatsoever."

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## lead

**layman** [NOT TRAINED] /ˈleɪ.mən/ noun [C] (ALSO **layperson**) someone who is not trained in or does not have a detailed knowledge of a particular subject

**layoff, lay-off** /ˈleɪ.ɒf/ ⓘ /-ɑːt/ noun [C] (often pl) when someone stops employing someone, sometimes temporarily, because there is no money to pay them or because there is no work for them: *The recent economic crisis has led to massive layoffs.* 2 [C usually sing] a period when someone is not working: *Foster is playing again after a six-week layoff due to injury.*

**layout** /ˈleɪ.aʊt/ noun [C] the way that something is arranged: *I like the layout of the house.* ◦ Application forms vary greatly in layout and length.

**layover** /ˈleɪ.əʊ.və/ ⓘ /-oʊ.və/ noun [C] US FOR **stopover** (= a short stay between parts of a journey, especially a plane journey): *We had a four-hour layover in Chicago.*

**laywoman** /ˈleɪ.wʊm.ən/ noun [C] a female layman

**lazy** /ˈleɪ.zi/ adj 1 **DISAPPROVING** not willing to work or use any effort: *Managers had complained that the workers were lazy and unreliable.* ◦ *Get out of bed you lazy thing!* ◦ *He's too lazy to walk to work.* 2 **APPROVING** slow and relaxed: *We spent a lazy day on the beach sunbathing.*

**lazily** /ˈleɪ.zi.li/ adv: *Palm trees swayed lazily in the soft breeze.*

**laziness** /ˈleɪ.zi.nəs/ noun [U] *I could go to the gym – it's just laziness that stops me.*

**laze** /leɪz/ verb [I + adv or prep] to relax and enjoy yourself, doing very little: *We spent the day lazing around in the garden.*

**lazybones** /ˈleɪ.zi.bəʊnz/ ⓘ /-boʊnz/ noun [C] plural **lazybones** **INFORMAL DISAPPROVING** someone who is lazy: [as form of address] *Hey lazybones, get up from the sofa and help me with the dishes!*

**lb** noun [C] plural **lb** or **lbs** **WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR** pound: *a 3lb bag of flour* ◦ *I weighed 10lbs at birth.*

**lbw** /,el.biː.dab.l.juː/ adj, adv **ABBREVIATION FOR** leg before wicket: (in cricket) describes a way of dismissing the batsman (= person who is trying to hit the ball) by hitting his legs with the ball

**LCD** /,el.siːˈdiː/ noun [C] **ABBREVIATION FOR** liquid-crystal display

**leach** /liːtʃ/ verb [T] **SPECIALIZED** to remove a substance from a material, especially from earth, by the process of water moving through the material, or to remove parts of a material using water: *The soil has been so heavily leached through intensive farming that it is no longer fertile.*

**lead** [CONTROL] /liːd/ verb [I or T] **led, led** to control a group of people, a country, or a situation: *I think we've chosen the right person to lead the expedition.* ◦ *I've asked Gemma to lead the discussion.* ◦ *Who will be leading the inquiry into the accident?*

• **lead sb by the nose** **INFORMAL** to control someone and make them do exactly what you want them to do

**lead** [SHOW WAY] /liːd/ verb **led, led** 1 [I] to show the way to a group of people, animals, vehicles, etc. by going in front of them: *I don't know the way, so you'd better lead.* ◦ *If you lead in the jeep, we'll follow behind on the horses.* 2 [T] To lead a group of moving people or vehicles is to walk or drive in front of them: *The local youth band will lead the parade this weekend.* ◦ *A large black hearse led the funeral procession.* 3 [T usually + adv or prep] to take someone somewhere, by going with them: *She led them down the hall.* ◦ *The waiter led us to our table.* ◦ *Our guide led us through the mountains.* 4 [T usually + adv or prep] to take hold of a person or an animal, or of something attached to them, and take them somewhere: *She took the child by the hand and led him upstairs to bed.* ◦ *He led the horse out of the stable.*

• **lead the way** 1 to show the way by going in front: *You've been there before – why don't you lead the way?* 2 to make more progress than other people in the development of something: *The company has been leading the way in network applications for several years.*

• **lead sb a (merry) dance** **INFORMAL** to cause someone a lot of trouble, especially by getting them to do a lot of things that are not necessary

• **lead sb up the garden path** **INFORMAL** to deceive someone: *It seems as if we've been led up the garden path about the position of our hotel – it's miles from the beach!*

**lead** /liːd/ noun [C usually sing] when you show a person or group of people what to do: *We'll go through the dance routine again – follow my lead* (= do what I do).

**lead** [INFORMATION] /liːd/ noun [C] a piece of information which allows a discovery to be made or a solution to be found: *A lead from an informer enabled the police to make several arrests.*

**lead** [DIRECTION] /liːd/ verb [I or T; usually + adv or prep] **led, led** (especially of roads, paths, doors, signs, information, etc.) to go in a particular direction or have a particular result, or to allow or cause this: *There's a track that leads directly to the reservoir.* ◦ *The French windows lead out onto a wide shady terrace.* ◦ *A narrow trail of blood led directly into the cave.* ◦ *This information led the police to a house near the harbour.*

**lead** [BE WINNING] /liːd/ verb [I or T] **led, led** (especially in sport or other competitions) to be in front, to be first or to be winning: *After thirty minutes the challengers were leading by two goals.* ◦ *With two laps to go Ngomo led by less than two seconds.* ◦ *The Lions lead the Hawks 28–9.*

• **lead the field/pack/world** to be better than all other people or things: *Their scientists lead the world in nutrition research.*

**lead** /liːd/ noun [S] a winning position during a race or other situation where people are competing: *For the first time in the race Harrison is in the lead.* ◦ *With a final burst of speed she went/moved into the lead.* ◦ *After last night's win Johnson has taken (over) the lead in the championship table.* ◦ *By the end of the day's play Davies had a lead of three points.*

**lead** [INFLUENCE] /liːd/ verb [T] **led, led** to cause someone to do something, especially something bad: [+ to infinitive] *The brochure led me to believe that the price included home delivery.* ◦ *It's worrying that such a prominent politician is so easily led.* ◦ *He was a weak man, led astray by ambition.*

**lead** [METAL] /led/ noun [U] a very dense, soft, dark-grey, poisonous metal, used especially in the past on roofs and for pipes and also for protection against radiation: *lead pipes*

• **go down like a lead balloon** **HUMOROUS** if something that you say or show to people goes down like a lead balloon, they do not like it at all: *My joke about the alcoholic went down like a lead balloon.*

**leaded** /ˈled.ɪd/ adj describes petrol (= fuel) with small amounts of lead in it ◦ See also **unleaded**.

**lead** [PENCIL] /led/ noun [C or U] (the narrow strip of coloured material, usually black and made of GRAPHITE, in the centre of a pencil

**the lead** [ACTOR] noun [C] the main actor in a film or play

**lead** [LIVE] /liːd/ verb **lead a busy/normal/quiet, etc. life** to live a particular type of life: *He was able to lead a normal life, despite the illness.* ◦ *We certainly don't lead a life of luxury but we're not poor either.*

**lead** [ANIMAL] **MAINLY UK** /liːd/ noun [C] (**MAINLY US** **leash**) a piece of rope, chain, etc. tied to an animal, especially to a dog at its collar when taking it for a walk: *Please keep your dog on a lead when on the beach.*

**lead** [ELECTRICAL] /liːd/ noun [C] (**UK ALSO** **flex**, **US ALSO** **cord**, **US ALSO** **wire**) a wire covered in plastic and used to connect electrical equipment to the electricity supply

## PHRASAL VERBS WITH lead

▲ **lead sb on** **phrasal verb** **DISAPPROVING** to persuade someone to believe something that is untrue: *All that time she'd been leading him on* (= pretending she liked him), *but she was only interested in his money.*

▲ **'lead to sth** **phrasal verb** If an action or event leads to something, it causes that thing to happen or exist: *Reducing speed limits should lead to fewer deaths on the roads.*

▲ **lead up to sth** [HAPPEN] **phrasal verb** If a period of time or series of events leads up to an event or activity, it happens until that event or activity begins: *The pilot had no recollection of the events leading up to the crash.*

▲ **lead up to sth** [TALK] **phrasal verb** to prepare to talk about something by gradually mentioning the subject you want to talk about: *He started telling me about a wonderful new restaurant he'd been to and I wondered what he was leading up to.*

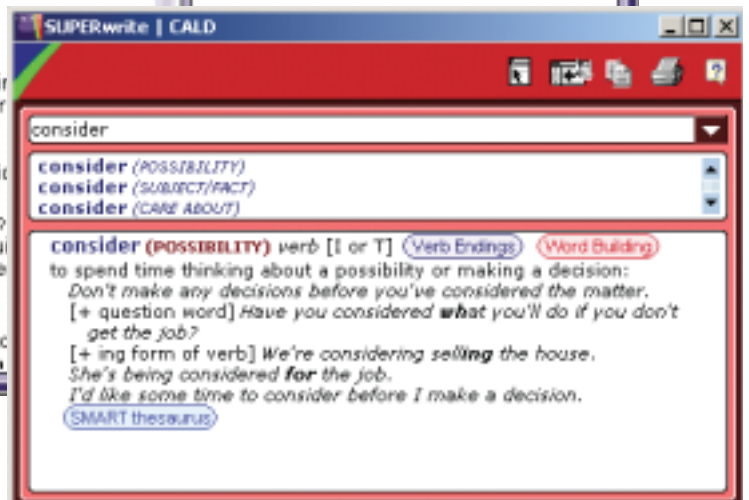
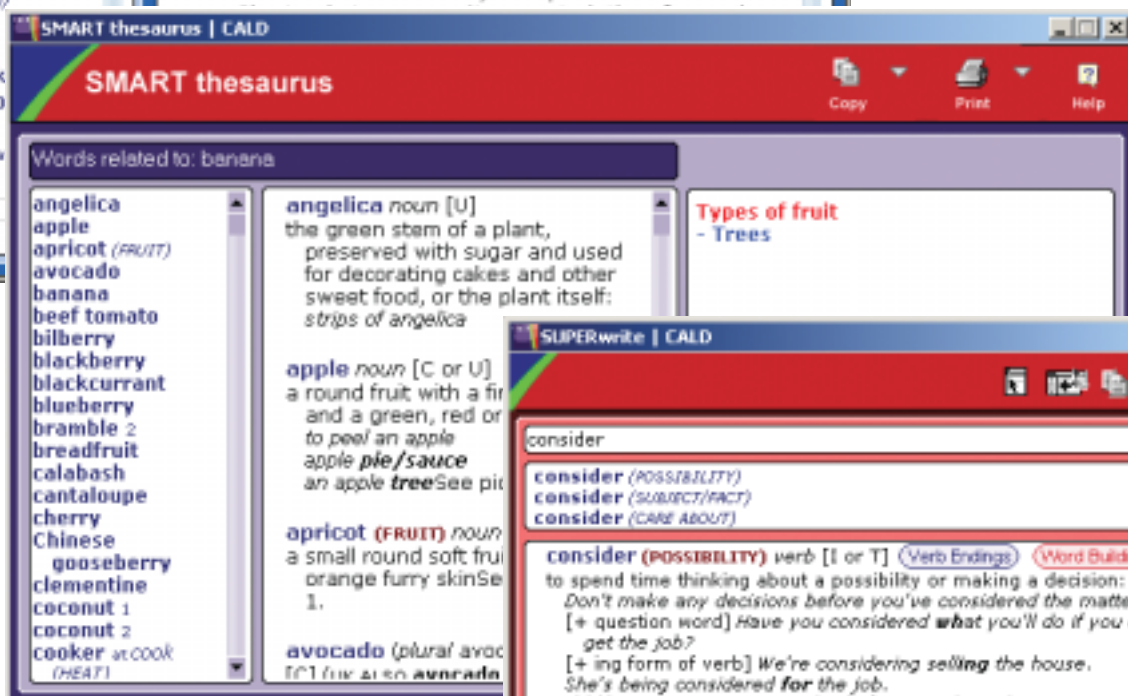
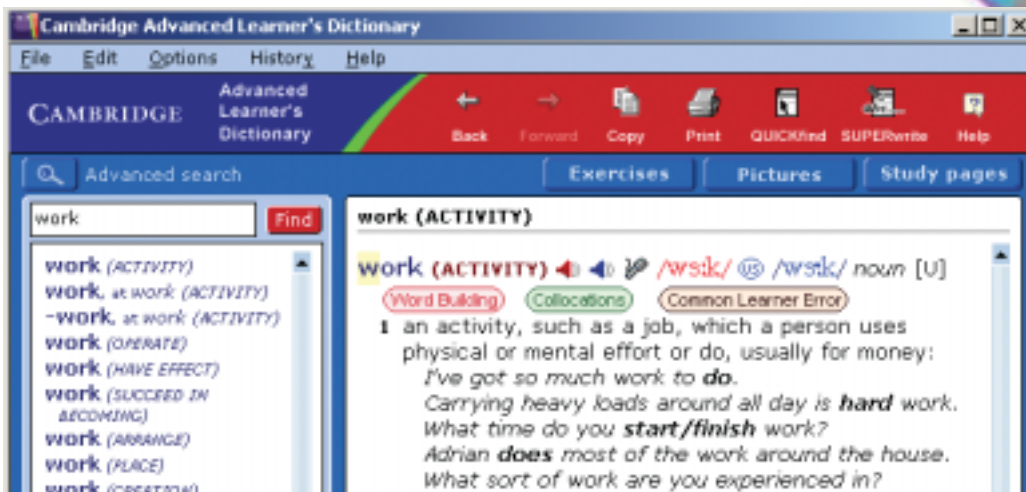
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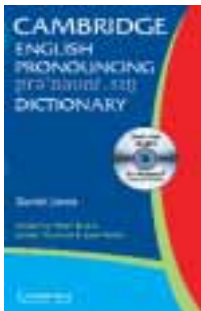
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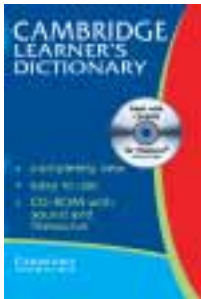
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