

Finding Out: Words in Context

**Step 1:** Look at the words in bold below. Can you guess what they mean? Write a short definition in English. (Don't use your dictionary yet. You will be able to check their meanings in the next section: Definitions.)

Her parents are really **strict**; if she comes home late they don't let her go out again for a week.  
He's quite a **strict** trainer, but we all like him.

What do you think 'strict' means? \_\_\_\_\_

The **teaching assistant** stood at the back of the classroom until the teacher had finished speaking.  
**Teaching assistants** can provide additional support for pupils that are having difficulties.

What do you think 'teaching assistant' means? \_\_\_\_\_

She was one of the most **inspiring** people I've ever met. She made me want to start learning the piano.  
He enjoys reading **inspiring** quotes from the most successful people in history.

What do you think 'inspiring' means? \_\_\_\_\_

I asked my wife if she wanted to go to the party, but she didn't seem very **enthusiastic** about the idea, so I'll probably go by myself.  
The students were really **enthusiastic** about visiting the chocolate factory for a tour.

What do you think 'enthusiastic' means? \_\_\_\_\_

The students enjoy a number of **extracurricular activities** at weekends.  
Nowadays, many young people are not interested in taking part in **extracurricular activities**. They would rather just stay at home.

What do you think 'extracurricular activities' means? \_\_\_\_\_

My wife gave me a lot of **encouragement** when I was writing my first book.  
Children need constant **encouragement**.

What do you think 'encouragement' means? \_\_\_\_\_

The academically **talented** students helped others in the classroom.  
As well as being a successful actor, he is a naturally **talented** director.

What do you think 'talented' means? \_\_\_\_\_

I don't have a credit card because I don't like to **get into debt**.  
There is no reason for you to **get into debt** if you are careful with your money.

What do you think 'get into debt' means? \_\_\_\_\_

Borrowing is a part of everyday life; however, there are many things to think about before **taking out a loan**.  
He went to the bank and **took out a loan** of five thousand pounds.

What do you think 'take out a loan' means? \_\_\_\_\_

Nearly half of parents of secondary school children say **corporal punishment** should be reintroduced.  
**Corporal punishment** is an effective way of controlling children.

What do you think 'corporal punishment' means? \_\_\_\_\_

**Continuous assessment** is used to check if children have reached their reading targets.  
**Continuous assessment** occurs throughout the school year, so there is no need for a final exam.

What do you think 'continuous assessment' means? \_\_\_\_\_

There are several ways for graduates to **go into teaching**.  
I'd love to **go into teaching** after university.

What do you think 'go into teaching' means? \_\_\_\_\_

He is one of the most **diligent students** in the class, and always gets excellent grades.  
The teacher encouraged the children to be **diligent students**.

What do you think 'diligent student' means? \_\_\_\_\_

The piano player had to **learn** the piece of music **by heart** so he could perform it.  
They were surprised when the singer sang all of the songs without words, but he had **learned** all of the songs **by heart**.

What do you think 'learn by heart' means? \_\_\_\_\_

The university also provides a selection of **distance learning** programmes  
If you are interested in studying but have other commitments (things to do), our **distance learning** courses offer an alternative way to study.

What do you think 'distance learning' means? \_\_\_\_\_

Finding Out: Definitions

**Step 1:** Match the words with their definitions. (If you can't understand the definitions, you can use a bilingual dictionary.)

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1 strict teacher             | 1 a teacher that makes you feel enthusiastic or excited about their subject  |
| 2 teaching assistant         | 2 an amount of money that a person, business, or country borrows, especially from a bank   |
| 3 inspiring teacher          | 3 a teacher who has rules that they expect people to obey (follow)   |
| 4 enthusiastic               | 4 a way of judging (grading) a student by looking at the work that they do during the year   |
| 5 extracurricular activities | 5 words or actions that give someone confidence or hope  |
| 6 encouragement              | 6 a natural ability to be good at something, especially without being taught   |
| 7 talented                   | 7 to start working as a teacher  |
| 8 get into debt              | 8 someone whose job is to help the teacher   |
| 9 take out a loan            | 9 a situation in which you owe money to other people   |
| 10 corporal punishment       | 10 hitting someone for doing something wrong   |
| 11 continuous assessment     | 11 these are things that you do at school or college that are not part of your course  |
| 12 go into teaching          | 12 learning something so that you can recall it without any help   |
| 13 diligent student          | 13 very interested in something or excited by it   |
| 14 learn by heart            | 14 a system in which students work at home with the help of television and radio broadcasts and send work to their teachers by post or email |
| 15 distance learning         | 15 a student who works very hard and very carefully  |

Answers: 1-3, 2-8, 3-1, 4-13, 5-11, 6-5, 7-6, 8-9, 9-2, 10-10, 11-4, 12-7, 13-15, 14-12, 15-14

