



Learn English Through Stories

**Upper-Intermediate  
Vocabulary**

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## The Mystery Guest by K S Sandhu

Elena loved her unique village lifestyle. She enjoyed walking early when the grass was still damp with dew. One cold morning, she decided to explore an old house on the hill. She hoped to find something interesting.

Inside, the air felt awkward – quiet and strange. Elena noticed a beautiful old clock and an elegant silver thermometer on the wall. She began recording the temperature every hour. She wanted to understand why some rooms felt warmer than others.

Suddenly, she heard footsteps. A tall man appeared. He raised an eyebrow and asked, “What are you doing here?”

Elena felt awkward. “I’m sorry,” she said. “I didn’t mean to disturb anyone. I just like exploring old places.”

The man smiled a little, but he looked sad. “I’m Mr Banta,” he said. “People say I shouted at my mother years ago. My sister claims I swore at her. I deny swearing. I deny that I ever used bad words. I only argued loudly.”

Elena nodded. She didn’t want to judge him. Instead, she asked, “Would you mind showing me the house? I need to extract information about the heating – or maybe there’s a hidden spring.”

Mr Banta agreed to help. They walked together. He let her measure the rooms freely. Sometimes he made her laugh with old stories. Elena felt lucky to meet someone so kind.

Later, Elena admitted finding the reason: warm air came from underground water. She promised to tell the villagers. Mr Banta said he would like to join the meeting.

At the village hall, it was compulsory to attend if you lived nearby. Everyone listened while Elena explained. She said that the old thermometer had helped her discover the truth.

Mr Banta stood up. “I want to say something,” he began. “I regret arguing with my mother long ago. But I hope to start a new chapter. Thank you, Elena, for not judging me quickly.”

The people clapped. Elena felt content. She had not expected to change anyone’s life, but small actions can help people feel better.

From that day, Mr Banta stopped looking so sad. He even started greeting neighbours warmly. Elena kept the thermometer as a reminder. She realised that sometimes we need to listen, sometimes listening patiently is enough, and sometimes we must admit our mistakes to move forward.

## Study unit 3

# Using your dictionary

### A

#### What a good dictionary tells you: the basics

A good learners' dictionary (in book form or online) can tell you about:

- Pronunciation: this may mean learning some symbols which are different from the letters of the English alphabet.

θ	th in <b>thick</b>	ð	th in <b>then</b>	tʃ	ch in <b>church</b>
ʃ	sh in <b>she</b>	dʒ	j in <b>Jam</b>	z	s in <b>pleasure</b>
ŋ	ng in <b>ring</b>	b	a in <b>bad</b>	tɒ	o in <b>top</b>
	or in <b>form</b>	ʊ	u in <b>put</b>	ə	a in <b>about</b>
ʌ	u in <b>up</b>	ɪ	ir in <b>bird</b>		

- Word stress: often shown by a mark before the syllable to be stressed or by underlining or bold type, e.g. /əd'ventʃə/, /westən/, **complicated**.
- Usage: how a word is used and any special grammatical pattern that goes with it, e.g. **suggest** + clause (not an infinitive) – *I suggest you ring her right away.* (NOT I suggest you to ring her right away.)

### B

#### Additional information

- Synonyms (words of similar meaning) and antonyms (opposites), e.g. **mislay** and **misplace** (synonyms), **friend** ≠ **enemy/foe** (antonyms).
- Collocations (how words go together), e.g. the adjective **firm** is often used in these collocations: **firm commitment**, **firm grip**, **firm believer**.
- Whether a verb is transitive or intransitive: *catch* is transitive and must have an object, e.g. *He caught the ball* and threw it back to me; *laugh* is intransitive and does not need an object, e.g. *She laughed* when I told her the news.
- Whether a word is used for people and/or things. In this entry for the adjective **hurtful** in the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* online, we can see that **hurtful** can be used about what someone says or about someone:
- Word class (often as abbreviations **n** noun, **adj** adjective, etc.), and whether a noun is countable or uncountable.
- Information about how words are related to one another through meaning. The *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* online allows you to see a visual display of the networks of meaning for a word, as in this display for the adjective **fascinating**. The **Visual Thesaurus** shows related adjectives.

**hurtful** /'hɜ:tʃəl/ adjective  
**causing emotional pain:**  
*That was a very hurtful remark!*  
*How can you be so hurtful?*

The adjectives are grouped according to meaning. This can be very useful when you are writing. If you want to vary your use of adjectives, you can look up the related adjectives to see which one(s) most closely express(es) the meaning you need.



## Exercises

### 3.1 Pronunciation. What English words are these?

- 1 /edju'keɪʃən/ ..... education      3 /'li:niŋ/ .....  
 2 /'pa:spɔ:t/ .....      4 /'lɪbətɪ/ .....      5 /rə'vɪzən/ .....  
 6 /'brʌðə/ .....

### 3.2 Underline the stressed syllable of these words. Check your answers in your dictionary.

- 1 unique      3 urgently      5 record ( verb)      7 extract ( noun)  
 2 elegant      4 eyebrow      6 thermometer      8 lifestyle

### 3.3 Look at the grammar patterns which the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary gives for these words and then correct the sentences that follow.

1 **supply** /sə'plai/ ▸ verb [T] to provide something that is wanted or needed, often in large quantities and over a long period of time: *Electrical power is supplied by underground cables.* ○ *Three people have been arrested for supplying arms to the terrorists.* ○ *The company has supplied the royal family (= provided them with something they need) for years.* ○ *At the beginning of term, students are supplied with a list of books that they are expected to read.*

Brazil supplies coffee at many countries. Brazil supplies coffee to many countries.  
 The officer supplied each soldier a map. ....

2 **deny** /di'naɪ/ verb [T] NOT TRUE 1 to say that something is not true: *He will not confirm or deny the allegations.* ○ [+ that] *Neil denies that he broke the window, but I'm sure he did.* ○ [+ -ing verb] *Neil denies breaking the window.*

The Minister denied to have received any money from the oil company. (two answers)  
 .....

### 3.4 Put a tick (✓) if these adjectives can be used about a person, or a thing (which could be an event, an object, a fact, an idea, etc.) or both. Use your dictionary if necessary.

	person	thing		person	thing
sad	✓		damp		
lucky			awkward		
content			compulsory		

### 3.5 A typical dictionary abbreviation for a noun is (n) and for an adjective (adj). What do you think these abbreviations mean?

(adv) *adverb* ..... (pron) ..... (conj) .....  
 (prep) ..... (UK) ..... noun [C] .....  
 verb [T] ..... noun [U] ..... verb [I or T] .....

### 3.6 Over to you

Go to Cambridge Dictionaries Online at <http://dictionary.cambridge.org>, select the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary and look up the adjective *damp*. Click on the Visual Thesaurus. How many of the words do you know? Choose four words you don't know and look them up. Record them in your notebook.

## Answers

### Unit 3

**3.1** 2 passport    3 leaning    4 liberty    5 revision    6 brother

**3.2** 2 elegant    4 eyebrow    6 thermometer    8 lifestyle  
3 urgently    5 record (verb)    7 extract (noun)

**3.3** 1 The officer supplied each soldier with a map.  
2 The Minister denied having received any money from the oil company. / The Minister denied that he/she had received any money from the oil company.

**3.4**

	person	thing		person	thing
sad	✓	✓	damp		✓
lucky	✓	✓	awkward	✓	✓
content	✓		compulsory		✓

**3.5** (pron) pronoun    (conj) conjunction    (prep) preposition

Ⓚ United Kingdom or British English usage    noun [C] countable noun    verb [T] transitive  
verb    noun [U] uncountable noun    verb [I or T] verb which can be transitive or intransitive