

Getting to know your DCE - Exercises

1 What meaning do the words *shot*, *power*, and *law* have in the sentences below? Look them up in the DCE and write down the number of the meaning you think is correct.

- a) The victory was a real shot in the arm for the team. [.....]
 b) 2 to the power of 4 is 16. [.....]
 c) They decided to go to law about it in the end. [.....]

2 The following sentences contain examples of 'false friends'. Rewrite these sentences with the help of the definitions in the DCE, replacing the underlined words with synonyms or paraphrasing them.

- a) Dr Smith is a very genial colleague.

 b) I find his behaviour rather irritating.

 c) After talking to him for half an hour she noticed just how thick he was.

 d) With each packet of cereal that you buy you get a small gift.

3 a) Which word-class do the underlined words belong to? How do you know this? (Do NOT consult your dictionary to answer this question). Having done the exercise check your answers with the DCE.

- a) If you rock the cradle gently from side to side, the baby will finally fall asleep. ()
 b) Laura was sitting on a huge rock. ()
 c) Petrol prices rocketed by 250% in six months. ()
 d) Could we have some peace and quiet, please? ()
 e) The room was very quiet when they came in. ()
 f) Marion is a qualified nurse. ()
 g) Tom nursed his father throughout his illness. ()
 h) The 'Mallard' used to be the fastest steam locomotive in the world. ()
 i) Jo is terrible - she always drives too fast! ()

b) The following words can be used both as nouns and verbs. Use your DCE to find out what differences in pronunciation there are between them.

rebel - convict - record - minute

4 Which of the words in the first list rhyme with those in the second list below? Write down all the words that rhyme in one line.
 (If you are not quite sure what the symbols mean, you can check in the table on page i of the DCE).

cough - trough - enough - plough - through - tough - rough

bluff _____
 scoff _____
 allow _____
 blue _____