



Making use of example sentences

Ask students if they use the example sentences in their dictionary. What do they use them for? What else could they use them for? Hopefully, you will get answers like 'to check I understand the meaning', 'to see how the word can be used'; you may also get 'to see typical contexts of use', 'to see which preposition to use', 'to see other words/collocations that I can use with this word'.

1 Illustrating meaning

word	definition	example sentence
network	a complicated system of roads, lines, tubes, etc. that cross each other and are connected to each other	Agriculture forms the backbone of the rural economy.
hierarchy	a system, especially in a society or an organization, in which people are organized into different levels of importance from highest to lowest	China's total road network is now the third longest in the world.
backbone	the most important part of sth such as a system or an organization that gives it support and strength	Rural peasants were near the bottom of the Roman social hierarchy .

road network – a typical context in which you would find a **network**. Ask students what other kinds of **network** are illustrated in the example sentences at sense 1 of **network** (*telephone network, a network of neurons* in the body).

social hierarchy – a **hierarchy** is most typical of 'society or an organization' – the other example sentence illustrates the *managerial hierarchy* in a business context. Other common collocations are *class hierarchy* and *corporate hierarchy*.

the backbone of the rural economy – this is sense 2 of **backbone**, which is really a figurative extension of the literal meaning at sense 1. Elicit the literal sense (get students to physically point to their spine!) and the connection between the two uses.

word	definition	example sentence
benefit	to be useful or provide an advantage to sb/sth	To qualify for a patent, a product must satisfy certain criteria.
sustain	to provide enough of what sb/sth needs in order to live or exist	The economic changes primarily benefited the elite.
satisfy	to provide what is wanted, needed or asked for	There is little appreciation of the role played by complex ecosystems in sustaining life on earth.

benefit the elite – the object of **benefit** in this meaning (**benefit**² sense 2) is often a particular group (*society as a whole* from the other example; also *the public, producers, consumers* – see the collocations section)

sustaining life on earth: see **sustain** sense 1 – what other things do the examples suggest can be **sustained**? (people, by getting enough to eat – 2nd example; people's lifestyles, by having enough money)

satisfy certain criteria – see **satisfy** sense 1 – what other things do the examples show can be **satisfied**? (*requirements, needs, desires, conditions*)

Usage information in example sentences

Word order

2 Ask students to explain what they think **clearly** means. Can they express the same idea using the adjective **clear**? (*It is clear that...* – sense 1 or *in a clear way* – senses 2 and 3). Students do exercise 2:

- a after (you cannot put it before the verb in this meaning)
- b before (usually; it can in fact come before or after, but before is more usual: the collocations sections on the CD-ROM for senses 2 and 3 make these points even more clearly)
- c 1 after the verb *to be* (*The patient was clearly in severe pain.*); 2 before other verbs (*Inflation clearly has negative effects on real incomes.*); 3 at the beginning of a sentence, to qualify the whole sentence (*Clearly, low-wage countries are relatively abundant in low-skilled workers.*)

What do students learn from this exercise about placing adverbs? a) It's complicated – it may depend on the meaning and on the verb used with the adverb. b) The dictionary can help.

3 This exercise tests what has been learned in exercise 3, using a similar adverb, **apparently**.

- a *It is possible to explain these apparently contradictory results.* – **apparently** is placed directly before the adjective it qualifies – the example in the dictionary is *apparently similar*. *apparently contradictory* is a strong collocation, which students will find in the example at **contradictory**
- b *Women living in the Netherlands apparently had twice the risk of developing the disease.* – **apparently** placed before the verb, as in the first dictionary example (*wild rabbit populations apparently remained stable*). A possible alternative would be to use the sentence adverb: *Apparently, women living in the Netherlands had ...*)
- c *Apparently, a large number of changes can occur over a relatively short time span.* Sentence adverb, as in the third dictionary example.

What is the effect on the meaning of adding **apparently**? It makes the claim less strong and more cautious; it says: 'this is what the evidence indicates, but it is still possible that there is an alternative explanation'.

Collocations

- 4 a *conduct a survey*
b *a survey reveals*

Point out that even more collocations (and accompanying examples) are available in the collocations section below.

- 5 *key* – most important; *basic* – most necessary; *demographic* – connected with the population and different groups within it; *important* – of great value; *explanatory* – that explains something

Dependent prepositions

- 6 a *analyses **of** the effects*
b *a background **in** social work*
c *conclude **from** these key trends that the role and function of the sales force ...*

Complement frames in **bold** before the examples: ~ **of sth** *Detailed analysis of earthquake data suggested a subduction zone event.* These draw attention key patterns such as dependent prepositions.

Practice

- 7 Students should be able to write two or three sentences summarizing the information in the table. The first example sentence at **discrimination** will offer them the collocation *experience discrimination* and also the useful word *respondents* for the people who responded to the survey. The first example at **example** offers the collocation *Examples include...*

Suggested text (students may have variations on this):

23% of respondents said they had experienced discrimination in the workplace. Examples included preferential treatment for certain groups and negative treatment for others, such as being refused promotion or training.

- 8 For the extension task, students should think of a research area in their discipline for which they can summarize some general findings in a couple of sentences. They could find a similar figure or infographic as the basis for the task. Encourage them to focus on the key findings and a concise summary rather than getting caught up in irrelevant details.

Useful collocations at the suggested entries include *the study calculated, the study found, produced results, these findings suggest, confirms findings from other research*. As part of the set-up for this task, you could suggest or get students to suggest one or two other key words relevant to the topic they have chosen to look up as well.

Feedback should focus on how successfully the students have made use of the vocabulary, collocations or patterns they found in the dictionary.

Making use of example sentences

This dictionary is rich in example sentences. These examples can tell you a lot about a word; they can help you to better understand the meaning and also show you how to use a word appropriately.

Illustrating meaning

The primary purpose of an example sentence is to support the definition by illustrating the meaning of the word. It gives you a real-world context for what may seem quite an abstract idea.

- 1 Match these definitions and example sentences. Which word in each sentence is being defined?

word	definition	example sentence
	a complicated system of roads, lines, tubes, etc. that cross each other and are connected to each other	<i>Agriculture forms the backbone of the rural economy.</i>
	a system, especially in a society or an organization, in which people are organized into different levels of importance from highest to lowest	<i>China's total road network is now the third longest in the world.</i>
	the most important part of sth such as a system or an organization that gives it support and strength	<i>Rural peasants were near the bottom of the Roman social hierarchy.</i>

word	definition	example sentence
	to be useful or provide an advantage to sb/sth	<i>To qualify for a patent, a product must satisfy certain criteria.</i>
	to provide enough of what sb/sth needs in order to live or exist	<i>The economic changes primarily benefited the elite.</i>
	to provide what is wanted, needed or asked for	<i>There is little appreciation of the role played by complex ecosystems in sustaining life on earth.</i>

Usage information in example sentences

Example sentences are also a rich source of information about *how* words are used. Look at the examples at these entries to answer the questions about how the words are used.

Word order

- 2 Look at the examples in the entry for **clearly**.
- At sense 3, 'in a normal way and without difficulty', does **clearly** come before or after the verb?
 - At sense 2, 'in a way that is easy to see, hear or understand', does **clearly** come before or after the verb?

- c What about at sense 1, 'used to emphasize that what you are saying is obvious and true' – where can **clearly** go in the sentence when it has this meaning?
- 3 Now look at the examples at the entry for **apparently** to see how it is used. Add the adverb **apparently** to each of these sentences in the best place.
- a It is possible to explain these contradictory results.

- b Women living in the Netherlands had twice the risk of developing the disease.

- c A large number of changes can occur over a relatively short time span.

What is the effect on the meaning of each sentence of adding **apparently**?

Collocations

- 4 Look at the entry for **survey**¹ *noun*, sense 1. Read the example sentences and find:
- a a verb you can use before **survey** to describe 'doing' a survey
- b a verb you can use after **survey** to describe what it told you
- 5 Look at the entry for **variable**¹ *noun*, sense 2. Read the example sentences and list 5 adjectives used to describe variables or a variable. Explain what they mean.

Dependent prepositions

- 6 Fill the gaps in these sentences. Look up the **bold** words to help you
- a Comparative analyses _____ the effects of globalization are crucial.
- b She is a historian with a background _____ social work.
- c We may conclude _____ these key trends that the role and function of the sales force have significantly changed.

Did you use anything else in the entry to help you, apart from the example sentences?

Practice

- 7 Use these notes to write a short account of a survey on discrimination at work. Use the examples at the entries for **discrimination** and **example** to help you.

Results of a survey on discrimination in the workplace

Have you been a victim of discrimination at work?	examples
Yes – 23% No – 77%	preferential treatment for certain groups negative treatment – being refused promotion or training

- 8 Now write a short paragraph of two or three sentences, about some research findings in your own discipline. Example sentences at some of these entries may help: **study**¹ *noun* sense 1, **result**¹ *noun* sense 2, **finding** sense 1.