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WAYS OF USING ONLINE DICTIONARIES FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE STUDY

The problem of using online translators and dictionaries for learning foreign language is very disputable. As any tool, they have to be used properly to bring benefits. There are the most popular types of online dictionaries.

Bilingual dictionaries offer direct translations between two different languages. It is an indispensable tool for any serious language learner, and there are still significant benefits to using a paper one over a digital version. However, vocabulary in different languages rarely matches one-to-one or a word can be untranslatable. Some languages have *more nuanced vocabulary than others*, and some use complex grammar patterns to convey a meaning of just one English noun.

Monolingual dictionaries provide definitions in the same languages as the words but they are written using easier vocabulary than the target keyword. This gives an opportunity to review vocabulary in context and with a clear goal. **It is** recommend to use monolingual dictionaries *together with* their bilingual counterparts to figure out which of the available translations fits your needs is to look them up in a monolingual dictionary and peruse the detailed descriptions.

A thesaurus is an indispensable tool, especially for languages relying on a wide range of nuanced vocabulary. **Online thesauri can save you time.** They do not **give detailed definitions** or much insight into grammar and usage, but instead lists vocabulary related to a target keyword: synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, related vocabulary with a broader or narrower meaning.

Grammar dictionary is less-known type. It helps to:

- grasp the nuance between grammar patterns master exceptions to grammar rules
- find more formal or casual ways to express yourself

Where grammar dictionaries excel, is as a place of discovery of new turns of phrases and nuanced ways of conveying the same information. Reading through it chapter by chapter, makes the language more expressive and *learn to think like a native speaker.*

Corpus dictionaries are used to look up word usage in context. Sometimes dictionary information alone is not enough to decide which words or expressions to use. A corpus dictionary allows to search a word, phrase or expression and then highlights it's in a side-by-side view of professionally translated. Particular translation does not come from a verified source and *could be wrong.* Even if the source is verified, *the original document* should be checked to see whether the word use matches the context and style of the work. Especially when translating more culture-specific expressions, browse through the entire list to see how different translators approached the same problem.

Consult a corpus dictionary to find

- equivalents of sayings and set expressions
- translations of seemingly simple words in special contexts

There are many benefits to all online dictionaries, from pronunciation audio, to handwritten lookup, but it is the thesaurus that has benefited the most of digitisation. Unlike in a traditional paper dictionary, where you'd be presented with a never-ending list of words, its online counterpart allows you to quickly click through to the right context. You can then filter words based on complexity, length, usage.