

Name:

Date:

Reading: Analyze Structure and Format

Practice

Reference works such as dictionaries have a certain structure and format. Analyzing the structure and format can help readers find and understand information.

Dictionaries and other reference works include sections explaining their organizational features. These guides appear at the beginning or the end of the book. They can help you recognize and use organizational features.

Study the guide to dictionary entries. Then, answer the questions that follow

Each entry in the dictionary begins with a main entry word in bold print.

Each separate meaning of the main entry word has its own numbered definition.

The main entry word is followed by its pronunciation. To understand the special characters used in the pronunciation, see page xiii.

An explanation of which languages the main entry word originally came from appears in brackets.

The part of speech of the main entry word appears as an abbreviation.

apple (ap' əl) *n.* [ME *appel* < OE *æppel*, fruit, apple] **1** a round, firm fruit with red, green, or yellow skin **2** any of the trees that bear this fruit **3** any of various plants bearing applelike fruits or growths, such as the May apple and the love apple.

1. What information do you expect to find after number 2 in the sample entry?

2. What is the abbreviation for the part of speech of the main entry word?

3. To which page in the dictionary would you turn to understand the symbols in a pronunciation?

4. What type of information appears in brackets in this sample entry?

5. Give the number of the definition that is closest to the meaning of *apple* in this sentence: "To make space for a new shed, we chopped down the apple tree in the corner of the yard."

Name:

Date:

Reading: Analyze Structure and Format

Assess

Study the guide to dictionary entries. Then, answer the questions that follow.

Each entry in the dictionary begins with a main entry word in bold print.

To find synonyms for a word, look for a dash followed by the abbreviation “SYN.” Then look up the word that follows. At the end of the definition for that word will appear a number of synonyms and an explanation of the differences in their meanings.

Some words can be used as different parts of speech. After the first definition, each additional part of speech is marked by a dash, followed by the part of speech and a definition.

guffaw (gu fô', gə-) *n.* [echoic] **1** a loud burst of laughter—burst—**SYN.** LAUGH

v. to laugh in a loud

An explanation of the source of the main entry word appears in brackets. For an explanation of the terms and abbreviations used here, see page xiv.

There may be more than one correct way to pronounce a word. Different pronunciations are separated by a comma. If the only difference is in the first or last syllable, then only that syllable will follow the comma.

1. What is the main entry word in this entry? _____

2. How many different ways can you pronounce *guffaw*? Explain how you know.

3. To which page in the dictionary would you turn to understand the term *echoic*?

4. How many parts of speech can *guffaw* function as? Explain how you know.

5. To figure out the difference between a “guffaw” and a “chortle” (another kind of laughter), what word should you look up? Explain how you know.
