

Finding your way around in the dictionary

Some words in the dictionary have more than one entry. This is because one word can belong to two or more word classes (e.g. noun, verb, adjective, etc). In this example you can see that *delay* has two entries: *delay*¹, which is a noun, and *delay*², which is a verb. Notice the small numbers ¹ and ², which tell you that there are two entries.

delay¹/di'lei/ noun [C/U] ★★ a situation in which something happens later or more slowly than you expected: After a long delay, the plane finally took off. ◆ delay in doing sth Who is responsible for the delay in reaching an agreement?

delay²/di'lei/ verb ★

1[I/T] to do something later than is planned or expected: *They delayed the decision for as long as possible.*

2[T] to make someone or something late, or to slow them down: *His plane was delayed* for five hours.

► Activity 1

How many entries does each of these words have? Which word classes do they belong to?

	word	entries	word classes
a	delay	2	noun, verb
b	delight		
c	demand		
d	diet		
e	dilute		
f	direct		
g	dirty		
h	display		
i	double		
j	drop		

Activity 2

Find the entries for the words and answer the questions.

1 demand

a How many meanings are given for the noun *demand*?

b Which meaning has the example:			
Demand fo	or organic food is increasing.		
c How many meanings are given for the verb <i>demand</i> ?			
d Which	meaning has the example:		
The panel	demanded that the report be made public.		
2 diet			
a How m	nany meanings are given for the noun diet?		
b Which	meaning has the example:		
Try to eat	a balanced diet		
c How m	nany meanings are given for the verb diet?		
d How m	nany meanings are given for the adjective diet?		
3 direct			
a How m	nany meanings are given for the adjective direct?		
b Which	meaning has the example:		
direct fligh	nts from Scotland to North America		
c How m	nany meanings are given for the verb direct?		
d Which	meaning has the example:		
Could you	direct me to the bus station?		
e How m	nany meanings are given for the adverb direct?		
f Which	meaning has the example:		
Vou can hi	uy direct from the manufacturer.		