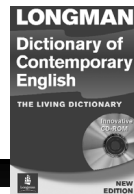


2 Finding the Right Meaning



When words have several different meanings, the **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** starts each new sense with a "signpost", a word or short phrase which helps you quickly find the meaning you need.

political action committee

pace ¹ [wɜːl / pɛts / n]

1 SPEED OF EVENTS/CHANGES [singular] the speed at which something happens or is done

2 WALK/RUN [singular] the speed at which someone walks, runs, or moves: [+of] *You need to step up the pace of your exercises.* | *at a slow/leisurely/brisk etc pace* *Lucy set off at a leisurely pace back to the hotel.* | *He quickened his pace, longing to be home.* | *Traffic slowed to a walking pace.*

3 STEP [C] a single step when you are running or walking, or the distance you move in one step: [+backwards/towards/forwards etc] *He took a pace towards the door.* | *Rebecca walked a few paces behind her mum.*

4 keep pace (with sth/sb) to change or increase as fast



You'll find a complete new edition of the **Longman Language Activator** – the writing dictionary on the CD-ROM to help you expand your vocabulary.

A. Read the following text and look up the shaded words in the dictionary to find out the correct meaning. The first one, **pace**, has been done for you.

We need your support

The **pace** of life gets faster every day and the world around us becomes more and more fragile. Yet we don't seem to be learning any **lessons**. Though many people **support** the principles behind Greenpeace, few turn their support into action.

Greenpeace is **active** in a whole number of ways. But we need your help, whether you can spend time planting trees in your local park, **fighting** to stop the expansion of the motorway network in your area, or protecting the seas around us.

The **volume** of work continues to grow and the **issues** become ever more urgent. Greenpeace needs to be present everywhere that the environment is being decimated and the natural resources of the world are over-exploited. We need to make our voice heard whenever and wherever governments **break** guidelines and ignore agreements. You too can play a role; you can make a difference, whether you have an afternoon to **fill**, need a **break** from your weekend routine, or even if you have just a few **spare** hours after work. Become a volunteer and help to give your world a **chance**.

Which meaning?

1. Speed of events/changes
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

B. Now look at the following definitions, which show other meanings of these words. Write the word that fits the definition best in the right-hand column. You won't need to use every word that is highlighted in exercise A. The first answer has been done for you.

1. A single step when you are running or walking
2. How possible or likely it is that something will happen
3. If your voice does this, it becomes lower and starts to sound like a man's voice
4. A short piece that is read from the Bible during a religious ceremony
5. A magazine or newspaper printed for a particular day, week, or month
6. A book that is part of a set
7. Something that you keep in addition to the one you usually use (e.g. a key)
8. To hold the weight of something, keep it in place, or prevent it from falling
9. Likely to explode at any time

Pace

PHOTOCOPIABLE

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary
English Teacher's Resource Pack
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The Living Dictionary
Your link to living language

Teacher's Notes

2 Finding the Right Meaning

Time: 10–15 minutes

Aims:

■ To encourage students to use the “signposts” in the **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** when looking for specific meanings.

■ To extend their vocabulary.

1. Point out to students that if a common word has several meanings, each one is “signposted” in the dictionary.
2. Focus on the entry for **pace** (noun) in the dictionary extract. There are three different meanings. Ask the class to read the first sentence of the Greenpeace text and to think about which meaning of **pace** is being used.
3. For the other words highlighted in the Greenpeace text the class should decide, with the help of their dictionary, which “signpost” is relevant for this context. They should write their answers in the right-hand column.
4. Explain that in exercise B alternative definitions of the highlighted words in exercise A are given. Ask students to write the word that is being defined in the space on the right.

Answers:

A. 1. speed of events/changes; 2. experience; 3. agree and help; 4. involved; 5. prevent something; 6. amount of something; 7. subject/problem; 8. rules/laws; 9. spend time; 10. stop doing something; 11. time; 12. opportunity

B. 1. pace; 2. chance; 3. break; 4. lesson; 5. issue; 6. volume; 7. spare; 8. support; 9. active