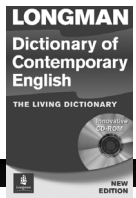


1 Know Your Dictionary



It's worth spending some time getting to know your **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English** so that you can get the most from it.

Look at this extract and see if you can answer the following questions:

people or countries with the same interests, working together: *the former Soviet bloc* → EN BLOC

block



knife block



breeze-block BrE/
cinder block AmE



block of ice

block¹ [s2] [w2] /bɒk \$ blɒk/ n [C]

1 SOLID MATERIAL a piece of hard material such as wood or stone with straight sides → **BREEZE-BLOCK**, **BUILDING BLOCK**, **CINDER BLOCK**: [+of] *a block of ice* | *a wall made of concrete blocks* → see picture at ice¹

2 STREETS/AREA a) AmE the distance along a city street from where one street crosses it to the next: *Head for 44th Street, a few blocks east of Sixth Avenue.* | *The church is down the block.* b) the four city streets that form a square around an area of buildings: *Let's walk round the block.* | *She grew up playing with the other kids on the block.* c) AusE a large piece of land: *a ten acre block near the city*

3 LARGE BUILDING a large building divided into separate parts: [+of] *a block of flats* | *an office block* | *an apartment block* | *the school science block*

4 QUANTITY OF THINGS a quantity of things of the same kind, considered as a single unit: [+of] *New employees receive a block of shares in the firm.* | *a system for storing large blocks of data* | *Set aside blocks of time for doing your homework.*

5 block booking/voting an arrangement that is made for a whole group to buy something or to vote together

6 INABILITY TO THINK [usually singular] the temporary loss of your normal ability to think, learn, write etc: *I have a mental block whenever I try to remember my password.* | *After his second novel Garland had writer's block* (=he could not write anything).

7 STOPPING MOVEMENT [usually singular] something that prevents movement or progress: [+to] *a major block to progress* → **ROADBLOCK**, **STUMBLING BLOCK**

8 PUNISHMENT the block in the past, a solid block of wood on which someone's head was cut off as a punishment

9 put your head/neck on the block to risk destroying other people's opinion of you or losing your job by doing or saying something: *I'm not prepared to put my head on the block for him.*

10 SPORT a movement in sport that stops an opponent going forward or playing the ball forward

11 SELL go on the block to be sold, especially at an AUCTION: *\$500 million worth of art will go on the block.* →

1. In this extract, what part of speech is **block**?
2. What is the American English for **breeze-block**?
3. What does the expression **put your head on the block** mean?
4. Are the British and American pronunciations of the word **block** the same? If not, how do they differ?



On the CD-ROM you can hear the British and American pronunciations of every word in the dictionary by clicking on the loudspeaker icon at the top left of your screen. Test your own pronunciation too!

5. Is **block** countable or uncountable? Where in the dictionary entry does it tell you this?
6. Which meaning of the word **block** is being used in this example?
"42nd Street is two blocks from here on the right."
7. Where in the world does the word **block** mean "a large piece of land"?
8. What do the phrases **office block**, **apartment block** and **block of flats** all refer to?
9. How common is the noun **block** in spoken English?
10. What does **block voting** mean?
11. What does it mean if you get **writer's block**?
12. If your car is **going on the block**, what is going to happen to it?

PHOTOCOPIABLE

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

Teacher's Notes

1 Know Your Dictionary

Time: 20–30 minutes

Aims:

■ To introduce students to key features of the **Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English**.

1. Divide the students into pairs. They should turn the work-sheets over so they can't read the questions.
2. Tell the students that the quiz will be timed and that they should tell you once they've finished. For each question they get wrong, 2 minutes will be added to their score.
3. Say that all the information they need is in the extract.
4. Time how long each pair takes to finish. Maximum time allowed is 10 minutes.
5. Redistribute the papers so that different groups mark each other's work.

Answers:

1. **Block** is a noun here.
2. Cinder block.
3. To risk destroying other people's opinion of you or losing your job by doing or saying something.
4. No; the American pronunciation uses the longer / ɑː / while British English uses / ɒ /.
5. Countable; the information is in the first line of the dictionary entry – [C].
6. Streets/area.
7. Australia.
8. Large buildings.
9. It is in the 2000 most common spoken words.
10. An arrangement that is made for a whole group to vote together.
11. You cannot write anything.
12. Your car is going to be sold, especially at an auction.