

Definitions

Aim: To support students in their understanding and use of how to write short and extended definitions.

Time: 60 minutes & homework task.

Delivery: This lesson can be delivered face-to-face or online. For online delivery, each worksheet could be placed in a class document on OneDrive.

Lead in

- Distribute or project **worksheet 1**. Students complete **task 1**: discussion.
- Feedback¹: nominate students to give some answers, but don't go into too much depth with question 4.
- Feedback²: distribute or project your **assessment criteria** if you have one. Point out where definitions are assessed.
- Students complete task 2: noticing.
- Feedback: distribute **worksheet 1 task 2 ANSWERS**.

Language Review: short definitions

- Distribute or project the language review. Students read and discuss rules.

Guided Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 2**. Students complete **task 1**: reorder sentences.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: Gap fill activity.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 2 task 2 ANSWERS**.
- Distribute or project **worksheet 3**. Students complete **task 1**: write definitions using the given prompts.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 3 task 1 SUGGESTED ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: identifying the missing definitions in a paragraph.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 3 task 2 ANSWERS**.

Language Review: extended definitions

- Distribute or project the language review. Students read and discuss rules.

Guided Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 4**. Students complete **task 1**: gap fill activity.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 4 task 1 ANSWERS**.
- Students complete **task 2**: identifying errors in an extended definition.
- Feedback: distribute or project **worksheet 4 task 2 ANSWERS**.

Freer Practice

- Distribute or project **worksheet 5**. Students complete **task 1**: writing an extended definition.
- Feedback¹: students do peer feedback. Use the included **checklist**.
- Feedback²: distribute or project **worksheet 5 task 1 SUGGESTED ANSWER**.

Homework

- Students find an article related to their area of study and notice how the definitions have been used.
- Students choose a topic connected to their studies and write an extended definition.
- Teachers take in and mark. Use our error correction code. <https://www.academic-englishuk.com/correction-code>

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Worksheet 1: Introduction to definitions

Task 1

- Answer the questions about definitions and then compare with a partner.

i. What are definitions?

ii.

iii. When should they be used?

iv.

v. How will your use of definitions be assessed on the course you're currently on?

Task 2

- Read the following definitions. Use different colour pens to illustrate **the thing being defined**, **the definition language** and **the definition**.

i. The term 'cyborg' refers to an organism which has both biological and technical components.

ii. Pythagoras' Theorem _____ states that the square of the hypotenuse is _____ two sides.

iii. Space physics is for _____ naturally in the solar system.

iv. Stockholm Syndrome is _____ connection to a kidnapper.

v. Multiculturalism can be defined as _____ of its members are acknowledged and respected.

Language Review: Short Definitions

Task 1

- Read the language for giving definitions. Which ones do you usually use? Discuss with a partner.

Term being defined + be + class + relative clause

Example

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) is [redacted] from seeing or experiencing a traumatic event.

By which, whereby

Example

In sociology, assimilation is the process whereby a [redacted] himself/[redacted] some part of their existing culture.

For + ing

Example

A Bunsen burner is used for [redacted] flames.

Be defined as/ modal be defined as

Example

Holistic medicine can be defined as a [redacted] medical approaches in order [redacted] wellbeing through the mind, body, and soul.

Common verbs: describe, refer to, signify etc.

Example

The term endangered refers to [redacted] is in danger of extinction.

Adjectives: be associated with, characterised by, equated with etc.

Example

The condition mania is commonly associated with [redacted]

For more phrases go here: <https://www.phrasebank.manchester.ac.uk/writing-definitions>

Worksheet 2: Guided Practice

Task 1

- Reorder the sentences to make correct definitions. Compare with a partner when you've finished.

i. that contains an equals symbol an equation a mathematical expression can be defined as.

ii. refers to [redacted] of heat between solids and gases.

iii. an object in outer [redacted] of dust [redacted]
'meteoroid'.

iv. biotic and [redacted] together an environment where a single
habitat to form.

v. programs or applications coding to create and [redacted] describes
the process of.

Task 2

- Complete the gaps in the definitions with the language (term and class) from the table and the verb 'to be'. Compare with a partner when you've finished.

Term being defined	Class
Carbon capture and storage [REDACTED]	Chemistry [REDACTED]
Boyle's law [REDACTED]	Acronym Neurological condition
Populism	[REDACTED]

- i. _____ which states that the pressure (p) of a given quantity of gas varies inversely with its volume (v) at a constant temperature.
- ii. _____ which [REDACTED] it is released into the atmosphere.
- iii. _____ which helps learners to remember the order of mathematical [REDACTED] multiplication, addition and subtraction.
- iv. _____ in which a person's brain function begins to deteriorate as [REDACTED] declining.
- v. _____ whose objective is to appeal to the will of the common or [REDACTED]

Worksheet 3: Guided Practice

Task 1

- Write definitions of the following terms using the prompt in brackets. Compare with a partner when finished.

- i. 3D printing _____
_____ (by which)
- ii. Geometry _____
_____ ()
- iii. _____
_____ (be defined as)
- iv. Asthma _____
_____ ()
- v. _____
_____ (in which)

Task 2

- Read the following paragraph on big data. The writer has missed the opportunity to add three definitions. Which words would you have defined? Add the definitions below and then compare with a partner.

Big data

Big data can be defined as large volumes of both structured and _____ come from a _____. In analytics, some of its main uses can be found in machine learning and predictive maintenance.

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____

Language Review: Extended Definitions

Sometimes students have to write extended definitions to show that they have understood a complex term in depth. You can extend by using:

1. **Examples:** To provide further illustration of an idea in a context more familiar to the reader.

E.g, *Natural language [redacted] and decipher human language and make decisions based on the information received. A well-known example of [redacted] assistant, Alexa.*

2. **History:** To show when the [redacted] evolved (if applicable).

E.g, *Web 2.0, which was first coined in 1999 and later popularised in 2004, is generally defined as [redacted].*

3. **Classification:** To show how the term fits into a larger category.

E.g, *[redacted] of cryptology, the study of [redacted] are analysed for weaknesses or potential leaks.*

4. **Comparison:** To show how the [redacted] in the same class.

E.g, *Nativism is similar to nationalism in that citizens of a nation are loyal to it, but the key difference is that nativists believe [redacted] the nation.*

5. **Contrast:** To show how the term is different from others in the same class.

E.g, *Although both abnormal [redacted] which deal with mental illnesses, clinical psychology focuses more on the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders, whereas abnormal [redacted] of behaviour.*

6. **Description:** To list the [redacted]

E.g, *Photovoltaic cells absorb the energy of light through a semiconductor which is converted into electricity via an electrical current and then [redacted] on the solar cell.*

7. **Etymology:** To explain [redacted] term.

E.g, *The term ectothermic, from the Greek *ektós* meaning 'outside' and *thermos* meaning 'hot', describes animals which rely [redacted] their body temperature.*

8. **Cause and effect:** To show how it started and what effect it has.

E.g, *Stellar black holes can be described as the collapse of the centre of individual stars which causes such huge [redacted] consumed, leading [redacted] hole.*

Worksheet 4: Guided Practice

Task 1

- Complete the extended definition using the words from the box. Compare with a small group when you've finished.

categorised which coined whereby derived

Augmented Reality (AR), which was first _____ in the 1990s and is _____
_____, is defined as the technology that superimposes computer-
generated images over _____ reality (VR), _____ a
more _____ be _____ as either
markerless and marker-based. A notable _____ which can give more
_____ to it when _____ it, compared to
markerless, for example *Pokémon Go*, _____ relies _____.

Task 2

- Identify the five errors in the extended definition. Compare with a small group when you've finished.

Dementia, from the Latin *demens* means 'out of one's mind', is a progressive neurological condition in
which a _____ central nervous system gradually declining. It
was usually thought to be a natural part of the _____ that it is
predominantly _____ as Alzheimer's or Parkinson's
disease, whereby reduce the number of nerve cells, causing the brain to shrink. It is characterised with
several difficulties _____ trouble managing emotions and
experiencing hallucinations. It is _____ over, but it can
occur in people as young as 30.

Worksheet 5: Freer Practice

Task 1

- You're going to write an extended [redacted]. Spend 5 minutes planning and then try and write between 50-100 words.

Write your definition here...

Task 2

Peer feedback

- Swap your extended definition with another pair for some feedback. Use the checklist to help you with your analysis.

Have your partners...	Yes / No / Not Sure
Written a well-organised paragraph?	
[redacted] ?	
Used accurate definition language?	
Used the [redacted] ?	
Extended using examples, history, classification etc..?	

Homework

- Find an article related to your area of study. Read through and highlight the definitions. What language has been used to introduce each definition? Can you find an extended definition? How has the writer extended it? Look back at the 'language review: extended definitions' to help you.
- Select a topic from your subject and write an extended definition.

Definitions ANSWER KEY

Worksheet 1

Task 1

- i. *Definitions are statements explaining the meaning of a word or phrase.*
- ii. *To show your tutors that you understand key terms, and to ensure that there is no misunderstanding with your audience.*

ALL ANSWERS AER INCLUDED IN THE PAID VERSION...