

Dictionary Skills:

What you can learn from a dictionary entry

Spelling	Pronunciation	
hem·or·rha·ge	(hēm'ər-īj)	<i>n.</i>
<p>1. Excessive discharge of blood from the blood vessels, profuse bleeding. 2. A copious loss of something valuable:</p>		Part of Speech
<p><i>a</i></p>		Definition
<p><i>hemorrhage of profit</i></p>		Examples
<p>◆ <i>v.</i> -rhaged, -rhag·ing,</p>		Variations
<p>-rhag·es <i>intr.</i> 1. To bleed copiously. 2. To undergo a rapid and sudden loss. <i>-tr.</i> To lose (something valuable) rapidly and in quantity</p>		
<p>[Ult. < Gk. <i>Haimorrhagiā</i> : <i>haimo-</i>, <i>hemo-</i> + <i>-rrhagiā</i>, <i>rrhagia.</i>] ◆</p>		Etymology
<p>hem'or·rhag'ic (hēm'ə·rāj'īk)</p>		
<p><i>adj.</i></p>		

Spelling:

The dictionary entry gives the correct spelling of a word (and sometimes variant spellings). This is generally in boldface and may include syllable markings.

Pronunciation:

Next, the entry tells the proper pronunciation for the word. This may include alternate pronunciations. Accent marks tell which syllable is accented. Check the key in the front of your dictionary to figure out how to pronounce unfamiliar symbols.

Part of Speech:

Before a specific definition, the dictionary will tell you which part of speech the word is. Sometimes a word can be multiple parts of speech. In that case, the dictionary lists each with the proper definition following the part of speech declaration.

Definition:

Definitions are numbered for easy reference. Often, multiple definitions are very similar.

Examples:

For difficult definitions, the dictionary may give an example of how the word is used in a sentence or phrase—in this case, it describes *a hemorrhage of profit*

Variations:

When a word ending can be changed to make the word a different part of speech, the new ending may be given without repeating the entire word. To figure out what the new word is, remove the last syllable of the main word, and add the new ending

Parts of Speech:

<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>def.art.</i>	definite article
<i>indef.art.</i>	indefinite article
<i>interj.</i>	interjection
<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>v.</i>	verb
<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>sing.</i>	singular
<i>tr.</i>	transitive
<i>intr.</i>	intransitive
<i>aux.</i>	auxiliary
<i>pref.</i>	prefix
<i>suff.</i>	suffix
<i>abbr.</i>	abbreviation

Etymology:

The entry may give the *etymology* or historical origin of the word. The etymology may include the root words from the other language that are combined to create the word being defined. Etymologies generally use abbreviated language names—you can usually find a list of abbreviations used in the front of the dictionary.