

# Using a dictionary entry to find out the shades of meaning

Master the reading strategy!



## What is a shade of meaning?

- a subtle difference between the multiple meanings of a word or phrase

## How to find out the shades of meaning of a word in its dictionary entry?

- see if the word's part of speech matches any that comes before the definition
- replace the word being questioned in the passage with each provided definition to figure out which one fits best contextually

## Let's have a closer look!

At puberty, teenagers become very much eager to identify their capabilities and develop their potential in order to prepare themselves for adulthood. At this stage of life, they tend to become acutely conscious of peer acceptance, which makes them very concerned about how their friends think about them and whether they are able to fit into a social circle. Therefore, they might try especially hard to impress others with, for example, extraordinary academic results or outstanding sports performance so as to gain **recognition**.

The phrase 'they might try especially hard to impress others' is placed right before the clause. It implies that the word is about teenagers' desire for peer acceptance, which is related to admiration and respect.

What does the word 'recognition' mean?

- A. (n.) agreement that something is true
- B. (n.) the admiration or respect shown to one's achievements
- C. (n.) the fact that one knows someone because one has seen or heard of him or her before
- D. (n.) the fact that one knows something because one has had experience of it before

## Let's practise!

Ever since its release, the animated film *Frozen* has managed to capture many children's hearts. On hearing the intro of its smash hit theme song, nearly every little girl would get excited and, fantasising that she is Princess Elsa, would start dancing to (while singing along to) that mesmerising tune—with white gloves, of course, and that iconic hairstyle. Some adults are no doubt peeved at such feverish, absurd behaviour. But there are others who look at them with an approving eye, thinking that such light-heartedness and imagination, which are in fact precious qualities often eclipsed by dignified adulthood, are demonstrated beautifully in these children's play-acting.

What does the word 'capture' mean?

- A. (v.) to catch someone or something by force
- B. (v.) to record or photograph something
- C. (v.) to take control of something
- D. (v.) to make someone interested in or fall in love with something