

# INTRODUCTION

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There is a growing trend across the world for teaching school subjects in English. This movement is known as CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning), but also comes under a variety of other names, for example EMI (English as a Medium of Instruction), LAC (Language Across the Curriculum), CBI (Content-based Instruction) or CBLT (Content-based Language Teaching). The *Macmillan Study Dictionary* has been specially prepared for students learning school subjects through the medium of English. It contains a wide range of features to support successful study in any of the main school subjects, but what makes the *Macmillan Study Dictionary* unique is the research that underlies every aspect of its design and content.

In planning the dictionary, we began by creating a database from hundreds of textbooks used for teaching the school curriculum. This database – which forms a ‘corpus’ of 22 million words on every subject from agriculture to zoology – was analysed using state-of-the-art software. Using this data, we built up a detailed picture of the vocabulary that is essential for studying school subjects at secondary level. This gives us a reliable, scientific basis for selecting the words we include in the dictionary and for deciding how much information we need to provide about each word. But the corpus helps us in other ways too. It shows us how ideas and terms are explained in the textbooks which students actually use in the classroom, and this gives us a model for our own definitions.

Besides analysing this corpus of school texts, we have consulted experienced teachers, textbook writers, and syllabus designers. Their expert advice has helped us to form a clear idea of what secondary school students really need to know. Thanks to this combination of computer technology and human expertise, we are confident that the information in the *Macmillan Study Dictionary* is not only up to date, accurate, and easy to use, but also perfectly adapted to the needs of its users.

As well as explaining general English vocabulary, the dictionary provides a wealth of useful material, making it a powerful resource for self-study. Its special features include:

- Over 10,000 words from 30 major subject areas in the school curriculum, from economics, IT and engineering, to health, social studies, and tourism
- Authentic, natural example sentences drawn from our curriculum corpus
- Helpful definitions, which are factually accurate and written in easy-to-understand language
- Over 150 specially commissioned illustrations, which help explain systems and processes such as the carbon cycle, the digestive system, and the generation of electricity
- Dozens of usage boxes with information about synonyms, word families, and other ways of building vocabulary
- A unique 38-page reference section, which includes a Study Skills section with advice on writing essays, preparing for exams, interpreting data, and so on, useful encyclopedic and scientific information, and much more besides

The *Macmillan Study Dictionary* is the product of extensive research backed by modern technology. We hope that you enjoy using it, and we are confident that it will help you to gain success in your studies and your exams.