**What does it mean to understand a word?**

### Using a dictionary

1. **Match the underlined words in a-f with the relevant part of their dictionary entries. Give the part of speech and meaning.**

1. NASA is planning to send a probe to explore the asteroid belt.

2. When Julie arrived home, she looked pale and worried.

3. The pale winter sun provided little warmth.

4. A police car came belting round the corner with its siren on.

5. I don't think giving the TV a belt is going to make it work!

6. Unusually, she has dark skin and pale blue eyes.

1. **Rewrite sentences a-f replacing the underlined words with one of the dictionary entries for *pale* and *belt*.**

Example: When his car wouldn't start, he hit it. When his car wouldn't start, he gave it a belt.

a. Drivers and passengers should fasten their seatbelts even for short journeys.

b. Just shut up! I can't hear myself think!

c. His salary is nothing in comparison with the amount of money his wife earns.

d. Some of the comedian's jokes were completely unacceptable.

e. The van was tearing along the motorway at 140 kph.

f. As the last song of the concert, the band loudly performed *America the Beautiful.*

1. **Look up the nouns in the right-hand column below and match the adjectives with the nouns that collocate with them.**

main smoker

high language

broad hopes

heavy wit

strong grin

sharp road

1. **Look up these words, which all mean *small*, and decide which of them are more formal than *small*, and which are less formal.**

tiddly\_\_\_\_\_\_diminutive\_\_\_\_\_\_teeny\_\_\_\_\_\_titchy\_\_\_\_\_\_infinitesimal\_\_\_\_\_\_wee

**5. Now put these adjectives, which all have similar meanings, in order of formality.**

1. drunk wrecked inebriated

2. \_\_\_sleep crash slumber

3. catch apprehend nick

4. declaim witter on talk

5. steal appropriate pinch

6. mega excellent wondrous

**Identifying words that go together**

### In defence of rote learning

It is often said these days that the 'Google generation' has access to so many facts online that memorization is a waste of time. Learning by heart, or 'rote learning', is seen as not only pointless, but also mindless. People argue that it doesn't require any intelligence or creativity. But how can people use their minds creatively if there's nothing actually memorized and stored in there? How do you create something from nothing?

And, in fact, far from being a waste of time, memorization actually helps the brain to develop. Research shows that people who were required to learn things by heart at school are better able to focus on their work as adults.

Sure, you can use a calculator these days, but isn't it actually quicker and easier to know your multiplication tables? If you just know these basic things, that frees up your brain power for bigger and better things.

Think about it. How would you feel about having surgery with a doctor who had just had to look up how to do it on Google? Expertise is developed through hours of learning, practice and memorization.

## 9 reasons why your first year at university will be the best of your life

Luke Hastings

*The people, freedom, Freshers' Week, and the night life are just some of the reasons why freshers‑to-be should look forward to next month*

If you’ve got the grades and have chosen to go to university, then you’ll no doubt be getting prepared for your experience to start. You’ve been working for your entire educational career to get to this moment. You’ve finally got here and trust me – it was worth all that hard work. Speaking as a student who’s just finished his first year at university, here are the reasons why I think yours will be the best of your life:

### ****1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

In most cases, the people you meet will be the people you are friends with for the rest of your life. Whatever your interests, you will find a group of people just like you. Remember, everyone is in the same boat when they go to university. Everyone is finding their feet just like you are, so don’t worry – you will find someone who likes you. I met so many great people and the ones you meet will play a huge part in ensuring you have the best year of your life.

### ****2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

The independence you get at university is unbelievable, so embrace the fact the world is your oyster. If you fancy a walk at 4am, you can do it. There’s no asking your parents, you just go. Of course, I wouldn’t advise a stroll in the middle of the night, but it’s what I always think about when considering the freedom you have. The independence on offer is an essential factor as to why the first year is so brilliant.

### ****3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

I know what you’re thinking: work?! Yes, unfortunately it’s a (relatively) big part of your first year, but don’t worry. The first year is very much for settling in to life away from home, in a new place, and with new people, so they don’t expect magic from you from day one. However, it’s important to try and balance your social life with your work, because doing well in my first year has opened up so many doors that will help me in my second year and in my career too, hopefully. I love my course and, without it, I couldn’t have had the best year.

### ****4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

It’s incredible – the best part of the year. You get to know your flatmates and meet new people, all in a great environment where everyone just wants to have a good time. You effectively become nocturnal and your sleeping pattern is completely destroyed, but it’s all fun and definitely worth immersing yourself into. You only get one Freshers’ Week, so make the most of it!

### ****5. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

There is a society for just about everything and if you can’t find the one you’re looking for, then start one. Getting involved with societies is a great way to find friends, have fun, and pad out your CV. Getting involved will really enhance your experience at university.

### ****6. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

Now this one may surprise you. You might be thinking: ‘What will I do without my mum’s cooking?’ Well, the independence you have means that you have the licence to buy any food you want. For example, one of my flatmates loved pasta, so had it for every meal – breakfast, lunch and dinner. No joke. For me, it was all about chicken steaks, chips, and beans, but each to their own. In your first year, you will either learn to cook, eat microwave meals, or pass out (I would avoid the last option).

### ****7. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

Halls are a great place to live if you’re lucky enough to get a room, but if not, your house will still be great. Your flatmates will become everyday regulars in your life. You will live with them, hold their hair after a rough night out, and maybe even fall in love with them (you never know). My flatmates really made my first year what it was incredible.

### ****8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

Whether in university, on nights out, or in halls, the atmosphere of first year life is priceless and brilliant. On the whole, everyone seems to be happy and buzzing, which adds hugely to the entire university experience.

### ****9. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_****

Finally, one of the most important things that will make your first year so great is your own self development.  Moving away from home is a huge thing and, at times, it may be hard being away – but the people around you will always pick you up. Soon after you arrive, you forget you have a family at all! Family? What family?! Seriously though, I grew and matured so much over the course of my first year. You will each go through your own journeys and trust me: you will have the best year of your life.

So, savour every moment because it goes way too fast. I had an excellent one, and I hope you will too. Good luck!

Adapted from *The Independent*