



78 FREE DICTIONARIES TO LEARN A LANGUAGE

Access the best online
dictionaries used by polyglots



Want to reduce the clutter, stop lugging around heavy books, save a tree, *and* save money? Then start using online dictionaries, for free!

Regular dictionaries are not only bulky and expensive; they also go out of date very quickly. Languages are constantly changing and that means new words are added and removed from the dictionary.

Online dictionaries are not only a more convenient way to look up and learn new words, more often than not they are also supported by passionate communities, so you can ask questions and discuss topics in their forums.

There are two types of dictionaries that we will cover in this eBook, multilingual and bilingual dictionaries.

Multilingual Dictionaries

Multilingual dictionaries such as [Wordreference](#), [Bab.la](#), [Google Translate](#) are perfect for learning more common everyday terms.

However, if you're looking for words and terminology that are more specialised and technical, then don't look past [Proz term search](#), the [Interactive Terminology for Europe](#) and [Mymemory](#).

Don't be fooled! Just because multilingual dictionaries reference multiple languages, that doesn't mean they aren't as powerful as your single or specific language dictionaries. Quite often you will find they are just as good, if not better.

Other types to emerge are the monolingual dictionaries which are available in multiple languages, such as [The Free Dictionary](#) (to access other languages just click the flags on the left column).

A very powerful bilingual dictionary is [Linguee](#), which provides real life examples of your search term in context rather than just a translation or definition.

A major player when it comes to learning European languages is my personal favourite, [Wordreference](#). It's more than a dictionary, it's a very power tool. Not only does it provide word definitions, idiomatic expressions and examples, it also gives you conjugations of all the verb tenses, so you can throw out your verbs books as well.

In addition, [Wordreference](#) forums users are very active. If there is something you're unsure about or if you're in need of a specific term or expression, the odds are there is someone who will help you.

Another rising star is [Google Translate](#). I remember just a few years ago when you translated a term then translated it back it would return something completely different. Today, its translations are becoming more and more accurate providing not only better results but it's expanding and including more languages.

Another great way to remember a word is by visualisation. Cue the most powerful image resource in the world, [Google Images](#). Instead of relying on direction translations, use photos and infographics to help you gain a deeper understanding as well as aid in memorising it.

Bilingual and Monolingual Dictionaries

In order to learn a language faster and start thinking in that language, I highly recommend you not rely too much on bilingual dictionaries. It's easy to fall into the trap of accepting translations in your native tongue. Instead, by using monolingual dictionaries you gain a deeper understanding by seeking out definitions explained in the language you are learning. By practicing this method, you won't have the tedious tasks of having to translate everything back into your mother tongue.

If you're serious about learning a language, then you should always opt to use monolingual dictionaries from the beginning. Below I've included as many of these as possible.

If you know of any other free dictionaries you find useful, please write to me at michele@theintrepidguide.com and I'll include them.

If you're after a monolingual dictionary for a language that isn't listed below, then check out the extensive list of languages at [Wiktionary](#) and use the one in your target language.

This list is in alphabetical order. Let's get started!

Afrikaans

<http://longman-hat.co.za/> - A monolingual dictionary with translations in English

Chinese (Mandarin)

[Iciba](#)

[Youdao](#)

[Dict.cn](#)

[Zhonga](#)

[Zdic](#)

[MDBG](#)

[5156edu](#)

[Moedict](#) - For a more Taiwanese perspective

[Baidu](#) - For Chinese-Chinese dictionaries

Chinese (Cantonese)

[CantoDict](#)

Czech

[Slovnik](#)

[Seznam](#)

<http://prirucka.ujc.cas.cz/> - Lacking in definitions, this one is great for conjugations and word inflections

Dutch

<http://www.vandale.nl/> - Bilingual and monolingual

Egyptian Arabic

<http://www.lisaanmasry.com/online/search.php> - An absolutely essential resource for those of you learning the Egyptian dialect of Arabic!

English

[**Oxford dictionaries**](#) - Their online searchable monolingual English database contains 145,000 words and definitions. Perfect for anyone wanting to learn English.

[**Collins dictionary**](#) - This is a great monolingual dictionary with several bilingual options as well.

[**Urban dictionary**](#) - A great resource that I often use to find new English slang and acronyms that I'm not familiar with

[**Cambridge Learner's dictionary**](#)

Esperanto

<http://lernu.net/> - This dictionary works with a plethora of language combinations (Esperanto-English/French/Dutch/Polish/Norwegian. etc.)

[**Reta Vortaro**](#) - Very popular with many Esperantists

<http://esperanto-panorama.net/vortaro/eoen.htm> - Not as extensive as the ones above, but you can look through the entire list of terms alphabetically.

<http://vortaro.net/> - This is a monolingual Esperanto dictionary available after completing a free registration.

French

<http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires> - Larousse's site is great for both their bilingual dictionaries, and for their French-French dictionary.

<http://littre.reverso.net/dictionnaire-francais/> - Probably one of the more popular online monolingual dictionaries used by the French themselves

[Le grand dictionnaire terminologique](#) - Quebec's official dictionary - very useful for technical terms.

<http://www.crisco.unicaen.fr/des/> - French monolingual dictionary of synonyms!

<http://dictionnaire.sensagent.com/a/fr-fr/> - A monolingual dictionary.

German

dwds.de - This monolingual German dictionary goes into great detail for each word, including incredible context tabs and etymology.

<http://www.duden.de/> - Offers heaps of information for each word

<http://dict.leo.org/> - Ability to search directly between German and English/Spanish/French/Italian/Polish/Russian/Portuguese/Chinese, with many translations.

<http://www.dict.cc/> - Another great choice for a bilingual German dictionary.

<http://de.pons.eu> - Another fantastic alternative, that also has a lot of combinations other than German-English. Note that you can use this as a great dictionary for Norwegian and other languages, as long as you use it through German.

<http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de>

Greek (Classical)

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/resolveform?redirect=true>

Hebrew

<http://www.morfix.co.il/>

Hungarian

<http://szotar.sztaki.hu/angol-magyar> - A bilingual dictionary which also includes Hungarian to other languages.

<http://topszotar.hu/angolmagyar/> - Another bilingual option

Irish

<http://irishdictionary.ie/> - Great single word dictionary, with accent mark clicks included if your keyboard isn't configured yet. It also has verb conjugations.

<http://focal.ie/> - This dictionary is great for technical terms

<http://www.potafocal.com> - A great alternative if you don't find what you are looking for in the above two links.

Italian

<http://www.treccani.it/vocabolario/italiano/> - An extensive monolingual Italian dictionary

Japanese

<http://www.excite.co.jp/dictionary/> - Both monolingual and bilingual

<http://dictionary.goo.ne.jp/> - This lets you look up a monolingual dictionary, a bilingual one and a Japanese-Chinese dictionary all at the same time!

<http://www.alc.co.jp/> - Includes a lot of example sentences

<http://jisho.org>

<http://tangorin.com/>

<http://dic.yahoo.co.jp/>

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/cgi-bin/wwwjdic.cgi?1C> - For Japanese to English

<http://www.sanseido.net/>

Korean

<http://m.endic.naver.com/> - Bilingual!

<http://www.zkorean.com/english-korean-dictionary>

Latin

<http://www.latin-dictionary.org/>

Polish

<http://polish.slavic.pitt.edu/polish/>

<http://ling.pl/>

Portuguese

<http://www.dicionarioinformal.com.br/> - A complete monolingual dictionary

<http://www.priberam.pt/dlpo/> - A monolingual dictionary with both a European and a Brazilian search options for Portuguese

Russian

[Multitran](#)

Sign Language

<http://www.spreadthesign.com/> - Not very extensive, but it separates the signs based on country.

Spanish

<http://lema.rae.es/drae> - A monolingual Spanish dictionary from the

Real Academia Española

<http://www.tubabel.com/> - A monolingual Spanish dictionary of slang,
a Spanish version of Urban Dictionary mentioned earlier

<http://www.spanishdict.com> - A good bilingual Spanish dictionary

Swedish

<http://www.ord.se/>

<http://g3.spraakdata.gu.se/saob/>

Turkish

<http://www.seslisozluk.net/>

Welsh

<http://www.geiriadur.net/>

And here we are, the end of this small guide. Congratulations on finishing it!

I really hope you enjoyed reading this guide and that these 78 dictionaries will help you in your language learning journey.

My goal was to help you save time and discover the tools I believe are essential to learning and improving your target language. Now you don't need to spend days combing the web for resources, and now you have suggestions to immediately put into practice.

However, just reading this guide isn't enough, we urge you to take action and to discover and try out the different tools we listed. We assure you that it's worth it.

To conclude, remember that these tools can not do everything for you. Nobody can learn on your behalf, and it will always be up to you to put in the effort. But with the right tools, your task will be much easier!

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This will allow you to keep in touch with me and receive more tips and tricks. With all the encouragement in the world, I wish you success!