

## Dictionary – Help Resource Guide

Engaging students in crafting their own dictionaries is a helpful exercise that encourages them to monitor their own learning and engage in a habit that will support them in becoming autonomous learners. You can have your students create basic dictionaries but you can also bring some fun into the exercise by inviting them to create image or GIF dictionaries.

**GIF-tionary Directions:** Create a GIF-tionary or an Illustrated Word Map to support students in learning vocabulary needed for a discipline. Your GIF-tionary should include:

1. A brief statement or bullet points that provide context of what the Gif-tionary is for (e.g., language objective, content area, grade level, English proficiency levels of students)
2. 8-12 words that are needed for a specific objective or content area
3. An image or GIF for each term/phrase
4. A student-friendly definition for each term (i.e., a definition that students in your context would be able to understand without any/very little explanation from you)
5. OPTIONAL: Teach something about Word Origins through your GIF-tionary
3. [Word Origin Dictionary](#)
4. [Some Phrases](#)

Keep in mind that - like any definition created for students learning English - for a GIF-tionary to be effective, the visuals and definitions must be accessible. That means you need to consider students' backgrounds. For example, would your 6th grade students understand a GIF reference to the X-Files? Thanksgiving? Have they been in contexts or situations that would have given them that exposure? Do your students have the language resources to access a definition like "A metaphor is a figure of speech that describes an object or action in a way that isn't literally true, but helps explain an idea or make a comparison" or do you need to swap out or explain terms?