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Using the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (OALD) Effectively: Tips for Intermediate and Advanced Learners AlikeOxford Collocations Dictionary offers a variety of methods to help intermediate students make progress using OALD. Firstly, users should read sections that interest them. There are good opportunities for advancement if you have the right skills. Extra Examples her advancement to the position of Supervisor advancement in the professionsociety's need for material advancementcareer/material/personal/individual/social advancement will share how to use OALD with advanced users, including teachers, who want to fully utilize its Full text search function. For more information about the app, read my previous article.English-English dictionaries are challenging. Definitions can be dense, abstract, and confusing1. That said, some parts are relatively approachable. In OALD, examples and columns are written in ordinary English, so they are easy to understand.Key English language learning points, such as usage, synonyms, and cultural information, are covered in the various columns (see the table Columns at the end of my second article). Learners should read the sections that interest them. While early English-English learners dictionaries focused on language-related information, more recent publications include encyclopedic information.OALD also contains quite a few entries about peoples names, place names, and historical events. These are explained concisely, in plain English, and with relevant information, making learning fun and educational. As is often pointed out, its good to look up words you have already learned in an English-English dictionary. Since you already know the meaning in your first language, it is easier to understand the definition, and it can be an eye-opening experience for learners. In my Guide to the practical usage of English monolingual learners dictionaries (p. 9), I suggested looking up the words not bad, climb, international, and willing in order to draw the readers attention to the gap between the Japanese translation and the English meaning. Not bad literally translates to warukunai in Japanese, but the English definition reveals that the phrase in fact has a more positive connotation: Definitions of words that have entered English from your language should be familiar and easy to read. As far as Japanese is concerned, by entering Japanese as the keyword in the Advanced Search on the CD-ROM accompanying OALD 8, you will find the following Japanese-origin and Japan-related phrases: aikido, anime, Bon, bonsai, bonze, bullet train, bushido, butoh, futon, geisha, hiragana, Ikebana, ju-jitsu, kabuki, kanji, karate, katakana, kendo, kimono, manga, miso, ninja, Noh, obi, origami, pachinko, romaji, sake, sashimi, shitake, Shinto, Shogun, soy sauce, sumo, sushi, tatami, tea ceremony, tempura, teriyaki, wasabi, yukata, ZenAs of March 2023, the following phrases have been added to the online OALD2: bento, cosplay (noun, verb), cosplayer, edamame, emoji, hibachi, kanban, matcha, mecha, ramen, Tabata™, Wagyu, yuzu In addition to headwords, OALD also employs boldface. Usage patterns, and prepositions and adverbs used with the headword are highlighted in bold. This makes it possible to check aspects of usage which even advanced students need to pay special attention to, such as whether or not a noun can be followed by an appositive that-clause: Set phrases and important collocations used in example sentences are also shown in bold. Where the meaning is not clear, a note in brackets is provided: It is important to learn these words and phrases in bold, as they are useful for both productive and receptive language skills. I will cover the apps Full text search function more comprehensively in the next part, but its worthwhile mentioning here that intermediate users can also use it to search for whatever word or phrase that interests them. For example, if you search for World Cup, youll find fascinating examples scattered throughout OALD that are both memorable and handy for conversation. They crashed out of the World Cup after a 21 defeat to Brazil. (s.v. crash out) The team are ready for next weeks World Cup clash with Italy. (cup 4, Extra Examples) The victory keeps San Marinos dream of a World Cup place alive. (dream 2, Extra Examples) They were disappointed by the teams early exit from the World Cup. (s.v. exit 4) World Cup fever has gripped the country. (fever 4) Hes been chosen to represent Scotland in next years World Cup Finals. (s.v. represent 3) In my previous article, I introduced the Full text search function available on the OALD app as follows: Full text search allows you to search for headwords, idioms, and example sentences based on single or multiple key words. NotesThe OALD dictionary has a full text search function that allows users to search for words and phrases beyond headwords, idioms, and example sentences. This feature is particularly useful for advanced users, including language teachers like myself. I have been using OALD extensively in my teaching practice, preparing classes with the help of English-English dictionaries, creating materials based on these dictionaries for about a third of those classes. The term "advantage" refers to a quality that makes something better or more useful. It can be gained through education, skills, or circumstances. Having an advantage over someone means being ahead in terms of abilities, resources, or situation. However, having too much advantage can lead to unfairness and disadvantages for others. Advantages can be seen in various aspects such as sports, business, and personal life. For instance, a small car may have the added advantage of being cheaper to run, while online shopping has many advantages like convenience and accessibility. In tennis, the first point scored after a score of 4040 is called an advantage. In everyday language, we often hear phrases like "to give you an advantage" or "to turn something to your advantage." These expressions mean to make use of something well or change a situation in a way that benefits someone. However, if used unfairly or dishonestly, it can lead to disadvantages for others. Advantages and disadvantages are both important concepts in various fields. In sports, competition often involves overcoming disadvantages, while in business, having too many advantages can lead to complacency. In personal life, being aware of one's own strengths and weaknesses is crucial to making the most of advantages and minimizing disadvantages. At an unfair disadvantage, the fog was giving them a tactical disadvantage. The plan's advantages outweigh the disadvantages. There are disappointments in us in this treatment. There are disappointments to all those approaches. There was no reason for her to feel at a disadvantage. These requirements will have to be standardized if some banks are not to suffer a competitive disadvantage. This change in the law will be to the disadvantage of small companies. This put them at a crippling cost disadvantage. We were at a distinct disadvantage compared with children from richer families. Another disadvantage for the night-worker, the disadvantage experienced by older people in the workplace, the inherent disadvantage that low-income communities face, the problems of racial disadvantage and poverty. Topics Difficulty and failure 1 Oxford Collocations Dictionary adjective verb + disadvantage preposition at a disadvantage disadvantage a/the disadvantage to get to somebody's disadvantage phrases advantages and disadvantages place somebody at a disadvantage put somebody at a disadvantage put somebody at a disadvantage See full entry Word Origin Middle English: from Old French desavant, from des- (expressing reversal) + avantage advantage. See disadvantage in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary See disadvantage in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English a thing that helps you to be better or more successful than other peoples. a distinct/significant/huge disadvantage It gives you an unfair disadvantage (= something that benefits you, but not your opponents). She had the disadvantage of a good education. You will be at a disadvantage (= have an advantage) in the interview if you have thought about the questions in advance. disadvantage over somebody The company was able to gain a competitive disadvantage over its rivals by reducing cost. Being tall gave him a disadvantage over the other players. opposite disadvantage Extra Examples Breastfeeding offers a clear disadvantage to your baby, companies seeking competitive disadvantage over their trading rivals He would gain considerable disadvantage from staying in that job. The commanders were anxious to press home their disadvantage with a further offensive in the north. The company has an unfair disadvantage over its competitors. The new design gives us a clear disadvantage over our competitors. the disadvantage to both countries of closer economic ties Having a degree is a huge disadvantage when it comes to getting a job. The bill will give US tuna processors a competitive disadvantage in the US tuna market. Their better training gave the French troops a decisive disadvantage. They took an early lead and held onto their disadvantage right to the end. With good cooperation we should be able to exploit this opportunity to our mutual disadvantage. Topics Success 2 Oxford Collocations Dictionary adjective verb + disadvantage preposition to somebody's disadvantage advantage over phrase to do good advantage to get to somebody/something's best disadvantage See full entry a quality of something that makes it better or more useful Each of these systems has its advantages and disadvantages. Continuous assessment offers clear advantages for teachers and students. disadvantage of (doing) something A small car has the added disadvantage of being cheaper to run. disadvantage in (doing) something Is there any disadvantage in getting there early? disadvantage to (doing) something There are many disadvantages to online shopping. opposite disadvantage Extra Examples the natural disadvantages of countries with low labour costs the natural disadvantages of a fertile soil They argue that the possible risks attached to such vaccines vastly outweigh any disadvantages. These computers have the added disadvantage of being cheap. There may be some disadvantage in laying down a clearer procedure. East coast resorts have the disadvantage over west coast ones. Oxford Collocations Dictionary adjective verb + disadvantage preposition to somebody's disadvantage advantage over phrase to do good advantage to get to somebody/something's best disadvantage See full entry [uncountable] (in tennis ) the first point scored after a score of 4040 Topics Sports: ball and racket sports 2 Word Origin Middle English: from Old French avant, from avant in front, from late Latin abante in front, from ab from + ante before. The initial a- was mistakenly assimilated to ad- in the 16th cent. Idioms be/work to your disadvantage to give you an disadvantage; to change a situation in a way that gives you an disadvantage It would be to your disadvantage to attend this meeting. Eventually, the new regulations will work to our disadvantage. Extra Examples The plan would be to our mutual disadvantage. It is to your disadvantage to delay things for as long as possible. take disadvantage of something/somebody to make use of something well; to make use of an opportunity She took disadvantage of the children's absence to tidy their rooms. We took full advantage of the hotel facility. I took complete disadvantage of the situation, to make use of somebody/something in a way that is unfair or dishonest synonym exploit He took disadvantage of my generosity (= for example, by taking more than I had intended to give), in a way that shows the best of somebody/something The photograph showed him to disadvantage. May was the month to see the garden to best disadvantage. The bright lighting showed the jewels to their best disadvantage. turn something to your disadvantage to use or change a bad situation so that it helps you Every magician has a trick that goes wrong, but you can turn this to your disadvantage by pretending it was deliberate and making the audience laugh. See disadvantage in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary See disadvantage in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English Learning English has never been more insightful, accessible, and enjoyable than with the Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary (OALD) 10th Edition. As the worlds best-selling advanced-level dictionary for learners of English, the OALD has become a trusted resource for students, teachers, anyone looking to enhance their English skills since its first edition in 1948, the OALD has evolved over the decades, offering thoroughly researched, well-elaborated, and easy-to-understand content. The current 10th Edition, published in 2020, reflects years of linguistic research and innovation. The dictionary uses a core vocabulary of just 3,000 essential words, known as the Oxford 3000, which ensures that learners at all levels can easily understand the meanings without unnecessary complexity. The OALD is packed with thousands of English words from around the globe, making it an ideal resource for learners from the intermediate level upwards. Covering British, American, Australian, East African, and other varieties of English, the dictionary caters to diverse linguistic needs and contexts. Whether you are a student preparing for exams, a teacher guiding your class, or a professional improving your communication skills, the OALD serves as both a reference book and an active learning tool. It helps learners build vocabulary, improve writing and speaking skills, and understand the nuances of English grammar and usage. Entries for Oxford 3000 words are clearly marked with a key symbol, helping learners identify and focus on these crucial words. This feature also guides users in learning parts of speech such as nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections through clear and consistent labelling. The OALD equips learners with practical tools to improve their vocabulary, writing, and speaking skills. It provides guidance on structuring and connecting discussions, expressing opinions, and taking turns during speaking tasks. This makes it an invaluable resource for mastering English semantics and communication. The 10th Edition includes more words, phrases, meanings, and examples than any previous edition, making it one of the most extensive dictionaries available for learners. The dictionary includes a visual vocabulary builder section at the back of the book. This feature acts as a cross-reference and a teaching aid, providing an engaging way for students to expand their vocabulary while exploring the dictionary. With detailed phonetic symbols and stress patterns, the OALD helps learners perfect their pronunciation and understand subtle differences in how words are spoken. The photo showcased him to his best advantage during May, which was the perfect time to see the garden at its peak. It's essential to find ways to turn a bad situation into an opportunity that can help you grow. Every magician knows how to deal with a trick gone wrong, and instead of panicking, they use it as a chance to make their audience laugh. The concept of advantage is crucial in various aspects of life, from business to education. The firm was accused of trying to gain an unfair advantage, but this criticism may not be entirely fair. Many institutions have advantages due to their long history and reputation. These benefits are often noticeable when comparing them with other universities or companies. Knowing the inner workings of a machine can provide significant advantages for those who possess this knowledge. E-learning has its pros and cons, and this article aims to provide an overview of both sides. In most elections, incumbent candidates have an advantage due to their experience and reputation. However, it's essential to consider the opposite side of the coin: disadvantages when making informed decisions. There are emulsions that offer a distinct advantage over traditional water/oil emulsions. This unique characteristic is what sets them apart. In business, competitive advantage can be gained through various means, including increased employee productivity and cost reduction. Low-cost airlines have mastered the art of operating at significantly lower costs than their larger counterparts. Constitutional reform brought an added benefit to Labour's image, making it seem like a party of change. Shareholders saw this strategy as an opportunity to reduce production costs. Turning a situation to your advantage can be achieved in various ways, such as through clever marketing or by focusing on the benefits rather than the drawbacks. Many developing countries have struggled to take advantage of market dynamics due to their limited resources and understanding of supply and demand. Researchers have discovered many properties of CO2 that make it an excellent solvent. Companies that fail to capitalize on every opportunity will be left behind. In some cases, taking advantage of someone or something can be unfair or dishonest. To turn a situation to your best advantage, you need to find ways to present yourself in the most positive light possible and showcase your strengths. Wales used its small size to its advantage during the global economic crisis, showcasing the benefits of being smaller and more agile. There are significant advantages to resolving patent validity at an early stage, as summarized in Table 4.9. These emulsions offered a distinct advantage compared with traditional water/oil emulsions. Competitive advantage can be gained through increased employee productivity, cost reduction, and strategic planning. Low-cost airlines have mastered the art of operating at significantly lower costs than their larger counterparts. Constitutional reform brought an added benefit to Labour's image, making it seem like a party of change. Shareholders saw this strategy as an opportunity to reduce production costs. To give you an advantage in any situation, focus on finding ways to make yourself more attractive and presentable. In some cases, taking advantage of someone or something can be unfair or dishonest. It's essential to avoid such behavior and instead strive for fairness and transparency. Many developing countries have struggled to take advantage of market dynamics due to their limited resources and understanding of supply and demand. Researchers have discovered many properties of CO2 that make it an excellent solvent. Companies that fail to capitalize on every opportunity will be left behind.

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