

Lesson 62:

Practice Using a Thesaurus and a Concordance

Thesaurus

A thesaurus is a reference book or online tool that lists words with similar meanings (synonyms) and sometimes words with opposite meanings (antonyms). It helps writers find alternative words to enhance their vocabulary and improve their writing by avoiding repetition and finding the most precise word to express a concept.

When writing, you might find yourself using the same words repeatedly. A thesaurus helps you find other words that can convey the same idea, adding variety and depth to your writing.

By using a thesaurus, you can expand your vocabulary and choose the most appropriate word to express your ideas effectively.

A paper thesaurus is usually organized alphabetically. You simply look up the word you want to use, using the guide words at the top of the page to help you know if your word is on that page. Then, read the list of synonyms for your word. Pick the word that best fits your need.

PRACTICE:

What are some other words that you could use instead of “nice”?

Bible Concordance

What is a concordance?

A Bible Concordance is an alphabetical list of all the words used in the King James Version of the Bible. It lists all the Bible verses in which those words are found. The most popular concordance is Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. In addition to listing all the words used in the Bible, it gives the Hebrew (the language that the Old Testament was originally written in) and Greek (the language that the New Testament was originally written in) words that were translated into English. It also gives the English definitions of those Hebrew and Greek words.

How do you use a concordance?

Let's say you want to look up and find a Bible verse that talks about "peace". So, first you look up the word "peace" in the front part of the concordance. This word is used many times in the Bible. First, you read through all the references, which are listed in Biblical order (Genesis and all the Old Testament books first, followed by

Matthew and all the New Testament books second). Then, let's say that you read the reference to peace in Numbers 6:26, "upon thee, and give thee p" (note that the word is abbreviated with only the first letter). You will see that after the Bible verse, the number "7965" is given. Since Numbers is in the Old Testament, this is the number of the Hebrew word for peace. So, now flip forward in the concordance to Strong's Concise Dictionary of the Words In the Hebrew Bible. Find the number 7965. There, you will see the Hebrew letters that spell the word "shalom", and read that this word means "safe, well, happy, friendly, welfare, health, prosperity, peace".

Now, let's say that you remember that one of the fruits of the Spirit is peace, and you want to figure out where in the Bible it is. You remember that it is in the New Testament. So you go back to front section, to the word "peace" again, and start looking through the verses. You find what you are looking for! You see this entry:

of the Spirit is love, joy, p.....Gal 5:22 1515

Since Galatians is in the New Testament, the number 1515 refers to a Greek word. So, you flip forward to the Strong's Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament,

and find the number 1515. First, the dictionary spells it using Greek letters. Then, it gives the English version: *Eirene* (pronounced i-ray-nay); and it means “peace, prosperity, quietness, rest”.

PRACTICE:

Where is the verse in Psalms that says, “in thy presence is fulness of **joy**”? What does the word “**joy**” mean?

Where in the New Testament does Peter talk about adding charity to brotherly kindness? What is the Greek word for **kindness**? What does the word **kindness** mean?
