

GETTING STARTED: YOUR NEEDS

- I. Do this task in pairs. Look at the list of reasons for using a bilingual dictionary and put them in the order of importance they have for you. (1 = the most important, 10 = the least important). Tell your partner why you have chosen this order.

A BILINGUAL DICTIONARY IS USEFUL...

	1-10
a. to check the spelling of English words	
b. to learn pronunciation and stress	
c. to find out the Italian/English translation of words you see in a book or magazine	
d. to find out the grammatical function of a word (e.g. noun, adjective, verb) and the grammatical and syntactic information connected with it	
e. to find out if a word has more than one meaning	
f. to find out how one word works with another (collocations, idioms)	
g. to learn/find out the meaning of phrasal verbs	
h. to learn about vocabulary building	
i. to identify the differences in spelling, pronunciation and form between British English and American English words (i.e. to identify different varieties of English)	
j. to use the different registers of the language (formal, informal, colloquial etc.) correctly and appropriately	

II. Browse through the dictionary and complete the following table. In which part of the dictionary and/or entry can you find the relevant information? How is the information presented?

Type of information	English-Italian section	Italian-English section	Grammar and lexical notes
Pronunciation			
Grammatical category			
Words having more than one grammatical category: how is this shown?			
Gender of nouns (feminine, masculine)			
Plural of words: regular or irregular?			
Irregular form of verbs			
Countable and uncountable nouns			
Words with more than one meaning: how is this shown?			
Identification of the correct translation: what type of information helps you?			
Words requiring a specific preposition			
Specialist terms			
Register and rhetorical indications: colloquial, formal, figurative, etc.			