

## MEANING AND TRANSLATION

When a word is polysemous, i.e. it has more than one meaning, the dictionary generally lists meanings in order of frequency. The meanings are in order of descending frequency, with the most frequent and/or general meaning being explained first. The order is marked by a series of Arabic sense numbers listed in ascending order (1, 2, 3, 4, etc.). For example, the adjective *firm* has 6 different meanings:

► **2.firm** /fɜ:m/ I agg. **1** (*hard*) [*mattress*] duro; [*fruit*] sodo, duro; [*handshake*] energico; **to get a ~ grip on sth.** tenere stretto qcs.; **to give sth. a ~ tap, tug** dare un colpo, uno strattone deciso a qcs. **2** (*steady*) [*table, ladder*] fermo, stabile, saldo **3** FIG. (*strong*) [*foundation, base, basis*] solido, sicuro; [*grasp*] sicuro; [*friend*] fidato, fedele; **one must keep a ~ grip on the facts** bisogna attenersi rigorosamente ai fatti; **it's my ~ belief that** è mio fermo convincimento che; **the ~ favourite** il grande favorito **4** (*definite*) [*offer, commitment*] stabile; [*intention, assurance, refusal*] fermo; [*date*] definitivo; [*evidence*] concreto, sicuro **5** (*resolute*) [*person, voice, purpose, response*] fermo (**with sb.** con qcn.); [*stand, leadership*] saldo; **he needs a ~ hand** bisogna guidarlo con mano ferma **6** ECON. [*pound, dollar, yen, market*] stabile **II** avv. **to stand ~** stare saldo; FIG. mantenere le proprie convinzioni; non cedere (**against** a); **to remain o hold ~** [*currency*] rimanere stabile (**against** in rapporto a).

The words that appear in round brackets and italics before the various translations of *firm* (*hard, steady, strong, definite, resolute*) represent the first essential guide for the dictionary user to the identification of the correct semantic field. These words are called **sense indicator glosses**. Look at the following examples for:

**fiendish** /'fi:ndrɪʃ/ agg. **1** (*cruel*) [*tyrant*] crudele, malvagio; [*cruelty*] spietato; [*expression, glee*] diabolico; **to take a ~ delight in sth., in doing** provare un piacere perverso per qcs., nel fare **2** (*ingenious*) [*plan, gadget*] diabolico, ingegnoso **3** COLLOQ. (*difficult*) [*problem, job*] infernale **4** COLLOQ. (*awful*) [*traffic*] infernale, spaventoso, micidiale.

**chiassoso** /kjas'soso/ agg. **1** (*rumoroso*) [*persona, folla, strada*] boisterous, clamorous, noisy; [*bambino*] rowdy; [*musica, festa*] loud **2** (*sgargiante*) [*colori, vestito*] loud, gaudy, noisy.

As sense indicators are introduced to make the meaning of the word clearer and more precise, they are usually **synonyms** or very short explanations of the headword itself. *Cruel, ingenious, difficult* and *awful* are synonyms of the different meanings of the word *fiendish*, as well as *rumoroso* and *sgargiante* are synonyms of the two different meanings of the Italian adjective *chiassoso*.

Sense indicator glosses are always in the language of the user, i.e. in English in the English-Italian section and in Italian in the Italian-English section of the dictionary. They are especially useful to those who are looking for the most suitable translation in order to express themselves clearly and correctly in the foreign language.

The presence of sense indicator glosses in the same language as the headword is a proof of the **bidirectional** layout of the dictionary, which aims to be accessible and user-friendly to both Italian and English mother-tongue speakers.