Working with a dictionary

1. PHRASAL VERBS – check what the phrasal verb “put” means in conjunction with the following prepositions. Match the two correct expressions.

(to) put sb up   (to) ignore or forget sth
(to) put sth off  (to) accept sb/ sth is annoying
(to) put up with sb/ sth  (to) change sth to a later time or date
(to) put sb down  (to) let sb stay at your home
(to) put sth aside  (to) make sb look or feel stupid

2. PHRASAL VERBS - check the meaning of the following phrasal verbs. Put them into one of the two categories.

check out  try sth on  set out  take sth off  wear sth out  get away
take off  pick sb up  change back into sth  grow out of sth  put sth on
touch down

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3. ABBREVIATIONS – look up the meaning of the following abbreviations.

WHO __________________ GPT __________________
IMF __________________ GDP __________________
UN __________________ PLC __________________
GB __________________ CBI __________________
MP __________________ TUC __________________
MEP __________________ OBE __________________
4. **PRONUNCIATION** – sometimes it’s hard to know how to pronounce a place name in English. All the cities below have a silent letter (a letter that is not pronounced). Underline the silent letter.

Durham    Lincoln    Warwick
Connecticut    Pittsburgh

5. **REGISTER** – your dictionary contains a number of labels which tell you how formal or informal a word is, and in which situations you can use them. Here are some of the labels: _technical, informal, disapproving, ironic, formal, taboo_. Check the list on the inside front cover of your dictionary to make sure you understand their meaning.

All of the following words mean “small”. Decide which of them is more formal than “small” and which are less formal than “small”.

- **tiddly** – _diminutive_ – **teeny** – **titchy** – **infinitesimal** – **wee**

Put the following adjectives, which all have similar meanings, in order of formality.

- **drunk** – **wrecked** – **inebriated**
- **sleep** – **crash** – **slumber**
- **catch** – **apprehend** – **knick**
- **declaim** – **witter on** – **talk**
- **steal** – **appropriate** – **pinch**
- **mega** – **excellent** – **wondrous**

6. **BRITISH VS AMERICAN ENGLISH** - are the following words used in British or American English?

- biscuit    postbox
- cookie    roundabout
- centre    schedule
- film    timetable
- lorry    tin
- mailbox    truck
- movie    color

7. **MEANING OF WORDS** – finally look up the meaning of the following words. Write down the definition given in the dictionary.

- wellington boots
- apparel
- contempt (n.)
- Oxbridge
- Boxing Day
- Ivy League