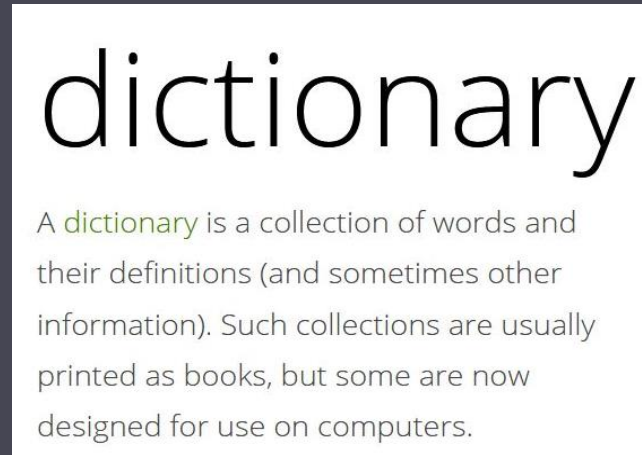
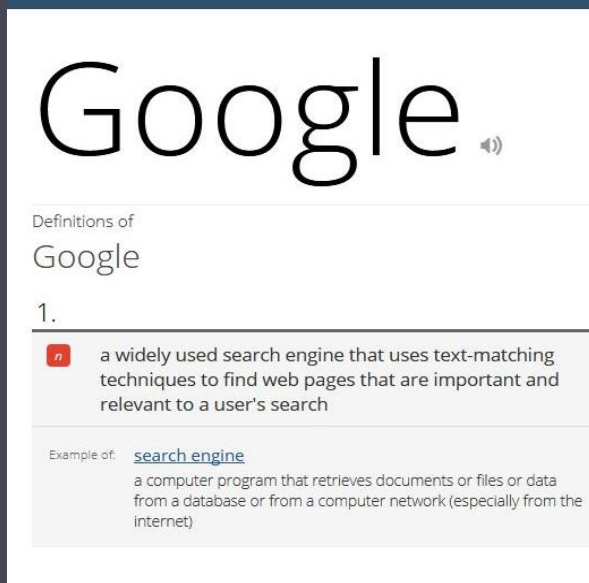


And What Does Google Say? – Web Search Results under Scrutiny: From Traditional to Web-Based Lexicography



Mojca Šorli
University of Ljubljana
E-mail: mojca.sorli@guest.arnes.si



The aims of the study – research questions

Set 1

- What do we get when looking for linguistic information on Google?
- What does Google (predominantly) suggest?
- What kind of resources and linguistic information dominate among the suggested topmost results?

Set 2

- What models of meaning description are adopted by the topmost resources?
- How much emphasis is placed on usage and evaluative meanings by these resources and how does this relate to the type of resource?

Motivation

- Generalisations about users' search preferences: users resort to Google rather than individual (web-based or electronic) dictionaries. But what does it actually mean?
- What are we looking at when “consulting Google”?
- What are the directions that (new) language resources - professionally edited or collaborative - are taking in their approach to meaning description (length and complexity of description, usage, evaluative function)?

Methodology

First page of Google results for each search.

Two sets of manual searches for the 11 lexical units (12 June and 11 July 2018).

The aim: to include examples of different parts of speech, individual words and phrases, evaluative meanings – a partly random selection:

ASCETIC

**A PANOPLY OF
CONUNDRUM**

CUT-RATE

DEVASTATE

MATERIALISTIC/MATERIALISM

MINORITIZE

**ON THE VERGE OF
PLETHORA**



TAKE A DECISION

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

crux of the matter. Also, heart of the **matter.** The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, In this trial the bloodstains represent the **crux of the matter**, or We think the second clause is the heart of the **matter.**

Crux of the matter | Define Crux of the matter at Dictionary.com

www.dictionary.com/browse/crux-of-the-matter

 About this result  Feedback

Crux of the matter | Define Crux of the matter at Dictionary.com

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crux of the matter. Also, heart of the **matter.** The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, In this trial the bloodstains represent the **crux of the matter**, or We think the second clause is the heart of the **matter.**

Crux of the matter - Idioms by The Free Dictionary

<https://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/crux+of+the+matter> ▼

crux of the matter. Also, heart of the **matter.** The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, In this trial the bloodstains represent the **crux of the matter**, or We think the second clause is the heart of the **matter.**

Crux of the matter - definition of crux of the matter by The Free Dictionary

<https://www.thefreedictionary.com/crux+of+the+matter> ▼

Define **crux of the matter**. **crux of the matter** synonyms, **crux of the matter** pronunciation, **crux of the matter** translation, English dictionary definition of **crux of the** ...

the heart / crux of the matter (phrase) American English definition and ...

<https://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/.../the-heart-crux-of-the-matter> ▼

Define the heart / **crux of the matter** (phrase) in American English and get synonyms. What is the

crux - Dictionary Definition : Vocabulary.com

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/crux> ▼

People are always trying to get to the **crux** of a **matter** or the **crux** of a problem, while others try to distract them. The noun **crux** is often followed by the phrases "of the **matter**" or "of the problem." When people are trying to identify the **crux** of something, it's like they want to get to the heart of it.

expressions - Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make ...

<https://english.stackexchange.com/.../does-the-crux-of-the-matter-in-this-phrase-make...> ▼

Mar 18, 2017 - It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive ...

expressions - Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make sense ...

<https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/379023/...crux-of-the-matter.../379035> ▼

It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive phrase: "Even ...

crux | Definition of crux in English by Oxford Dictionaries

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/crux> ▼

Definition of **crux** - the decisive or most important point at issue. ... 'the **crux of the matter** is that attitudes have changed'. More example sentences. 'I think that ...

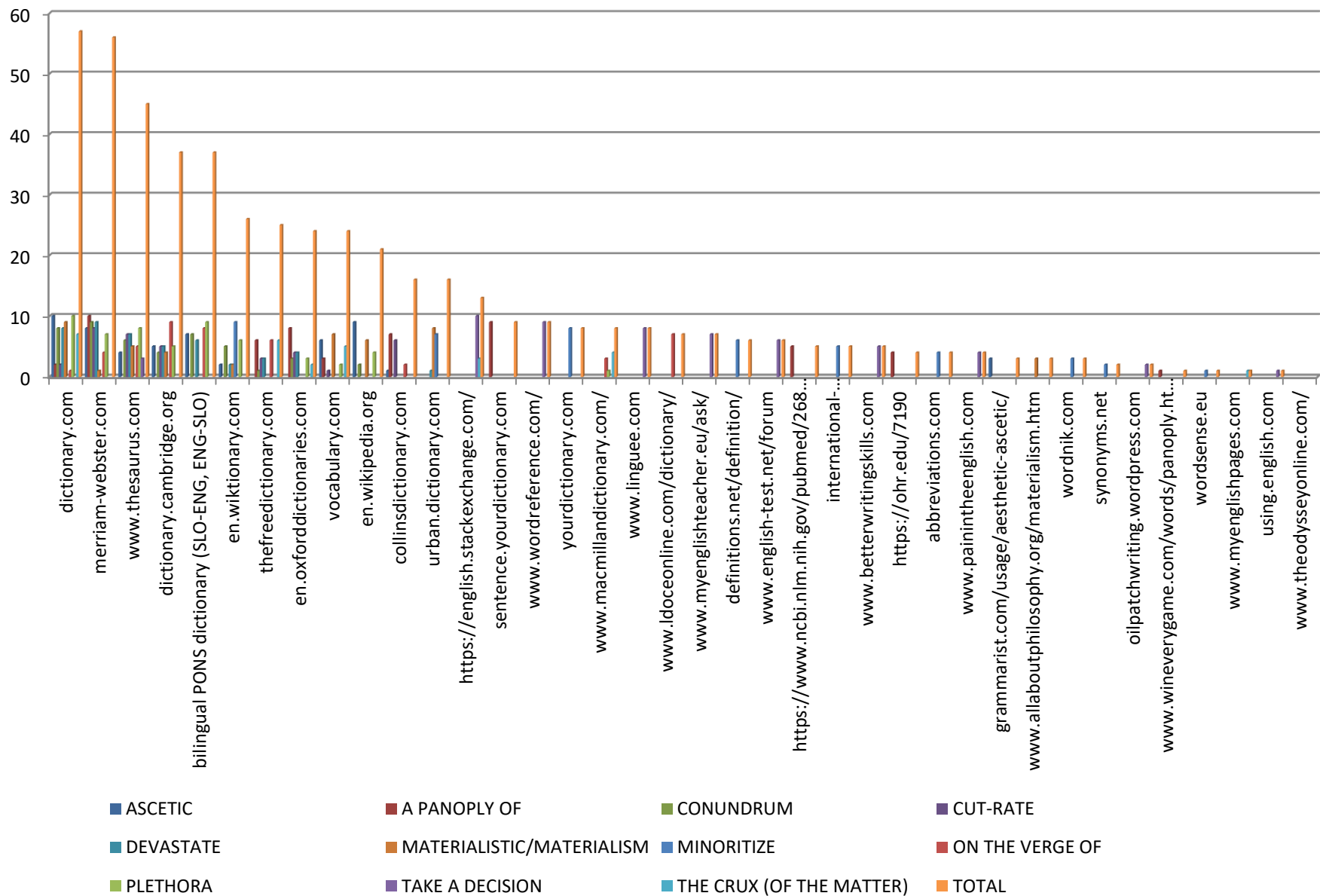
Meaning of crux of the matter - My English Pages

https://www.myenglishpages.com/site_php_files/random-idiom.php?c=857 ▼

crux of the matter. The phrase **crux of the matter** refers to the most important point of an issue. Another related idiom is heart of the matter. Crux has a Latin origin ...

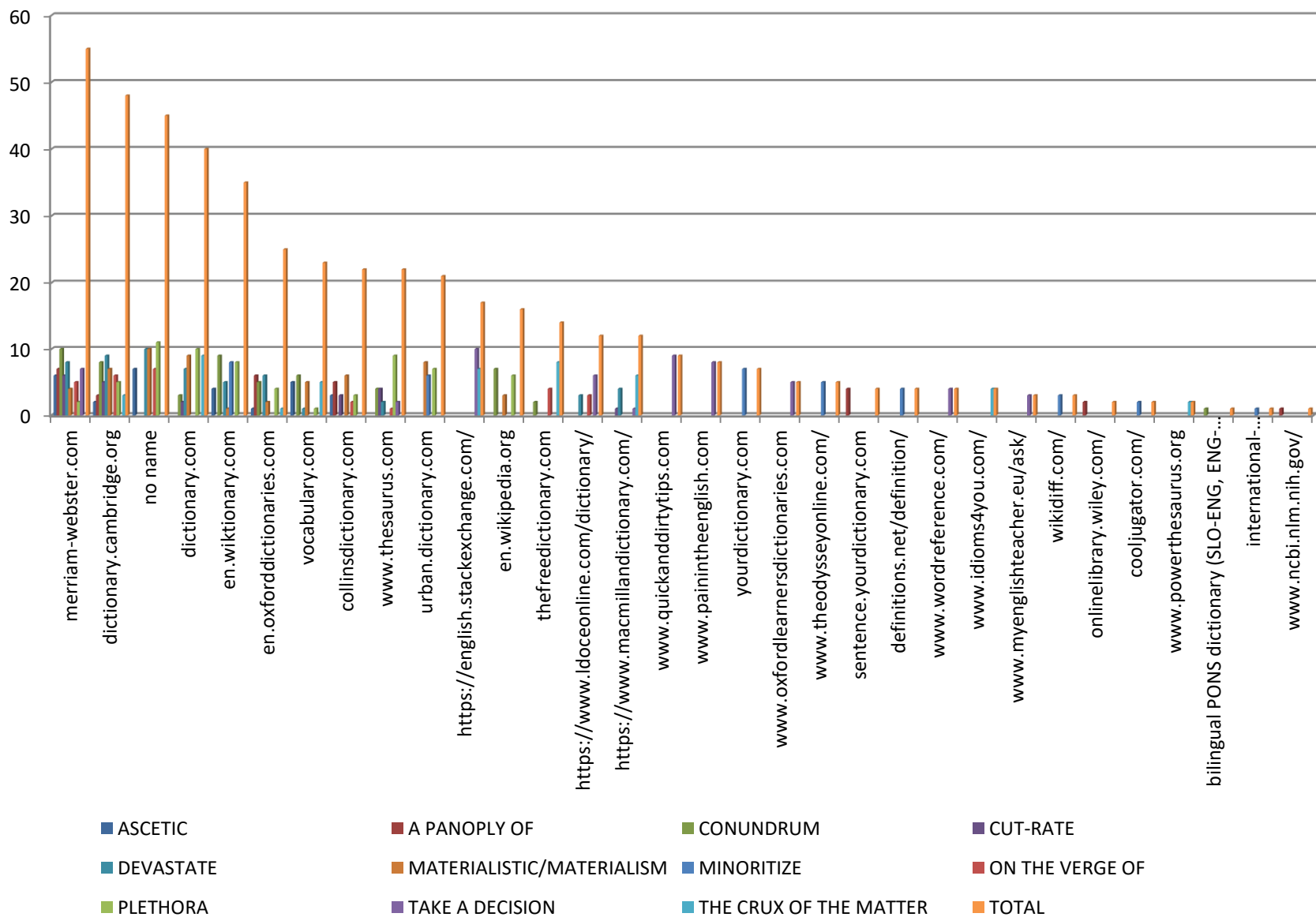
Results collected on 12 June 2018

dictionary.com					57		
merriam-webster.com					56		
www.thesaurus.com					45		
dictionary.cambridge.org					37		
bilingual PONS dictionary (SLO-ENG, ENG-SLO)					37		
en.wiktionary.com					26		
thefreedictionary.com					25		
en.oxforddictionaries.com					24		
vocabulary.com					24		
en.wikipedia.org					21		
collinsdictionary.com					16		
urban.dictionary.com					16		
<i>https://english.stackexchange.com/</i>					13		
<i>sentence.yourdictionary.com</i>					9		
www.wordreference.com/					9		
yourdictionary.com					8		
www.macmillandictionary.com/					8		
<i>www.linguee.com</i>					8		
www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/					7		
<i>www.myenglishteacher.eu/ask/</i>					7		
<i>definitions.net/definition/</i>					6		
<i>www.english-test.net/forum</i>					6		

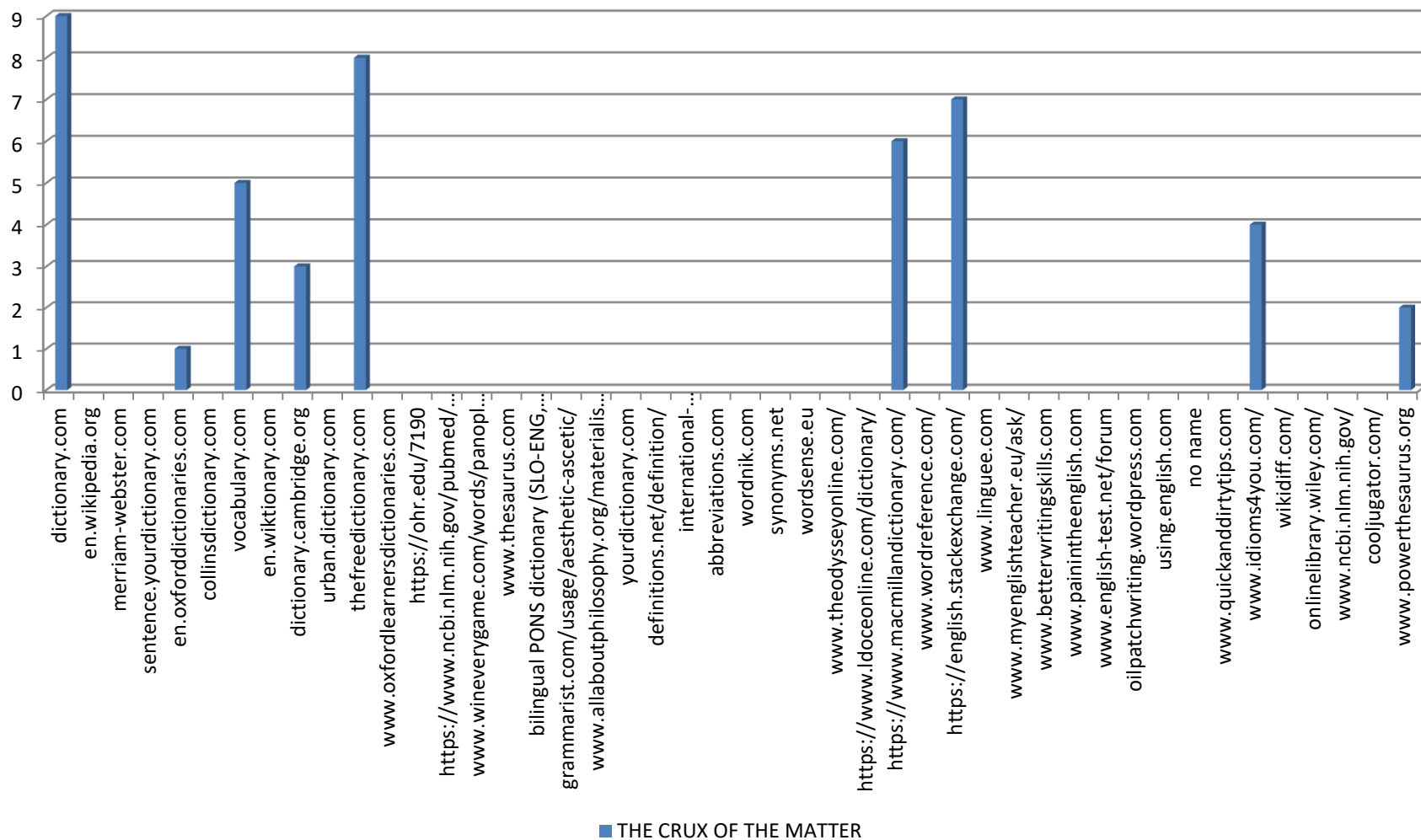


Results collected on 11 July 2018

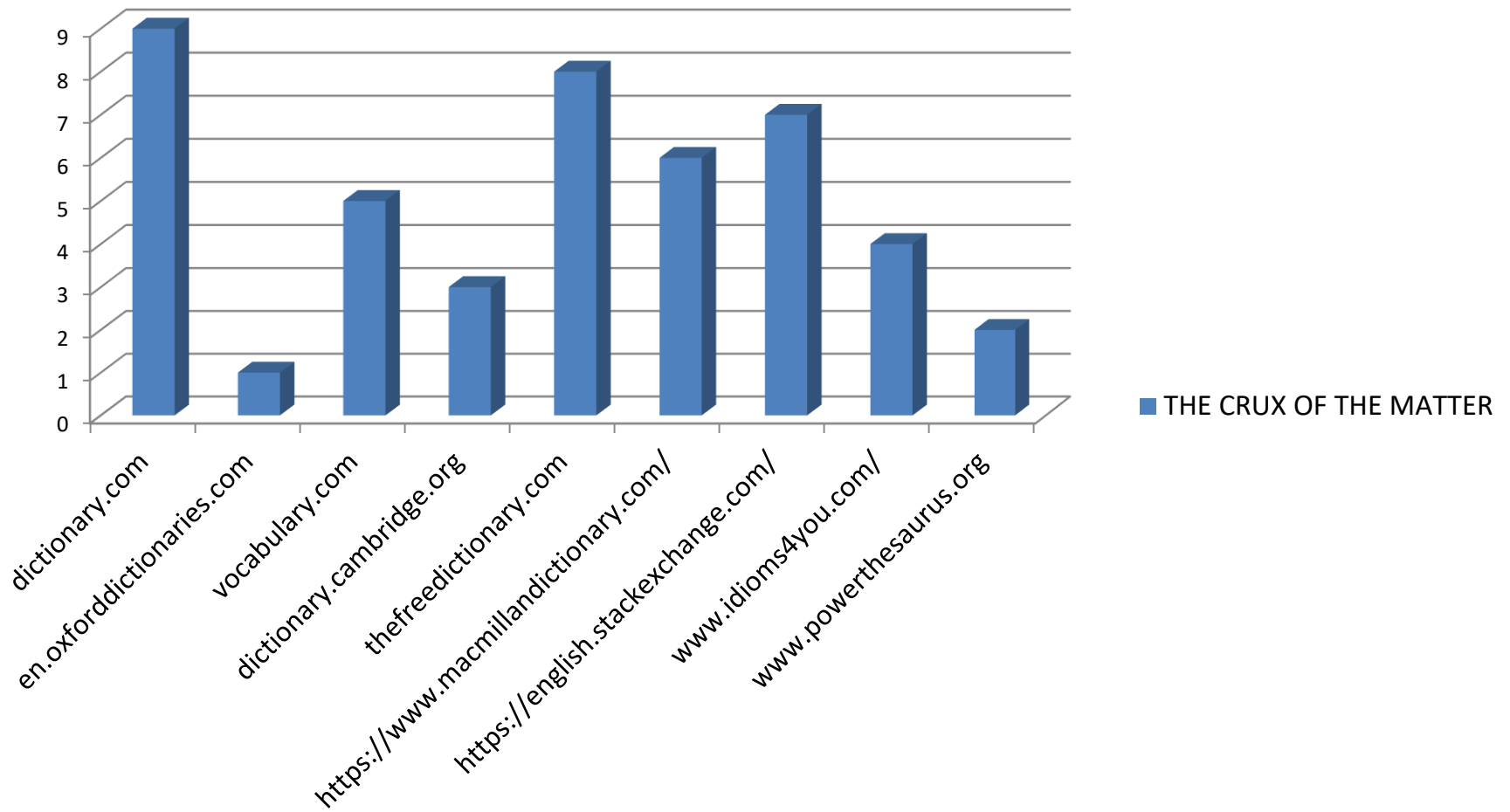
merriam-webster.com					55		
dictionary.cambridge.org					48		
no name					45		
dictionary.com					40		
en.wiktionary.com					35		
en.oxforddictionaries.com					25		
vocabulary.com					23		
collinsdictionary.com					22		
www.thesaurus.com					22		
urban.dictionary.com					21		
<i>https://english.stackexchange.com/</i>					17		
en.wikipedia.org					16		
thefreedictionary.com					14		
www.ldoceonline.com/dictionary/					12		
www.macmillandictionary.com/					12		
<i>www.quickanddirtytips.com</i>					9		
<i>www.painintheenglish.com</i>					8		
yourdictionary.com					7		
www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com					5		
<i>www.theodysseyonline.com/</i>					5		
<i>sentence.yourdictionary.com</i>					4		



Results: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER



Results: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER



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Anybody can ask a question



Anybody can answer



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Does the 'crux of the matter' in this phrase make sense?



I only recently came across the phrase 'crux of the matter'. I thought it would be quite useful. So, I tried forming a sentence, but I am not sure whether it is right? Could someone confirm it for me?

3



Even though such extravagant weddings may sound like a dream-come-true to you, the crux of the matter is that you'll be wasting a lot of your money.

[phrases](#) [expressions](#)



[share](#) [improve this question](#)

asked Mar 18 '17 at 15:15



Rishi Malhotra

asked 1 year, 1 month ago

viewed 487 times

active 1 year, 1 month ago

RELATED

1

Does the phrase "second off" make sense?

It's viable but, but somehow out of place. I'd prefer something like "the important question is: are they a waste of money?". – [Dan Bron](#) Mar 18 '17 at 15:21

- 1 To be the crux of the matter something should be very definitely the central point. Wasting a lot of money is undesirable but to be the crux of the matter I would say it had to be more fundamental. "The crux of the matter is that we simply can't afford it" would be a better use of the phrase. Better still "but the crux of the matter is that, you don't have a fiancé(e). .. – [davidlol](#) Mar 18 '17 at 16:27 ✓

[add a comment](#)

2 Answers

[active](#) [oldest](#) [votes](#)



It doesn't really work here because what you're trying to describe is a dream vs. a sacrifice type situation, and you've set this up with conjunctive phrase: "Even though".

0

Even though X, the _____ is Y.



The blank space is where you've put "crux of the matter", but the crux of the matter really means the absolute, fundamental point that underpins an issue. The price of a wedding is one negative factor of wedding planning (the *matter*), but it is not the "crux" and it is used here out of context.



Even though such extravagant weddings may sound like a dream-come-true, the fundamental issue is that you'll be wasting a lot of your money.

This is an edited version where I have added "fundamental issue" because it hints at the negative. "Crux of the matter" does not hint at or imply anything negative, and the situation you are trying to portray is a positive vs. negative trade-off.

I would also remove the unnecessary "to you" after "dream-come-true" because you say "you'll" shortly afterwards and it isn't really needed.

[share](#) [improve this answer](#)

answered Mar 18 '17 at 16:23



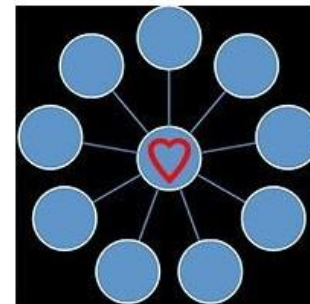
[Arthur](#)

Idiom Definition



"the crux of the matter"

the basic, central or critical point of an issue, topic or problem



Related words and phrases:

basics, bottom line, brass tacks, chief part, chief thing, cold fact, core, essence, essential details, essential part, focus, fundamentals, gist, hard fact, heart, important matter, kernel, meat, meat and potatoes, name of the game, nuts and bolts, quintessence, reality, root, soul, substance, the facts, the name of the game

🔊) crux of the matter

synonyms - similar meaning - 30

Lists >

synonyms

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definitions

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Parts of speech

expressions

idioms

nouns

Topics

details

essentials

fundamentals

Suggest new



rating

50

• Crux

• nitty-gritty n. details, essentials

• basic facts exp. details, essentials

• basics fundamentals, details

• brass tacks exp. details, essentials

• chief part exp. details, essentials

• chief thing exp. details, essentials

• cold fact exp. details, essentials

• core fundamentals, details

• details essentials, fundamentals

• essence fundamentals, details



Two basic approaches to lexicographic description

Traditional lexicographic definition
vs.

Language as a list of static entities with lexical or “dictionary” value subject to selectional **restrictions**
(based defining conditions)

‘Prototypical’ meaning description

Phraseological view of language that, for the most part, explains selectional **preferences** (Hanks 1987: 121).

(full-sentence definition, e.g., Collins Cobuild 1987)



Venice - Lisbon
Limited seats!

From
€ 153

Ljubljana - Lisbon
Limited seats!

From
€ 238

Ljubljana - Malaga
Limited seats!

From
€ 302

Amsterdam - London
Limited seats!

From
€ 26

Venice - Brussels
Limited seats!

From
€ 31

Venice - Lisbon
Limited seats!

From
€ 42

crux of the matter



CITE

A>あ



Also, **heart of the matter**. The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, *In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter*, or *We think the second clause is the heart of the matter*. Although *crux* is Latin for "cross," in English it means "difficulty" or "puzzle," and it is from the latter that this expression is thought to be derived. The variant employs *heart* in the sense of "a vital part" (as it is in the body). The first term dates from the late 1800s, the variant from the early 1500s.

The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary

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crux of the matter

Also found in: [Dictionary](#), [Thesaurus](#).

the crux of the matter

The focal, central, or most important element of a topic, problem, or issue. *Over the course of this trial, the prosecution intends to get to the crux of the matter regarding this company's shady financial dealings.*

See also: [crux](#), [matter](#), [of](#)

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crux of the matter

Also, **heart of the matter**. The basic, central or critical point of an issue. For example, *In this trial the bloodstains represent the crux of the matter*, or *We think the second clause is the heart of the matter*. Although *crux* is Latin for “cross,” in English it means “difficulty” or “puzzle,” and it is from the latter that this expression is thought to be derived. The variant employs *heart* in the sense of “a vital part” (as it is in the body). The first term dates from the late 1800s, the variant from the early 1500s.

See also: [crux](#), [matter](#), [of](#)

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WORD OF THE DAY

VIDEO

WORDS AT PLAY

FAVORITES



crux

X



DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

crux



noun | \ˈkrʌks, ˈkrʊks\

Popularity: Top 30% of words | Updated on: 3 Jul 2018

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Examples: CRUX in a Sentence ▼

Editor's Note: Did You Know? ▼

Definition of CRUX

plural cruxes also cruces \ˈkrü-, sēz\

- 1 : a puzzling or difficult problem : an unsolved question • The origin of the word is a scholarly *crux*.
- 2 : an essential point requiring resolution or resolving an outcome
- 3 : a main or central feature (as of an argument)

WORD OF THE DAY

cerebrate



to use the mind

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CITE





LearnersDictionary.com

Learner's Dictionary

crux



crux

1 ENTRIES FOUND:

crux (noun)

crux /'krʌks/  *noun*

Save



Learner's definition of CRUX

the crux

: the most important part of something (such as a problem, issue, puzzle, etc.) — usually + of

- *The crux of the matter* is that people are afraid of change.
- It's taken a while to get to *the crux of the problem*, but I think I finally understand it.

Comments & Questions

What made you want to look up *crux*? Include any comments and questions you have about this word.

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ASK THE EDITOR



What is the difference between "come back" and "get back"?

[See the answer »](#)

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Vocabulary Quiz

Test your word power

[Take the Quiz »](#)



Name That Thing

Take our visual quiz

[Test Your Knowledge »](#)

LEARNER'S WORD OF THE DAY



forklift

: a machine that is used for lifting and moving heavy objects

[Learn More »](#)

Main definitions of **crux** in English: [crux¹](#) [Crux²](#)

crux¹ 



NOUN

(the crux)

- 1 The decisive or most important point at issue.

‘the crux of the matter is that attitudes have changed’

– More example sentences

‘I think that what the crux of the issue here is that marriage is not just a label.’

‘And this is the crux of the issue, the reality which is so often unmentioned.’

‘I want to add that this really isn’t the crux of the issue.’

‘The crux of the issue is this: is there no chance of a catastrophe, or a tiny chance?’



Definition of 'crux'

Learner: crux

English: crux

English: Crux


American: crux


Example sentences

Trends

Translations

crux

(krʌks )

Word Frequency 

Collins COBUILD

singular noun

The crux of a problem or argument is the most important or difficult part of it which affects everything else.

He said the crux of the matter was economic policy. [+ of]


Synonyms: crucial point, heart, core, essence


More Synonyms of crux

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crux in British

(krʌks )

Word Frequency 

Meaning of “the crux” in the English Dictionary

English

American

“the crux” in English

See all translations

the crux

noun [S] • UK /ˈkrʌks/ US /ˈkrʌks/

★ the most important or serious part of a matter, problem, or argument:

The crux of the country's economic problems is its foreign debt.

The issue of an arms embargo will be at the crux of the negotiations in Geneva.



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crux - definition and synonyms



NOUN



Pronunciation

/krʌks/



Contribute to our Open Dictionary

PHRASE

- **the crux (of something)**

the most important aspect of something

The police didn't have enough evidence against him. That's the crux of the matter.



Synonyms and related words

Important thing or detail: *feature, priority, element...*

[Explore Thesaurus](#)

crux

The essential point or problem is the **crux**. People are always trying to get to the *crux* of a matter or the *crux* of a problem, while others try to distract them.

The noun *crux* is often followed by the phrases "of the matter" or "of the problem." When people are trying to identify the *crux* of something, it's like they want to get to the heart of it. They want to peel back the layers and find out what something is really all about or what is causing the problem. No more beating around the bush!

✓ Start learning this word

Think you know *crux*? Quiz yourself:

crux means :

- ☒ presentation
- ☐ nonsense
- ☐ personification
- ☐ point

crux

1.



the most important point

Synonyms: [crux of the matter](#)

Types: [alpha and omega](#)
the basic meaning of something; the crucial part

Type of: [point](#)
a brief version of the essential meaning of something

ascetic

Want to live an **ascetic** lifestyle? Then you better ditch the flat panel TV and fuzzy slippers. To be *ascetic*, you learn to live without; it's all about self-denial.

Ascetic is derived from the Greek *asketes*, meaning "monk," or "hermit." Later that became *asketikos*, meaning "rigorously self-disciplined," which gives us the Modern English *ascetic*. *Ascetic* can be a noun: a person with incredible self-discipline and the ability to deprive herself, or an adjective that describes such a people or their lifestyle.

Definitions of
ascetic

1.

✓ Start learning this word

Think you know ascetic? Quiz yourself:

ascetic means :

- ☐ puritan
- ☐ vigilante
- ☐ narcissist
- ☐ collegian

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

 Add to List...  Thesaurus  Share It

panoply

A **panoply** is a collection or an assortment of things. You might be eager to show off your *panoply* of bobble-head dolls when friends come to your house.

An array or display of things is a panoply, so you can show off your panoply of spooky clown paintings, but you can also display a panoply of dance moves or talk about the panoply of flags at the parade — as long as it's a complete or impressive display, it's a true panoply. In ancient Greece, the word was used exclusively to talk about military costumes which were always suits of armor.

Definitions of

panoply

1



Start learning this word

Think you know **panoply**? Quiz yourself:

Which of the following is a **panoply**?

- ☐ a lesson on the craft of needlepoint
- ☐ an oil painting depicting a stately building
- ☐ an anthem sung at a ballgame or other event
- ☐ a display of costumes from different countries

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

plethora

Plethora means an abundance or excess of something. If you have 15 different people who want to take you on a date, you have a *plethora* of romantic possibilities.

Plethora comes from the Greek for "fullness." Although it was originally used only in old-fashioned medicine to describe the condition of having too much blood, we use it to talk about any excessive supply. If you run a theater and all the seats are taken, that's a full house. But if the seats are full and people are standing in the aisles, you have a plethora of patrons. The stress is on the first syllable: PLETH-uh-ruh.

Definitions of

plethora



Start learning this word

Think you know **plethora**? Quiz yourself:

plethora means :

- ☐ overplus
- ☐ verisimilitude
- ☐ optimum
- ☐ illegality

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS



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Thesaurus



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TOP DEFINITION

plethora



1. More than a few.
2. A quantity in excess of what is actually **practical**; an **exorbitant** amount.
3. Lots.
4. **Tons**.

Would **you say** I have **a plethora** of pinatas?

by Dan February 23, 2004



183



51



Get a **plethora** mug for your buddy Paul.



Oglas je zaprl Google

Ne prikazuj tega oglasa

Zakaj ta oglas? ▶

2

plethora





- This word is primarily used with great imprecision by inarticulate, pretentious college undergraduates who wish to express no more than "a lot," but want to do it with as many syllables and as annoyingly as possible.

Unbearable Undergraduate#2: Dude, **me too**. I hope there's not a plethora of questions.

me too something you say to mean that you are also in the same situation.... can be used for comical, or annoyance purposes

...

ALPHABETICAL LIST

Pleskun
pless

materialistic

Word family (noun) material materialism materialist materials materialization (adjective) material
immaterial materialistic materialist (verb) materialize (adverb) materialistically materially

From Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

ma·te·ri·a·lis·tic /məˈtɪəriəˈlɪstɪk • \$ -tɪr-/ **adjective** 🔊 🔊

concerned only with money and possessions rather than things of the mind such as art, religion, or moral beliefs –
used to show disapproval

🔊 He's so materialistic.

🔊 the materialistic values of American society

—**materialistically** /-kli/ **adverb**

Examples from the Corpus

materialistic

- Darwin challenged this approach with his revival of the **materialistic** alternative.
 - Christmas has become **materialistic** and commercial.
 - I am not **materialistic** and I am not snobby, I hope.
-


Definition of 'materialistic'


Learner: materialistic

Video

Trends

materialistic

(məˈtɪəriəlɪstɪk )

Word Frequency 

Collins COBUILD

adjective

If you describe a person or society as **materialistic**, you are critical of them because they attach too much importance to money and material possessions.

[disapproval]

During the 1980s, Britain became a very materialistic society.

Synonyms: consumerist, worldly, grasping, greedy

[More Synonyms of materialistic](#)



COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers

Video: pronunciation of 'materialistic'

materialistic

Who doesn't love the nice things that money can buy? But if all you care about is the stuff you have and the stuff you want to buy, you are **materialistic**.

Anyone who is obsessively focused on money, or cares deeply about owning luxury goods can be described as materialistic. *Material* is a synonym for *matter*: anything that exists. Originally, materialism was a philosophy that "only matter exists." But in 1851, American fiction writer Nathaniel Hawthorne tweaked the definition to mean "a way of life based entirely on consumer goods," a meaning that endures.

Definitions of
materialistic

✓ Start learning this word

Think you know **materialistic**? Quiz yourself:

materialistic means :

- ☐ uneven
- ☐ worldly
- ☐ implacable
- ☐ partial

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

Add to List... Thesaurus Share It

CONCLUSIONS: Question set 1

- It would be possible to group the topmost resources listed by Google roughly into 3 large categories: 1 traditional (digital) dictionaries; 2 language forums and chat rooms; 3 collaborative projects.
- Google can be used to organise and select web-based text according to the user's needs, but it is **not in itself a (lexical/linguistic) resource**. We may perceive it as such because it is now a starting point for enquiries and data searches of all forms.
- Google typically suggests **established (edited) works** with long publishing traditions (in their new digitised environments), **products of collaborative lexicography** or **language forums**.
- Dictionary as “a device through which the user will observe the living language ... language *through* the dictionary ... the next target of progressive lexicography” (Sinclair 1987: 5). **Has the objective been achieved?**

CONCLUSIONS: Question set 2

- Although most traditional resources insist on brief and concise definitions, there are some that depart from this model to provide more information on **pragmatic and discursive aspects of language**.
- This is evident in the now well-established **Cobuild definitions**, which still dominate in the Collins English Dictionaries, and some new attempts have been made (**Vocabulary.com, Urban dictionary, etc.**).
- Lexicographers can learn a lot about users' needs and expectations from alternative approaches to language description, but professionally edited resources still seem to deliver on more counts.
- Dictionaries (in the traditional sense) are still among the most popular language tools, be it in monolingual or bilingual user situations.

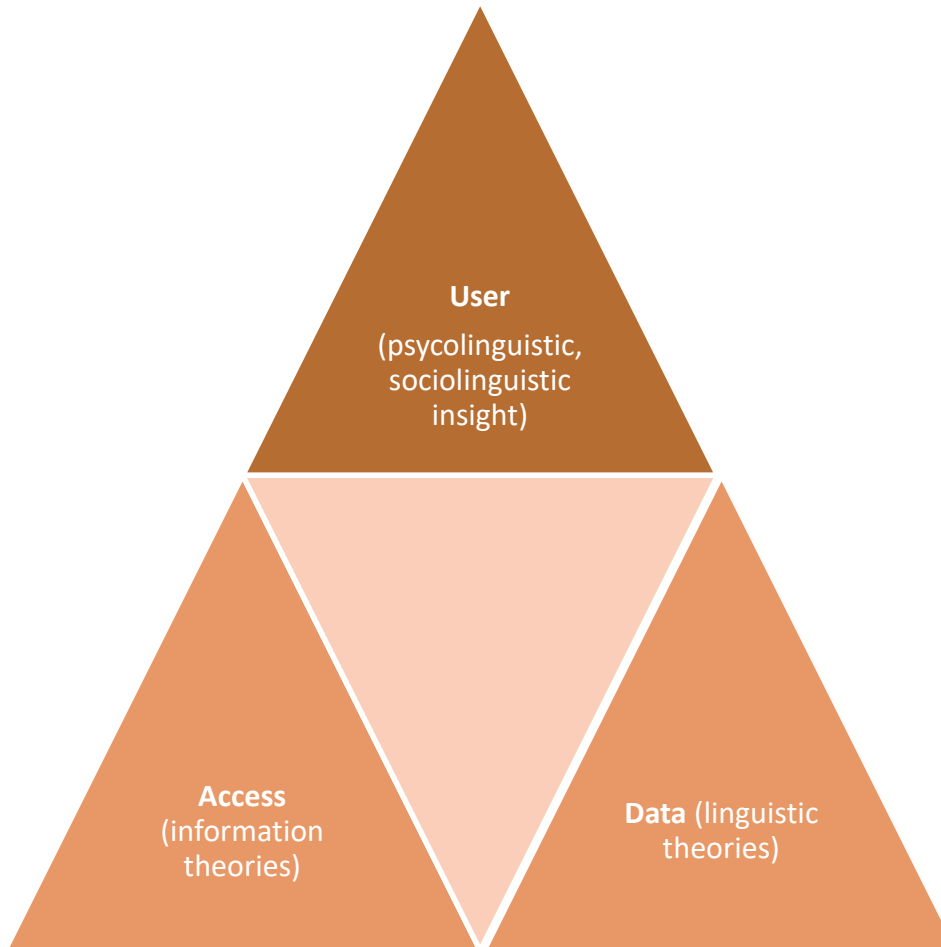
Thank you!

Mojca Šorli, University of Ljubljana

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Verlinde et al. (2010)

Lexicography triangle



The distinctions (and overlaps) between purely “web-based” resources, and their “traditional” counterparts, on the one hand, and between “traditional” – in the sense “professionally edited” – and “collaborative” resources, on the other.

	web-based		
	Urban Dictionary Wiktionary Wikipedia english.stackexchange.com ...	Dictionary.com TheFreeDictionary.com Vocabulary.com Thesaurus.com ...	
collaborative, user-generated content			professionally edited
	Wordnik.com?	Merriam Webster Collins English Dictionaries Oxford Dictionaries Macmillan Dictionary Longman Dictionary Cambridge Dictionary ...	
	web-based (from traditional established resources to the Web)		

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featured word

adversity

When circumstances or situations work against you, you face *adversity*. Refugees from war-torn countries encounter terrible *adversity*.

Adversity, a noun which has been part of the English language for over 800 years, comes from the Latin *adversus*, literally "turned against," and figuratively "hostile or unfavorable." When things seem against you — circumstances or a stroke of bad luck — you are facing adversity. Sometimes people use a form of the phrase "turning *adversity* into opportunity." This refers to the ability some people or companies have to take a bad situation and make it into a successful one.

devastate

If a storm **devastates** your town, it comes pretty close to destroying it. To *devastate* is to cause destruction to or overwhelm.

Really bad news can devastate a person, or leave them devastated. They are so upset, they feel crushed. A basketball team can devastate an opponent by running roughshod over their defense. The root of the word is the Latin *vastare* which means to lay waste, which comes from *vastus* meaning desolate or empty. Imagine a city laid waste after a major earthquake and you've got the picture!

Definitions of devastate

1.

 cause extensive destruction or ruin utterly

 Start learning this word

Think you know **devastate**? Quiz yourself:

devastate means to:

- ☐ develop
- ☐ disguise
- ☐ display
- ☐ destroy

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

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Definition of 'devastate'

Learner: devastate

Video

English: devastate


American: devastate


Example sentences

Trends

Translations

devastate

(devəsteɪt )

Word Frequency 

Collins COBUILD

Word forms: 3rd person singular present tense **devastates** , present participle **devastating** , past tense, past participle **devastated** 

verb

If something **devastates** an area or a place, it damages it very badly or destroys it totally.

A few days before, a fire had devastated large parts of Windsor Castle. [VERB noun]

Synonyms: destroy, waste, ruin, sack [More Synonyms of devastate](#)

[More Synonyms of devastate](#)



Learner: plethora

English: plethora


American: plethora


Example sentences

Trends

Translations

plethora

(pleθərə )

Word Frequency 

Collins COBUILD

singular noun

A **plethora of** something is a large amount of it, especially an amount of it that is greater than you need, want, or can cope with.

[formal]

A plethora of new operators will be allowed to enter the market. [+ of]


Synonyms: excess, surplus, glut, profusion


[More Synonyms of plethora](#)

COBUILD Advanced English Dictionary. Copyright © HarperCollins Publishers



plethora in British

(ˈpleθərə )

Word Frequency 

noun

1. superfluity or excess; overabundance

2. pathology *obsolete*

a condition caused by dilation of superficial blood vessels, characterized esp by a reddish face

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Derived forms

of the matter.'

'And as poignant as that analogy may be, it is not the crux of the matter.'

'In a private conversation with Liam, he told me the crux of his issue.'

'But they also report that the crux of the issue might be the date of her reporting of the deal.'

'First, she was never charged with insider trading, which really was the crux of the issue.'

'The crux of the issue – it has wheels and can move, but since it doesn't have an engine or a license plate, is it classed as a vehicle?'

'This gets at the crux of the issue I am raising, and I want to fundamentally disagree.'

'So the crux of the matter is really that there is no such miracle cure.'

'They both think in terms of a zero-sum game and this is the crux of the ongoing crisis.'

'It is time to put down the sticks and stones and get down to the crux of the issue.'

'That process requires lots of energy, and how you generate that energy is the crux of the issue.'

'This is not meant to be definitive, but to highlight the crux of the issue.'

'This is the crux of the matter; the answer will determine Europe's future for decades to come.'

+ Synonyms

1.1 A particular point of difficulty.

'both cruces can be resolved by a consideration of the manuscripts'


+ More example sentences

+ Synonyms



CRUX in British

(kraʊks )

Word Frequency 

noun

Word forms: plural **cruxes** or **cruces** ('kru:si:z )

1. a vital or decisive stage, point, etc (often in the phrase **the crux of the matter**)
2. a baffling problem or difficulty
3. mountaineering
the most difficult and often decisive part of a climb or pitch
4. a rare word for cross


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Word origin of 'crux'

C18: from Latin: cross



Crux in British

(kraʊks )

Word Frequency 

noun

Word forms: Latin genitive **Crucis** ('kru:sis )



verge

Think of an edge, a border, a boundary, and you are thinking about the **verge**, the point where something begins or ends.

We talk about a nervous person being on the verge of a breakdown, or about a scientist being on the verge of a major breakthrough, but the British have another good physical meaning: they call the strip of grass that borders a walkway the *verge*, giving you a clear mental picture that goes beyond the abstract.

Primary Meanings of

verge

1. **n** **v** the limit beyond which something happens or changes
2. **n** a ceremonial or emblematic staff



Start learning this word

Think you know **verge**? Quiz yourself:

verge means :

- ☐ religion
- ☐ sample
- ☐ champion
- ☐ border

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS



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Thesaurus



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Full Definitions of

verge

1.

n the limit beyond which something happens or changes*"on the verge of tears"*Synonyms: [brink](#)Type of: [bound](#), [boundary](#), [limit](#)
the greatest possible degree of something**n** a region marking a boundarySynonyms: [brink](#), [threshold](#)Type of: [bound](#), [boundary](#), [edge](#)
a line determining the limits of an area**n** a grass border along a roadType of: [border](#)
a strip forming the outer edge of something**v** border on; come close to*"His behavior verges on the criminal"*Type of: [border](#), [bound](#)
form the boundary of; be contiguous to

2.

n a ceremonial or emblematic staffSynonyms: [scepter](#), [sceptre](#), [wand](#)Types: [bauble](#)
a mock scepter carried by a court jesterType of: [staff](#)
a rod carried as a symbol

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Word Family

verge

the "verge" family

Usage Examples

All Sources
BusinessFiction
SportsArts / Culture
Science / MedNews
Technology

Polls suggest it is on the **verge** of becoming Germany's main opposition party.

The Guardian Jul 12, 2018

Mr. Ou Virak said such comments **verged** on intimidation, especially in rural areas, where many fear that if they do not vote their absence will be noticed and punished by local Cambodian People's Party officials.

New York Times Jul 11, 2018

Through his reckless trades and disjointed demands, Trump is on the **verge** of destroying this infrastructure.

Slate Jul 11, 2018

On the right, conservatives are on the **verge** of realizing their dream result for the supreme court and are taking no chances.

The Guardian Jul 10, 2018

Next >

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cut-rate

Definitions of
cut-rate

1.

adj costing less than standard price

"cut-rate goods"

Synonyms: [bargain-priced](#), [cut-price](#)

[cheap](#), [inexpensive](#)

relatively low in price or charging low prices

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Why this ad? 

Word Family

cut-rate

the "cut-rate" family

Usage Examples

Definition of 'panoply'

Learner: panoply


English: panoply


American: panoply

Example sentences

Trends

panoply

(pænəpli )

Word Frequency 

Collins COBUILD

singular noun

A **panoply** of things is a wide range of them, especially one that is considered impressive.

[*formal*]

He was attended, as are all heads of state, by a full panoply of experts. [+ of]


...the marvellous panoply of exhibitions laid on this year.


More Synonyms of panoply

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panoply in British

('pænəpli )

Word Frequency 

noun plural -plies

1. a complete or magnificent array
2. the entire equipment of a warrior

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Derived forms

panoplied ('panoplied) *adjective*



conundrum

The tricky word **conundrum** is used to describe a riddle or puzzle, sometimes including a play on words or pun.

One of the most famous *conundrums* is the riddle of the Sphinx, famously in the play *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles. Oedipus encounters the Sphinx, a mythical beast, who asks him, "What walks on four legs in the morning, two in the afternoon, and three in the evening?" The answer is "A person": crawling as a child, walking as an adult, and using a cane in old age. The scary thing is that if the Sphinx asked you the riddle and you didn't know, she'd eat you!

Definitions of
conundrum

1.

✓ Start learning this word

Think you know **conundrum**? Quiz yourself:

conundrum means :

- ☐ contagion
- ☐ patois
- ☐ enigma
- ☐ formulation

ASSESSMENT, 100 POINTS

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Definitions of

materialistic

1.

adj. marked by materialismSynonyms: [mercenary](#), [worldly-minded](#)[secular](#), [temporal](#), [worldly](#)

characteristic of or devoted to the temporal world as opposed to the spiritual world

adj. conforming to the standards and conventions of the middle classSynonyms: [bourgeois](#), [conservative](#)[middle-class](#)

occupying a socioeconomic position intermediate between those of the lower classes and the wealthy

ASSESSMENT: 100 POINTS

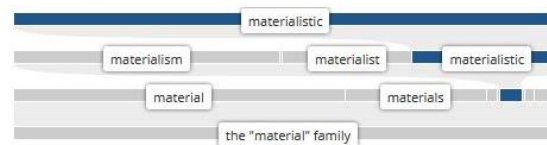
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Word Family



Usage Examples

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WORD OF THE DAY

VIDEO

WORDS AT PLAY

FAVORITES



CRUX



DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

crux



noun | \ 'krəks, 'kruks \

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Examples: CRUX in a Sentence ▼

Editor's Note: Did You Know? ▼

Definition of CRUX

plural cruxes also cruces \ 'krü-, sēz \

- 1 : a puzzling or difficult problem : an unsolved question • The origin of the word is a scholarly *crux*.
- 2 : an essential point requiring resolution or resolving an outcome
- 3 : a main or central feature (as of an argument)

WORD OF THE DAY

cerebrate



to use the mind

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We'll get to know you.

As you play Vocabulary.com, we figure out which words you know and which ones you need a little help with. We keep practicing with you until you master the tough ones.

dewy

Something that's **dewy** is slightly damp, or beaded with moisture. The *dewy* grass early in the morning might leave wet marks on your sneakers.

Anything that has *dew* on it — the tiny water drops left overnight by condensation — is *dewy*. The ground, leaves, blades of grass, and even your car might be dewy on a cool spring morning. You can also describe something very smooth and glowing, especially a person's skin, as dewy. The Old English root word is *dēawig*.

Definitions of

dewy

1.



wet with dew

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Thesaurus

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Word Family



TOP DEFINITION

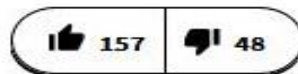


crux

The most difficult part. Used in many [extreme sports](#) to [define the area](#) of most difficulty.

Once you get [passed](#) the crux, you should be able to [flash the rest](#).

by [Rock Crudson](#) June 02, 2004



Get a [crux](#) mug for your guy Bob.



2

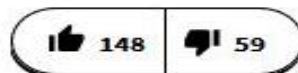


crux

p33ning people [in the face](#) with [burst](#) fire [famas](#)

I just [Cruxed](#) him [in the face](#) from across [the map](#)

by [enphstar](#) November 20, 2004



[illegible]

[illegible]