



Dictionary work

CAPS: Grade 6, Term 3

Spelling & Punctuation
Dictionary use

Activity 1

Read the following newspaper article and complete the activities that follow.

Trouble in Disneyland!

People from all over the world visit Disneyland to have fun, not to get sick. But last week, an outbreak of measles spread from the Southern California theme park. At least 52 people have contracted the highly **contagious** respiratory illness. The majority of the reported cases of measles are from people who visited the park in January.

Officials believe the cause of the outbreak is likely someone who caught measles **abroad** and visited Disneyland, but this has yet to be confirmed. However, in 2014, California had its highest measles infection rate in nearly two decades. There were 66 cases of measles reported in the state—23 of them in Orange County, where Disneyland is located. Measles was declared eliminated from the USA in 2000 by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). But a new surge of the illness has hit the country over the past **decade**.

Stopping the Sickness

Measles spreads very easily. It can be contracted from coughing and sneezing. Crowded areas like theme parks are especially susceptible to its spread. The illness starts with a fever and develops into **symptoms** including a cough, runny nose, red eyes and a blotchy rash. About three out of ten people infected with measles will develop another health complication, including an ear infection or pneumonia.

According to CDC, the best way to prevent measles is to get the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine. An unvaccinated person is 35 times more likely to catch measles than someone who received a **vaccination**.



Re-read the newspaper article – the words in **blue** are unfamiliar words.

- ① Write what you think the word means in the second column.
- ② Write the dictionary definition in the third column.

The first one has been done for you.



Word	① I think it means	② Dictionary definition
abroad	In another country	Beyond the boundaries of ones country
contagious		
decade		
symptoms		
vaccination		

Activity 2

Summarise the newspaper article in your own words to show you understand the meaning.

Example

Disneyland is being named as the source of the first measles outbreak in a decade...

① Can you use the words in the table above in a paragraph?

Teacher Tip

The answers to the definitions in Activity 2 may differ slightly depending on the dictionary the school stocks or requests. Teachers must check this prior to starting the activity.

Walk through the dictionary with the children prior to starting the written work. Let them put their finger on features such as guidewords. Remind them that words are arranged in alphabetical order.

