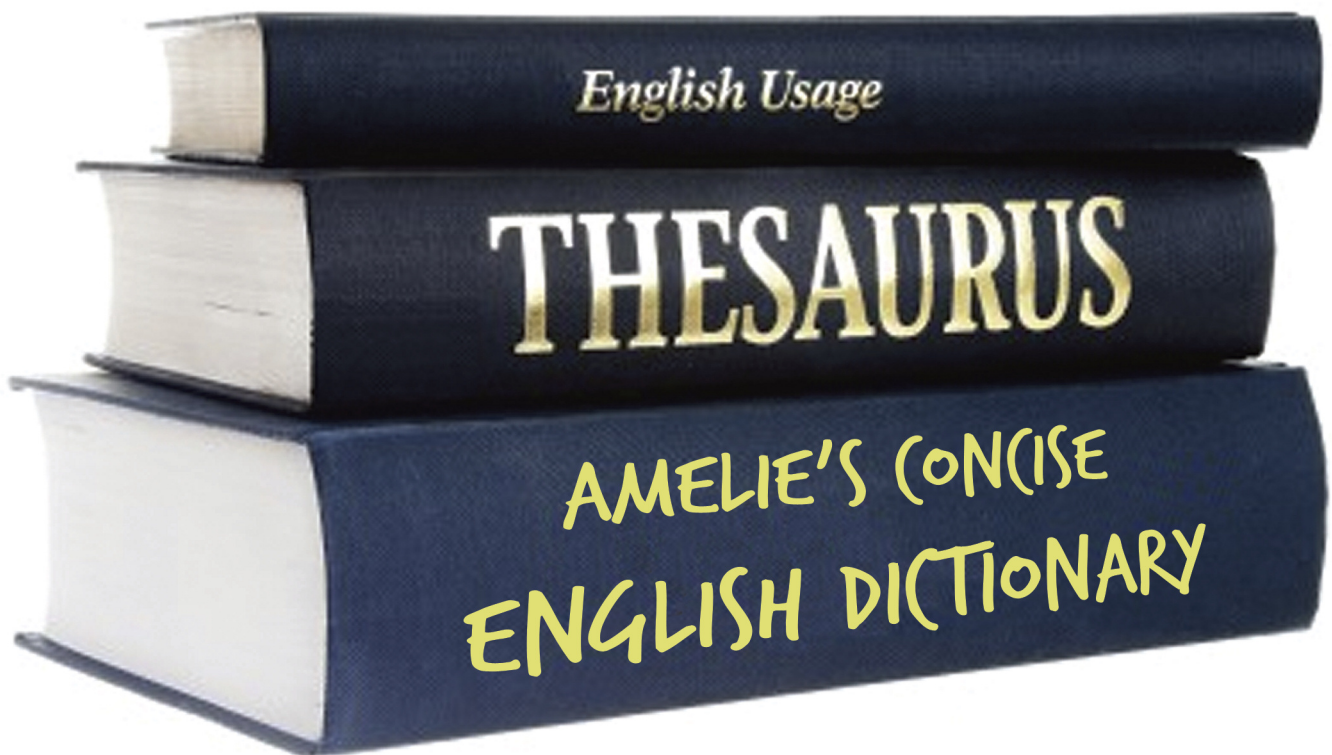


# extra fingers

Newsletter number 43 • July 19, 2015

[VISIT THE WEBSITE CLICK HERE](#)



At a special Father's Day breakfast I had the chance to see some of the work Amelie had been doing in class — in particular, her grammar book.

**DAD**, asking Amelie about some definitions she had made up: "So how did you come up with them, Ams?"

**AMELIE**: "Well, most kids used a dictionary but I didn't want to."

**DAD**: "Didn't you?"

**AMELIE**: "No. Because I didn't need one. I already knew what the words meant."

Here's a selection

**FAIRY**: A fairy is a magical creature that is used in stories. They are make-believe so that children can believe in them. They have wings and wear a dress. They are amazing and have pieces that flutter around. They are meant to be the good guys.

**REPAIR**: A repair is when you fix something that has broken into two or a million pieces.

**KNOT**: A knot is a tight complicated tie that you might have done.

**KNOW**: Know[ing] is an intelligent complicated thing that not many people can find out.

**KNEEL**: To kneel is to [pay a] compliment to an important person that could be the queen.

**VICE:** A vice is a bad habit that you keep doing over and over again like biting your skin.

**PRICE:** Price is a paper tag that tells you how much you have to pay to the person who is at the machine.

**CARNIVAL:** A carnival is a special place people love so much they go there too often.

**POWER:** Power is a strong feeling that you have inside you and you feel it when you are feeling proud.

**MY:** “My is a name that you might call yourself.”

**SKY:** “The sky is a big atmosphere that is possible to fall through.”

**CARE:** “Care means a special responsibility to look after something or someone.”

**GLARE:** “A glare is a mean and annoyed look to give someone.”

**HERE:** “Here is where you really want someone to come.”

**SPACE:** “Space is a blocked area that you’re only allowed in.”

**TRACE:** “Trac[ing] is what spies use for tracking naughty people.”

**DISGRACE:** “A disgrace is a mess that someone in your family does. Or your friends.”

**BE:** “Be means a place where you’re meant to get [to] on time.”

**TWO:** “You can count to that number or you can turn two.”

**FUNNY:** “Funny is an eruption inside yourself that you think is hilarious.”

**SUNNY:** “Sunny means a hot, shiny, yellow spread of light.”

**WINDY:** “Windy is a big force that comes from the blue sky.”

**SANDY:** Sandy means a soft, wavy ground that you can’t run as fast on.

**MESSY:** Messy is a disgusting dirty place where you might put landfill.

**HAPPY:** Happy is a tickly feeling and can be very exciting.

**DUSTY:** Dusty is some brown air that people with asthma can’t breathe.

**BURST:** Burst is where you bellow your voice out so that you can’t talk.

**RETURN:** Return is when you give back a valuable thing that is precious.

**FACE:** Your face has your five senses on it. It has your mouth, your eyes, your ears, but not touch.

**BREEZE:** A breeze is a relaxing wind that is cold and nice.

**DOWNSTAIRS:** Downstairs is the opposite to upstairs and you’re going faster than when going up.

**KNEW:** Knew is when you get something straight away.

**PARENT:** “A parent is a person that gives birth and cares for you and pays for important things.”

**GHOST:** A scary make-believe invisible creature that hangs around places.

**SPRING:** An object that makes you go higher than you actually go.

**MOUNTAIN:** A tall rocky place which you climb to achieve your goal.

**TREMBLE:** A shaking forceful way to act when scared.

**MAGICIAN:** An incredible pretend thing in stories.

**CLOWN:** A humorous dress-up person.

**TERRIBLE:** An ugly thing or something bad that someone tastes, hears, sees or feels.

**PAST:** A word you use for before after.

**SECRET:** Soft talk between a certain amount of people.

**FOOL:** A mean word to call someone that is mean and annoying.

**FRIEND:** A person who gives us company.

**WAR:** An awful defeat (sic).

**TEMPERATURE:** A hot or cold thing that tells us what temperature it is.

**BOUNCE:** A jump or anything that comes off something with energy.

**CLOUD:** A massive or small thing in the sky that covers bright things.

**MIGHTY:** A strong thing that happens.

**WRINKLE:** Something that stays on your face as you get older.

**CAR:** A transport where you don't get any exercise.

**BIKE:** A transport that gives you exercise and you move your feet round and round on pedals.

## Sensitive

Some children in Amelie's class had organised a singing club and they'd been holding auditions. Amelie wasn't very confident about one particular child's chances though. She thought she didn't stand a chance of getting in.

**AMELIE**, referring to that girl: "No offence, but she's not a very good singer."

**DAD:** "Isn't she?"

**AMELIE:** "No. But I didn't want to be really

mean to her so I just said, 'I think you're going to get in' and stuff. I didn't want to say anything mean to her but I . . . inside I was really thinking that she's not a very good singer. No offence."

**DAD:** "So were you lying? Does that mean you were lying?"

**AMELIE:** "Well, um, yeah. Because everybody was saying, 'Oh, you're so good!' when they were really bad."

**DAD:** "Hmm. But should you lie though? Aren't you not supposed to lie?"

**AMELIE**, feeling pained: "Oh! Dad, if I say something mean she'll go and tell the teacher and I don't want to get in trouble."

**DAD:** "But that wouldn't be being mean. Wouldn't that be telling the truth?"

**AMELIE:** "I know, but I don't want to do it. Dad, I'm not listening to you. I don't want to do that. Because, no one wants to get in trouble."

**DAD:** "No, okay, I actually agree with you, Ams. What I'm saying is, I was just curious there. You know how you're not supposed to lie?"

**AMELIE:** "Yeah."

**DAD:** "That can't always be the right thing to do, can't it?"

**AMELIE:** "Yeah."

**“Sometimes I am sensitive about other people. Well, in Year Two I was. Just once. But then I got over it.”**

**DAD:** “Because there are times when lying is a good thing to do, isn’t there?”

**AMELIE:** “Yeah. Because it makes people feel better inside.”

**DAD:** “Hmm.”

**AMELIE:** “You don’t want people thinking that they’re really bad and being, like, sad. I mean, not everyone gets into the singing club and I don’t think that should happen. I think everyone should get in. Because people will be sad.”

**DAD:** “Hmm. Do you think men are more sensitive than women, or women are more sensitive than men?”

**AMELIE:** “I’m not sure.”

**DAD:** “Yeah.”

**AMELIE:** “I’m not really sure because . . . I was thinking women. But then I was thinking, ‘well, what if men were really sensitive?’ Because there are men that are really sensitive.”

**DAD:** “Like who?”

**AMELIE:** “Um . . . I’m not sure but I just know. I just know that there are . . . God. No, no, not God. Because we don’t know whether he’s a girl or a boy.”

**DAD:** “Do you think being sensitive is not a good thing? You shouldn’t be sensitive?”

**AMELIE:** “Yes, you shouldn’t be sensitive.”

**DAD:** “But wouldn’t sensitive mean being . . . see that’s funny because ‘sensitive’ can mean, ‘oh I don’t like it when I see some person hurting.’ Don’t you understand that ‘sensitive’ can mean that?”

**AMELIE:** “What?”

**DAD:** “Well, a sensitive person is somebody who is—”

**AMELIE:** “I know what sensitive means.”

**DAD:** “Okay. Well what does it mean then?”

**AMELIE:** “It means that you get upset really easily.”

**DAD:** “Yes, that’s true. But that’s actually not a definition for ‘sensitive’. It’s a definition for ‘oversensitive’. Too sensitive.”

**AMELIE:** “Oh. I didn’t know that.”

**DAD:** “‘Sensitive’ can just mean that you’re aware of not just your own feelings but other people’s feelings and their pain too.”

**AMELIE,** still not getting it: “No, that’s not me.”

**DAD:** “That’s not you?”

**AMELIE:** “No. I’m not sensitive. And I’m not overly sensitive.”

**DAD:** “Yeah but wouldn’t you want to be sensitive and—”

**AMELIE:** “I’m not sensitive and oversensitive at school.”

**DAD:** “Right.”

**AMELIE:** “Because . . . well, sometimes I am sensitive about other people. Well, in Year Two I was. Just once. But then I got over it. It was just because I was feeling a bit upset that my friend was sitting out . . . Erin. And I was feeling, like, not happy and grumpy because she wasn’t up dancing.”

They’re boring

Amelie, at the Natural History Museum today, complaining about all the rocks on display: “Why do they have so many rocks for?”

Holly: “What do you mean?”

Amelie: “Well, they’re boring.”

Holly: “Are they? How come?”