

GRAMMAR

As well as providing the translation of words, the dictionary gives a lot of information about grammar. It shows the **grammatical category** that each headword belongs to (noun, adjective, verb, preposition, etc.). The grammatical category is written in abbreviated form in Italian in both sections of the dictionary. It follows the phonetic transcription and may be preceded by a Roman numeral (I, II, III, IV). For example, with the past participle forms of some verbs, number **I** shows the verbal meaning of the word (i.e. the third form of the paradigm used to build many compound tenses), while number **II** underlines its usage and meanings as an adjective:

flared /fleəd/ **I** p.pass. → **2.flare** **II** agg. SART. scampanato, svasato; **a ~ skirt** una gonna scampanata; **a pair of ~ trousers** un paio di pantaloni a zampa d'elefante.

The grammatical category is not indicated for abbreviations and phrasal verbs. In the case of phrasal verbs, a pattern shows its syntactic structure and the correct position of the object.

The dictionary also gives **morphological** information about the inflections of words, i.e. how their form changes when they are used in the plural, or in the past, or in some other way. The past simple and past participles of irregular English verbs, the plural forms of nouns and the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives are only shown if they present irregularities:

- ▶ **1.good** /gʊd/ agg. (compar. **better**; superl. **best**) ...
- ▶ **1.see** /si:/ **I** tr. (pass. **saw**; p.pass. **seen**) ...
- ▶ **criterion** /kraɪ'teriən/ n. (pl. **-ia**) ...

In the Italian-English section, the plural forms of nouns and adjectives are given when they are irregular or present difficulties for the English user. Conjugation tables of Italian verbs have been included at the end of the dictionary.

- ▷ **alga**, pl. **-ghe** ...
- miccio**, m.pl. **-ci**, f.pl. **-cie**, **-ce** ...

When it is useful for contrast, English **countable** and **uncountable** nouns are also highlighted by the symbols **C** and **U**, which can refer either to the whole entry or to a single meaning.

The dictionary also provides a full description of the word's syntactic valency and pattern through numerous examples that help illustrate the meaning of the word by showing it in use. Lastly, the dictionary shows prepositions or adverbs that *can* or *must* be used after a particular word.

- ▶ **responsible** /rɪ'spɒnsəbl/ agg. **1** (*answerable*) responsabile (**for** di); ~ **for killing ten people, destroying the forest** responsabile della morte di dieci persone, della distruzione della foresta; ~ **for producing the leaflets, looking after the children** incaricato di fare i volantini, di badare ai bambini; **to be ~ to sb.** essere responsabile di fronte a qcn.; **to hold sb.** ~ ritenere qcn. responsabile (**for** di); **the person** ~ la persona responsabile o il responsabile; **those** ~ i responsabili; **I won't be ~ for my actions** non risponderò delle mie