"Lexipedia is an online semantic network. Lexipedia is being called the biggest and most expansive reference book in the history of human knowledge."  

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History

Lexipedia was created in 2007 by Vantage Learning.
**Lexipedia** is essentially an online dictionary and thesaurus combined. More than just that, however, **Lexipedia** has an added layer, a twist. **Lexipedia** shows the connections and relationships between words through a visual, animated web. It displays nouns, verbs, synonyms, antonyms (a word opposite in meaning from another), adverbs, adjectives and fuzzynyms (a word closely linked/related to another). It is essentially a language road map.

According to its creators **Lexipedia** allows the user to “explore related words and their meanings, to expand your vocabulary, conduct research, gather information and select the best word or phrase to express your idea”.

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**On the Site...Lexipedia**

When you first arrive at the Lexipedia website, you are greeted with a visual word web that presents the word “welcome”. The user can interact with the visual word web and move the web as desired. There is a search bar where the user can type the chosen word and there is also a drop down box where the preferred language can be chosen.
By clicking or unclicking from the box below, the word web can be manipulated, ie: expanded or reduced depending on the ‘Parts of Speech’ or ‘Relationships’ boxes which are checked. This means that you as the user controls what parts of speech or relationships are shown in the web. If you only want to see the synonyms, unclick the fuzzynyms and antonyms button, and only the synonyms will show up on the web.

Features:

Lexipedia has a number of features including:  
- Interactive dictionary and thesaurus
- Displays visual word web view & text based view
- Provides definitions
- Suggests alternative word choices
- Gives sample sentences
- Includes audio files indicating pronunciation
- Enables word searching in many languages

What Lexipedia doesn't have, however, is a userguide or a help section or FAQ feature. That means the best thing to do is to jump right in and try Lexipedia!

What is unique about Lexipedia?

A unique feature of Lexipedia is the combination of a dictionary and thesaurus.

Browse the internet and you will find many online dictionaries and thesauri, but Lexipedia gives you both and with visual impact.

This video shows you some of the benefits of using Lexipedia in everyday life.

What is a visual word web?

Rather than just displaying a list of definitions for any chosen word, Lexipedia goes a step further and shows it through a visual web, like the one shown below.

The image below is the word web created in Lexipedia when ‘consider’ is typed into the search field.
Simply click on a chosen word and the definition is given, as is the audio pronunciation:

In addition to the audio pronunciation, users have the option to display only select words, like just the nouns, verbs, or fuzzynms, which was mentioned above. So as the user, if you wanted to only see the synonyms in the visual web, you just uncheck the "antonyms" and "fuzzynms" section so only the synonyms will be displayed. Similarly, you can choose to only display the nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. This is definitely an advantage to the site that would be beneficial in the classroom when learning about different parts of speech.

How Lexipedia relates to other Applications

How Lexipedia relates to other Applications

There are many online dictionaries available.

Lexipedia is similar to any other online dictionary, such as www.dictionary.com 4 or www.merriam-webster.com 5, but with Lexipedia, you get more than just a definition. Lexipedia is most beneficial if you wish to find synonyms, antonyms, or simply connections between words, which makes it different from any other resource.

Lexipedia offers connections to words to promote enhanced learning and deeper connections. It offers the best of both worlds because the user gets a dictionary, along with a thesaurus. The visual web feature of Lexipedia allows the viewer to interact with the word web, moving words around and seeing the related words on screen. Similar products using visual webs are www.snappywords.com 6 and www.visuwords.com 7
The following Youtube clip compares Lexipedia to two other similar products: Snappywords and Visuwords.

Examples of other applications:

**Visuwords**

One site that is often compared to Lexipedia is Visuwords. Similar to Lexipedia, Visuwords shows connections between words. Down the left side of the page, there is a navigation key. There are various keys like *is a kind of*, *is a part of*, *is a substance of*, *opposes*, etc. Linked to each phrase is a colored arrow that goes along with each phrase, like a yellow or blue arrow, or a spotted orange line. Also, each word in the visual web is inside a colored circle (either blue, green, yellow or red) that describes the word as a noun, verb, adjective, or adverb respectively.

Lexipedia does the same thing, without the colors, arrows and navigation. There are pros and cons to using the key versus just using colored text as with Lexipedia. If a person is very much a visual learner, they may enjoy using Visuwords to see the connections, together with its colors and arrows. On the other hand, however, if a word has many meanings or connections, the copious amount of arrows and colors around the web tend to get confusing and make the web very busy and more difficult to make sense of.

With Lexipedia, you just get colored text, which can be beneficial if you just want to quickly scan and organize all the words in the web.

The following is the word web created in Visuwords when 'consider' is typed into the search field:

![Visuwords 'consider' web](image)

**Snappywords**

Snappywords is a website very similar to Visuwords, so it is also somewhat similar to Lexipedia.

In this website, the layout is similar to that of Visuwords, with the same navigation key at the bottom. One interesting part of Snappywords is that the user can double click on one of the linked words and the word will throw out a range of related words. This makes the connection even deeper for the learner and allows them to see even more relationships between words.

The following is the word web created in Snappywords when the word 'consider' is typed into the search field:
Lexipedia, Visuwords, and Snappywords are all beneficial for learners. As you can see, the layout is similar between the three websites. They all have pros and cons and it really comes down to personal preference as to which site to use.

The user will naturally develop a liking towards one of the sites over the others, but all three are helpful when learning to connect words and their meanings.

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**Real World Application**

**Lexipedia in the classroom:**

Lexipedia is a useful tool in any classroom setting. Lexipedia is the perfect site to use during any literacy lesson. This site is an excellent resource to stretch and build student vocabulary. Use Lexipedia with an interactive whiteboard or projector during reading and when the class comes upon an unfamiliar word, invite a student to type the word into the search. The student can then share the definition with the class and look at the synonyms and word connections. There are so many different ways that Lexipedia can be used, even though the usual target would be to use it for vocabulary refinement.

It would be beneficial to bookmark Lexipedia on classroom computers for easy access. During writing, students can use Lexipedia as an editing center where students can enhance their writing with vivid verbs and adjectives. Lexipedia is also an excellent place to start when learning a new science concept. Type key vocabulary words into Lexipedia and encourage students to guess what science concepts they will be learning based on the vocabulary and word connections.

This visual dictionary and thesaurus goes above and beyond and will increase your student’s vocabulary and word understanding!

**Demonstration of Educational Value**

Students now, more than ever, are visual learners. Teachers are continuously look for new mediums by which to convey knowledge, as well as resources that are simple enough for the students to use themselves. Consider a teacher wishing to convey parts of speech to their students. Consider too foreign language teachers (English, French, Dutch, Spanish, German, Italian). All examples of teaching contexts in which Lexipedia can be utilized.

Lexipedia can be used as a great vocabulary source for writing all types of essays. Additionally, when learning a second language, Lexipedia could facilitate learning new words and phrases. Teachers could use Lexipedia as a teaching aid for students when they prewrite, edit, and revise work on content vocabulary learning; and when working with parts of speech.5

Correctenglish.com has incorporated the a Lexipedia type feature into its product. While writing using Microsoft Word, there is a tab called ‘Word Choice’ which brings the user to Lexipedia, and word choices are then listed on the side of your document.6
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson Plans&quot;-&gt;Lesson Plans</th>
<th>Description&quot;-&gt;Description</th>
<th>Format&quot;-&gt;Format</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary Lesson 1</strong></td>
<td>This first lesson deals with expanding a student’s vocabulary skills. The lesson is based on the idea that students are scheduled to have a vocabulary test sometime in the near future and students work on connecting their vocabulary words with similar words, and then figure out how to use those words to make strong sentences.</td>
<td>(Word) (PDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary Lesson 2</strong></td>
<td>This second lesson deals with practicing pronunciation. With Lexipedia, teachers are given the benefit of being able to hear the pronunciation of each word, along with the pronunciations of all the synonyms, antonyms, fuzzynyms, etc. In this lesson, students will use their assigned vocabulary words to practice saying each word correctly, along with learning connections between their words.</td>
<td>(Word)(PDF)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary Lesson 3</strong></td>
<td>Our final elementary level lesson deals with students learning about biomes. It is a lesson for use in a science unit. The learning outcome for students is to understand the various biomes. The students will research the various biomes to find descriptions for each. Students will use Lexipedia to help with the research aspect, but will then continue by finding pictures of each and then make a small poster for a presentation about their assigned biome.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Lesson 1</strong></td>
<td>Our first secondary level lesson would be conducted in a high school English course. Students will be reading a novel and within their reading groups, will choose some of the more difficult words in the text to research. Students will use Lexipedia to find synonyms of each difficult word and will then present their findings to their research groups.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Lesson 2</strong></td>
<td>Our next secondary lesson is designed for use in a high school technology course. When high schoolers first begin a new technology class, they often get lost and confused with all of the new terms. With this lesson, the students will be enabled to grasp new terms and concepts through the use of Lexipedia. Students will type each term into the search bar in Lexipedia and write down the various ways a word can be used in order to help them firmly grasp the concepts. Students will use flashcards to help them prepare for a quiz, since flashcards can be a very helpful study technique with new words.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Secondary Lesson 3</strong></td>
<td>Our final secondary lesson involves foreign language. With Lexipedia, one of the added benefits is that it can be used in more languages than just English. With this in mind, we formed this lesson for a second level Spanish course in high school. Students tend to stick with the verbs and words that they are most familiar with, so through this lesson, they would be able to feel more comfortable using new words in their Spanish vocabulary. Once students research some Spanish verbs, they will form a web, similar to what the Lexipedia web looks like, and present their final product to the class.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Post Secondary Lesson 1</strong></td>
<td>In our first college level course, we tried incorporating Lexipedia into a first year Engineering course. Similar to the high school level, engineers are often presented with new, very complex vocabulary that they can easily mix up. With this lesson, students will research (using Lexipedia) several of their new vocabulary terms and write down synonymous words. Using these</td>
<td>(Word) (PDF)</td>
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</table>
words, the students will then write down how the words relate to one another from the engineering perspective.

Post Secondary Lesson 2
This lesson is taken from an English 106 course where students are just being exposed to college level English. After students write a paper, they will review their rough draft and find several words that they believe they could improve on. They will use Lexipedia to help them find words that would better fit their paper before turning it back in as a final draft.

Post Secondary Lesson 3
Our final post-secondary lesson is designed for use for another college English course. This one, however, utilises 3 different sites (Dictionary.com, Thesaurus.com, and Lexipedia.com) to find which one the students believe would be the most useful. The students will research the three sites, looking for pros and cons to each, and then write a short paper on each site explaining their reasoning. Not only would this lesson let the students explore various sites they can use to benefit their writing, but they are also practicing their writing skills at the same time.

How Lexipedia is used Internationally and in a Business Setting

Lexipedia is a great way to understand meanings and relationships of words. Not only does Lexipedia work through English, but it also offers Spanish, French, Italian, German, and Dutch. Since Lexipedia has such a wide range of languages, it allows it to be used internationally. This website is also very useful for translating and when learning other languages, because it shows how words are connected and related.

Several teachers from Spain, Poland and Italy have been noted encouraging their students to use Lexipedia when revising vocabulary and writing. Lexipedia can be useful when studying literature and preparing for creative writing in a different language.

Lexipedia has the potential to play a major role in learning foreign languages online.

Although Lexipedia is definitely targeted more towards teachers and students in the classroom, there are ways in which it could be utilized in a business setting as well. International companies often need to communicate with clients and partners across the globe. This usually requires a basic understanding of various languages in order to have proper communication. With Lexipedia, people could take their first language and use Lexipedia to help learn the basics or substitute words of the language they are trying to grasp. This all stems back to vocabulary, which is the main goal of Lexipedia. Any business partner looking to make a speech better or improve a business letter could find Lexipedia to be very beneficial.

References

1,2,3 http://www.vantagelearning.com
4 http://www.dictionary.com
5 http://www.merriam-webster.com
6 http://www.snappywords.com