

TREND TASK

Dictionary Find

Approach: Station

Level: Year 8

Focus: Use of a dictionary.

Resources: The New Zealand Oxford Primary School Dictionary.

Questions/instructions

Use the dictionary to answer all of the questions. Write down the number of the page on which you found the answer.

% responses
2001 (97)
year 8

1. Mere’s grandfather is a **kaumatua**.
What is a kaumatua?

Answer: 91 (95)

Page number: 86 (96)

2. Jo was being **obtuse**.
What does this mean?

Answer: 86 (89)

Page number: 96 (97)

3. In the line below is “**load**” a noun,
a verb or an adjective?
It is time to load the truck.

Answer: 46 (50)

4. The spelling is not right for the
word that is underlined.
What is the right spelling?
You can see many colours in the
kilidiscope.

Answer: 39 (39)

Page number: 42 (40)

† different editions

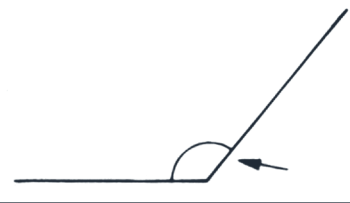
Commentary

Students were highly successful with questions 1 and 2, but struggled much more with question 3 which required interpretation of the information and question 4 which required a good guess as to the correct spelling. The lower percentage in 2001 for the page number in question 1 arose because the station for this task also had a Māori dictionary for another task and some students used that instead of the intended dictionary. Student performance was very similar in 1997 and 2001.



kaumātua noun (kaumātua)
(say koh-mah-too-a)
an elderly man or woman.

obtuse adjective (obtuser, obtusest)
slow to understand; stupid.
obtuse angle, an angle between 90 and 180 degrees.



load¹ noun (loads)
1 something to be carried. 2 the quantity that can be carried. 3 (informal) a large amount, *It’s a load of nonsense.*

load² verb (loads, loading, loaded)
1 to put a load on something. 2 to put a weight into a thing, *loaded dice.* 3 to give someone large amounts of something, *They loaded him with gifts.* 4 to put a bullet or shell into a gun. 5 to put a film into a camera.

