

MAC LESSON #48

GET DEFINITIONS WITHOUT LAUNCHING DICTIONARY

Tiger has an Oxford dictionary application that you can launch whenever you need to look up a definition. But wait - you can use that dictionary without having to launch that application every time you need it. Here's how.

Click on Go in the menu bar at the top of your screen. Now open Applications and then open the Dictionary application. Click on Preferences on the Dictionary menu at the top of your screen.

Click next to Open Dictionary Panel. That's it. Close it out. Now, the next time you need a definition of a word while you are using the Safari Web browser, Text Edit or one of your Stickies. Just highlight the word in question, press and hold the Control key and click on the word. From the textual menu that appears, click on Look Up in Dictionary and a little panel will appear with the correct definition.

If you find a number of words you don't understand, you can speed up the process by holding down the Control, Command and the letter D keys, and any word you touch with your cursor will bring up the definition.

A small Easter Egg (built-in something-or-other) here lets you try to get an Oxford dictionary definition of the two-word phrase "Microsoft innovation" - but it brings up NOTHING! Perhaps Steve Jobs feels that particular phrase is an oxymoron.

