

Ex. 4.4. Words That Define

In the previous example, you may have noticed some repeated words. These verbs are important to learn in academic work. Read these examples, then write your own sentence. Follow the examples as closely as you can. Notice that the bold word is the noun or phrase being defined, and the underlined words are the definition of, or a nickname for, that word.

to call – to define – to refer – to consist

Active Sentences

1. Italians called [the part of Venice where Jewish people were forced to live] **the ghetto**.

Your Sentence:

2. I can define **happiness** as [my own family and home].

Your Sentence:

3. **“The ship of the desert”** refers to [the camel].

Your Sentence:

4. **Liberty** consists of both [the freedom to actively do some things], as well as [the restriction that you can't control others who do things you dislike or even fear].

Your Sentence:

Passive Sentences

Review the passive construction if needed. Notice that since the verb “consist” has no passive form (why not?)

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5. [That part of Venice where Jewish people were forced to live] was called **the ghetto**.

Your Sentence:

6. **Happiness** can be defined as [my own family and home].

Your Sentence:

7. [The camel] is referred to as **“the ship of the desert.”**

Your Sentence:

Optional Exercise: Write your own sentences. Use the noun and definition pairs here. Discuss which defining verb works best, and whether to choose active or passive. before you start. Notice that only plural definitions can be used with the verb “consist.”

1. **desalinization** - [the process of making seawater drinkable]
2. **“Jolie laide”** - [French: an attractive woman who is not conventionally pretty]
3. **NASCAR** - [Acronym: an American car racing organization]
4. **apiary** - [several beehives in one area]
5. **CEO** - [Acronym: the head of a US company]
6. **gibberish** - [nonsense words that sound like English]
7. **vegan** - [a person who avoids all animal products]