

Determine Meanings

When you read an unknown word, you can find its meaning in a dictionary or glossary. In a dictionary, words are listed in alphabetical order.

Look at the following example of a dictionary entry.

This part tells you how to pronounce the word.

The definition tells you the meaning of the word.

ben•e•fit/ˈbenəfit/ *noun* A benefit is something that is helpful or useful.

This tells you what kind of word it is.

Try It Together

Use the dictionary entries to answer the questions.

im•prove *verb* To improve something is to make it better.

in•di•vid•u•al *noun* An individual is one person.

1. What kind of word is improve?

- A verb
- B noun
- C adverb
- D adjective

2. What does individual mean?

- A noun
- B improve
- C something
- D one person



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
EXCLUSIVE

Making Connections Read about a man who tries to help others in Kenya, Africa.

Genre A **biography** tells the story of someone's life. The author uses words like *he* and *him* to give information about the person.

Joseph Lekuton:



Making a Difference

BY PHILLIP KENNEDY

Joseph Lekuton was born in Kenya, a country in Africa. Joseph and his family **are Maasai**. Many of the Maasai take care of **cattle**.



▲ Joseph Lekuton



are Maasai belong to a group of people in Kenya who live and work together
cattle cows

► Before You Continue

- 1. Identify Details** What group does Joseph's family belong to? What work do most of the people do?
- 2. Ask Questions** What questions do you have about Joseph?

An Important Decision

Every Maasai family has to send one child to school. So Joseph's father sent one of Joseph's brothers. But his brother didn't like school. He hid in a **hyena hole** and didn't go to class!



▲ Lekuton's village



Decision Choice

◀ **hyena hole** hole where a wild animal called a hyena lives

Joseph wanted to go to school. He volunteered to go instead of his brother. When Joseph was older, he went to schools in far-away parts of the country. One school was **600 miles** away.



▲ Kenyan children on their way to school

600 miles very far; about 965 kilometers

► Before You Continue

1. **Clarify** Find sentences that tell you that Joseph wanted to go to school and his brother did not.
2. **Point of View** Does the author tell the story or does Joseph? How do you know?

A Challenge

Keeping Joseph in school was **difficult**. His family sold a lot of their cattle to pay **his school fees**. Joseph was also far from home. He couldn't always help his family care for their cattle.



▲ A Maasai boy takes care of cattle.

Challenge Hard Job

difficult not easy

his school fees the money it
cost to go to school

A Way to Help Others

When Joseph grew up, he became a teacher. He helped build schools in Maasai communities . He also **helped create scholarships**. Joseph’s work has made a difference. Now it is a little easier for Maasai children to go to school.

“The more children we can **educate**, the fewer problems we’ll have in Africa,” Joseph says. ❖



▲ A school in Kenya

helped create scholarships
made it possible for more
children to go to school
educate teach

► Before You Continue

1. **Make Comparisons** What was Joseph’s life like before he went away to school? How did it change after he went to school?
2. **Details** How has Joseph helped to **improve** his community?

Compare Points of View

Key Words

benefit

duty

identify

impact

improve

individual

learn

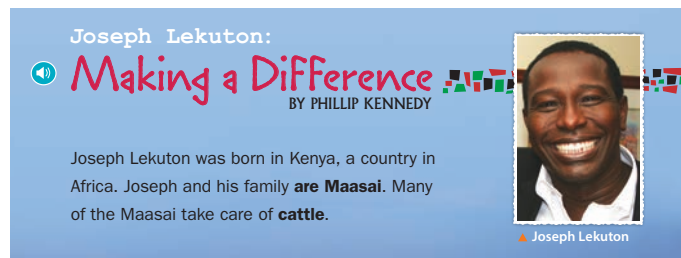
neighborhood

offer

volunteer

An autobiography and a biography have different points of view. A point of view is the way a story is told. Who tells the story in an autobiography? Who is the narrator in a biography?

Look at the beginnings of the selections.



Now write the name of each author next to the correct description below. Then explain to a partner the difference in point of view between a biography and an autobiography.

Tells the story of his or her own life: _____

Tells the story of another person's life: _____

Talk Together

How do people help each other? Think about the people in the autobiography and the biography. How do they help others? Use **Key Words** to talk about your ideas.

More Subjects and Predicates

The **verb**, which is the most important word in the predicate, must agree with the subject of the sentence.



Grammar Rules Subject-Verb Agreement

Verbs in the Present

Use -s at the end of an action verb if the subject is he, she, or it.	Henry reads a spelling word. He reads a spelling word.
Do not use -s for I, you, we, and they.	The words slide off his brain. They slide off his brain.
Use am for I.	I am a fan of Hank Zipzer.
Use is for he, she, and it.	He is a funny character.
Use are for you, we, and they.	The books are in the library. They are in the library.

Read Sentences

Read these sentences from "The World's Greatest Underachiever." Identify the subjects and the verbs.

Today, he is the co-author of a series of children's books. Winkler also visits schools.

Write Sentences



Write two sentences about Henry Winkler. Make sure the subjects and verbs agree. Read your sentences to a partner.