

How to use Dictionary and its other References Resources in OS X 10

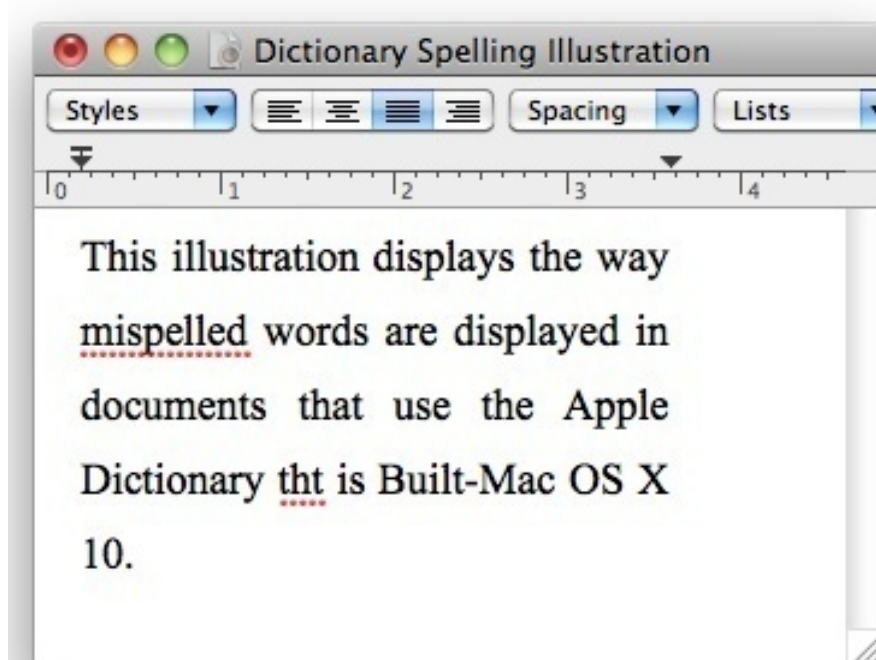
The **Dictionary** is a part of the Reference Resources available to Mac Users in the Mac OS X. It provides multiple ways for spell checking text used in application software provided by Apple.

Applications can be set to automatically **Check Spelling While Typing** or only when the user activates this function. Some other software developers also use the Apple's Dictionary features.

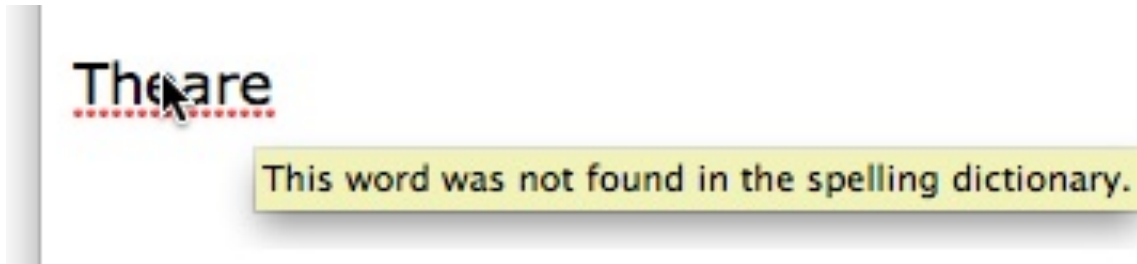
The spell checking feature is accessed through the "**Edit Menu.**" When activated, misspelled words will be immediately underlined with a red dashed line, as shown below..

To check the spelling of an entire document:

Choose Edit > "Spelling and Grammar" > "Show Spelling and Grammar."

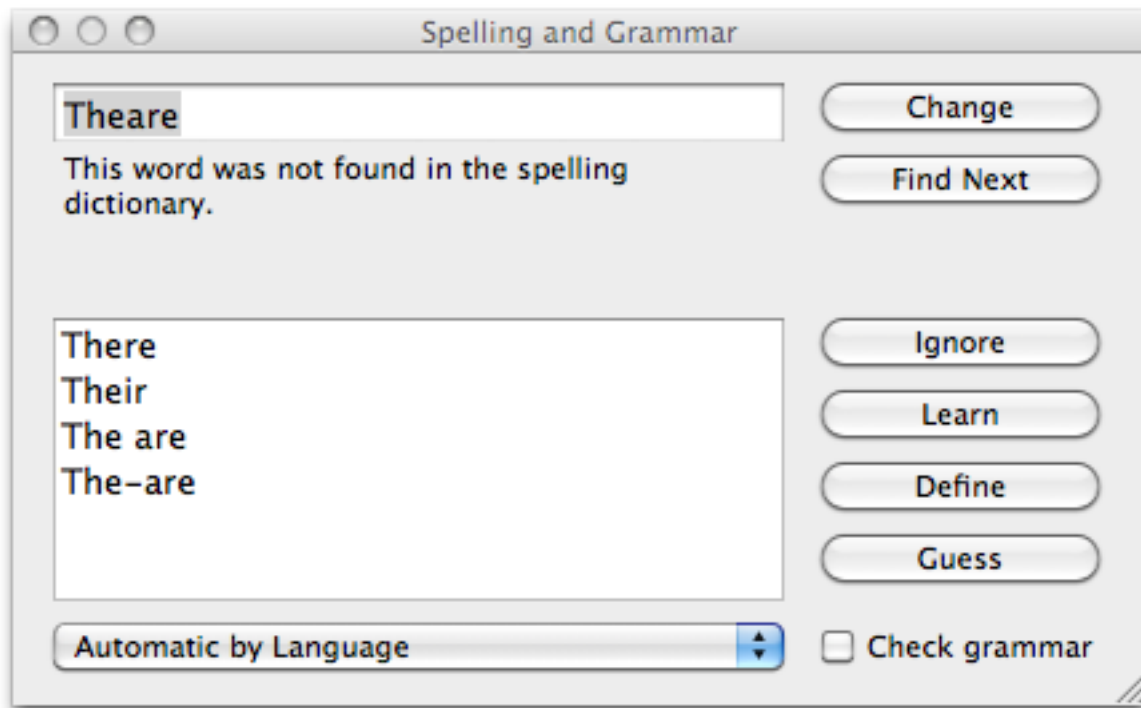


Here is another example of a misspelled word. If you hover the cursor over the word and the following message is displayed.



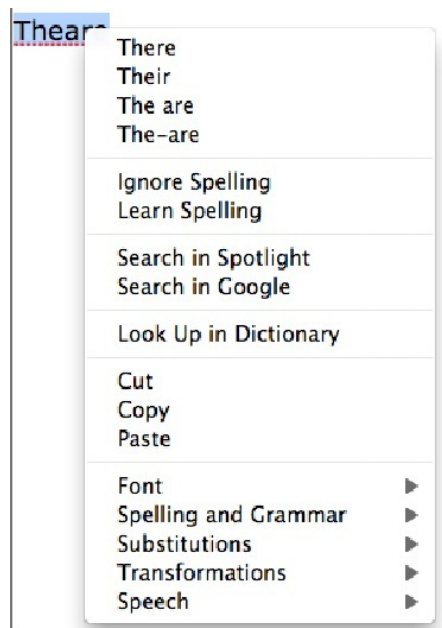
To check the spelling of a single word:

Select the word, and then from the Menubar choose Edit > "Spelling and Grammar" > "**Show Spelling and Grammar.**" Suggested spellings are suggested in the Window that opens, as shown here.



Another method in TextEdit and other Cocoa Applications you may do as follows.

Control-Click on the word and choose from the suggested spellings at the top of the menu.



In some cases you may want to keep a word's spelling as it is shown, without having it marked as misspelled. To do this, "Control-click, or "Right-Click" it, and choose **Learn Spelling** from the Contextual Menu.



More information is also available from **The Help Menu** in the **Menubar of TextEdit** and other native Cocoa Applications.

Some of the following examples are available in OSX 10.4 and above. Some however are only available in OS X 10.6, Snow Leopard.

OS X 10.6 Snow Leopard provides a good **spell checker**, but it also has an excellent **Dictionary** and **other Reference Sources. now including Wikipedia.**

It is very easy to use.

For the remainder of this tutorial I will use the word Cumquatz or Cumquat.

In the illustration below, notice that the application TextEdit has placed small red dashes under the word **Cumquatz**. This indicates that the, or at least it was not found by the spell checker.



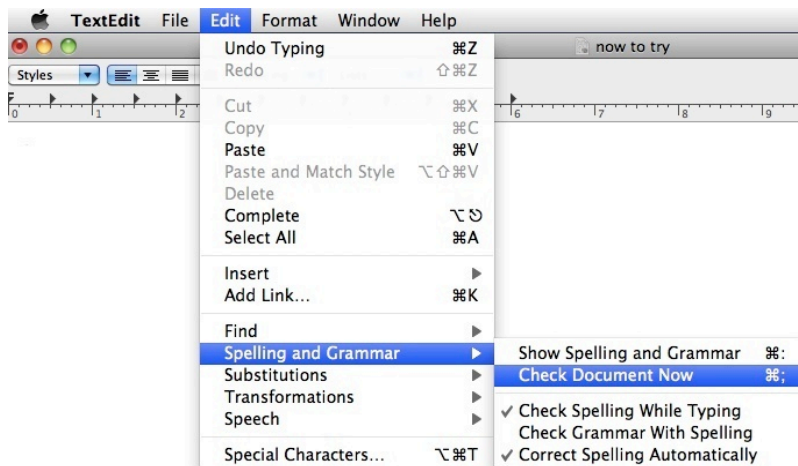
A Special Fruit Type

Cumquats have been called "the little gems of the citrus family". The kumquat tree is slow-growing, shrubby, compact, 8 to 15 ft tall, the branches light-green and angled when young, thornless or with a few spines. The common name means "gold orange" in China.

Ways to correct the spelling include the following.

If you are using TextEdit, and want do do a simple "spell check" do the following:

- From the Edit Menu select Spelling and Grammar then click to make the selection that you want to use.



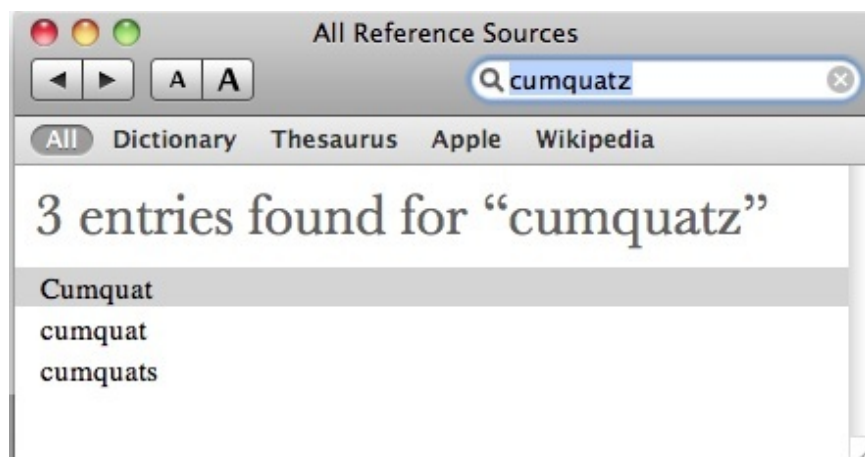
This will do a routine "Spell-Check."

Here are some quick ways to look up the word in the **Dictionary**, and find more information, by using other "**Available Resources**" in **OS X Snow Leopard**.

- Press the **Control Key** on the **Keyboard**, then place the cursor over the word and click to select the word. Then, from the **drop-down Contextual Menu**, select **“Look up in Dictionary.”**



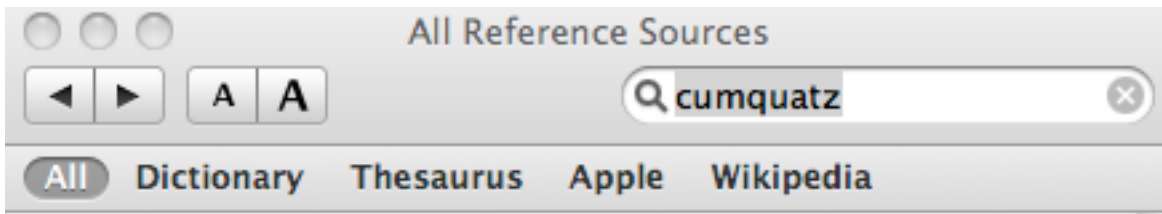
The result is that the **“All Reference Sources”** Window opens



There are four Reference Resources available in Snow Leopard

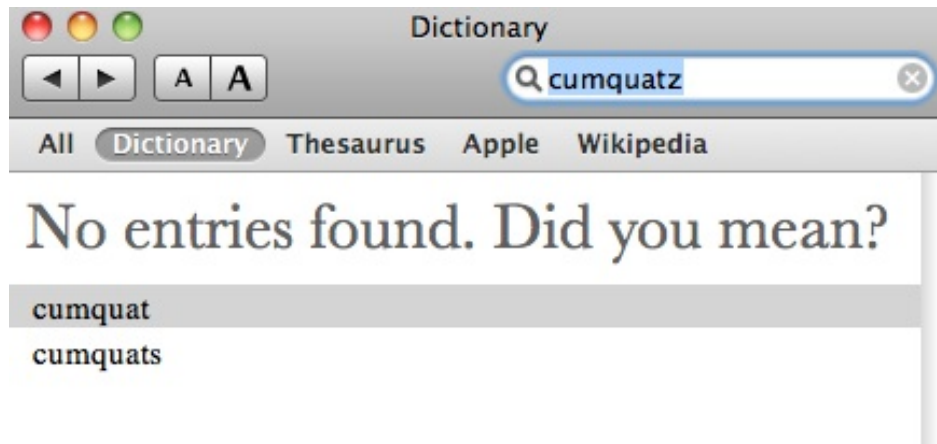
- **Dictionary,**
- **Thesaurus,**
- **Apple,**
- or
- **Wikipedia.**

You may select "All" and get all of the information on the requested word, in one window.



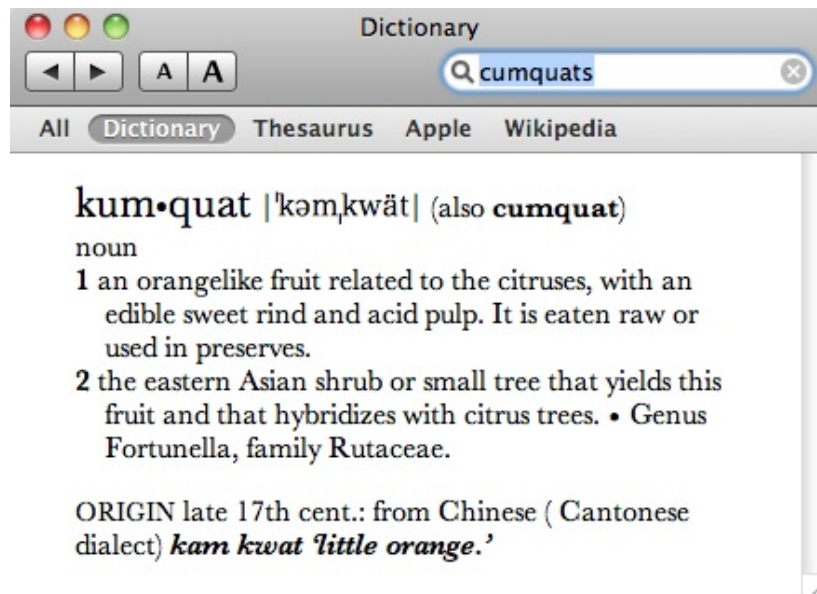
First - Select the "Resource" that you want to use

Then, Double-click on the suggestion that you want to view. In this example, the word "cumquat."



- **The Dictionary Window** displays the inquiries results, the Spelling, and the definition(s).

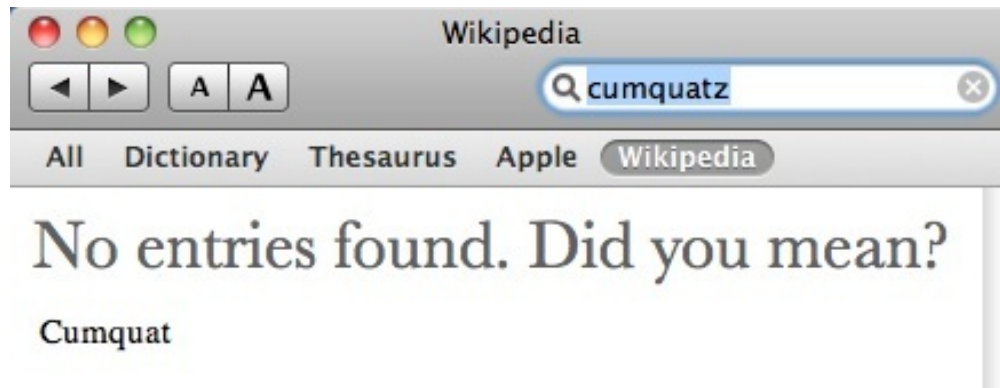
Note the different spelling offered in the definition.



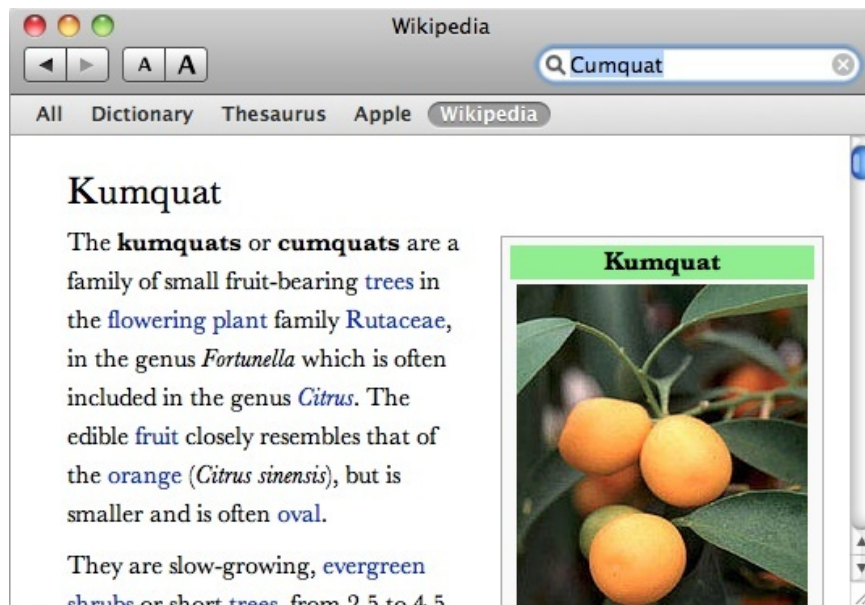
- **The Thesaurus found no entries.**

- **Apple Resources also produced no entries for the word, as spelled.**

But, lets look at the Wikipedia provided information when we click on the suggested spelling "**cumquat.**".



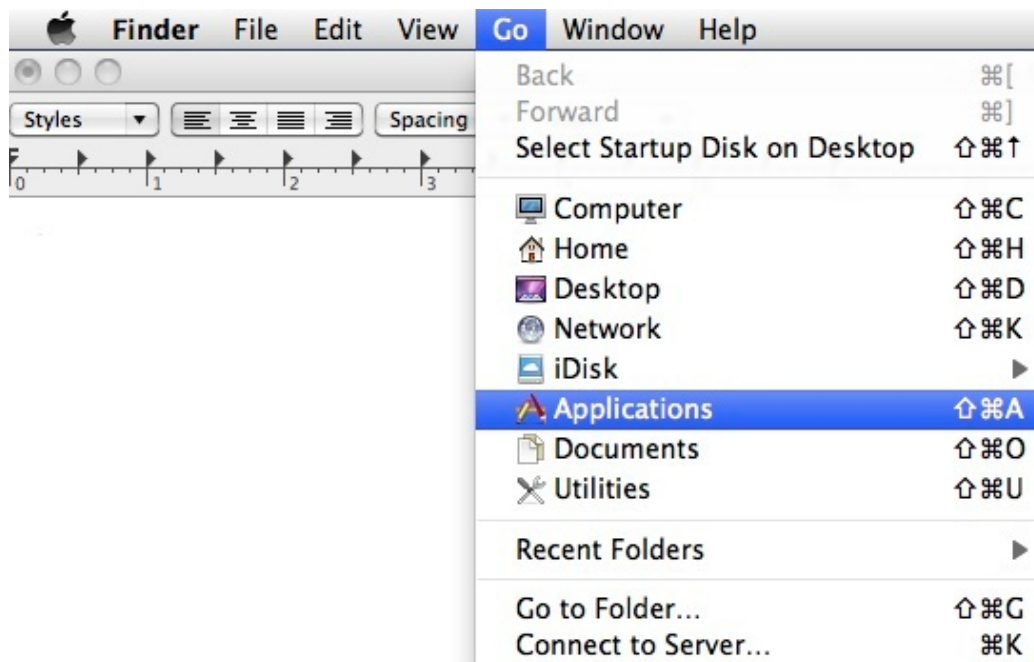
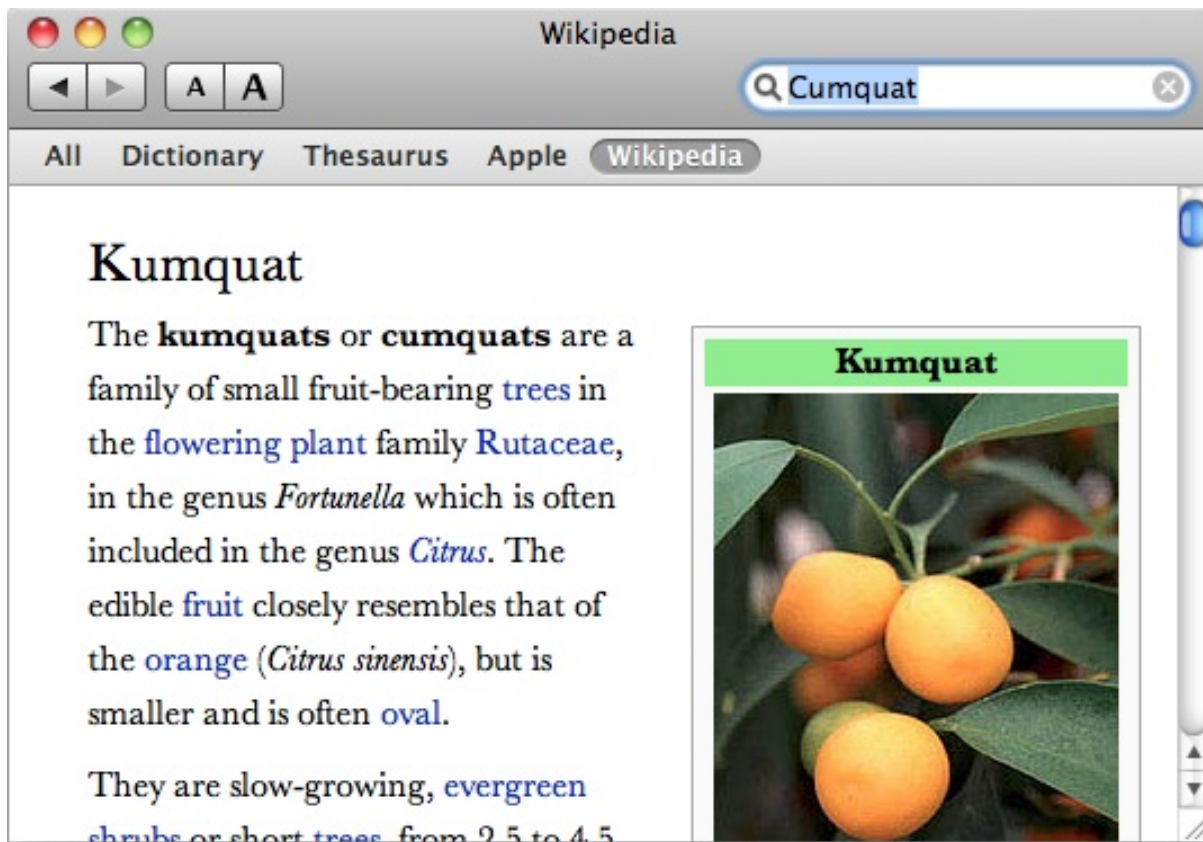
Selecting the suggested word "**Cumquat**" yielded a page with a great deal of information, pictures, book and article references, and links to other information on the Internet. Also note the different spelling.



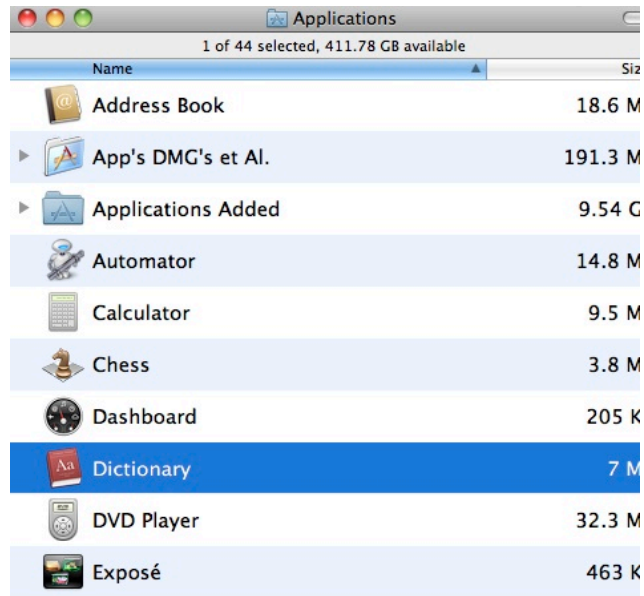
Selecting the "All" tab combines all of the information gathered from All Reference Sources, in a single window for easy access.

Another way to access the **Dictionary**, including the other reference sources is to open the Dictionary Application. It is located in the Applications folder.

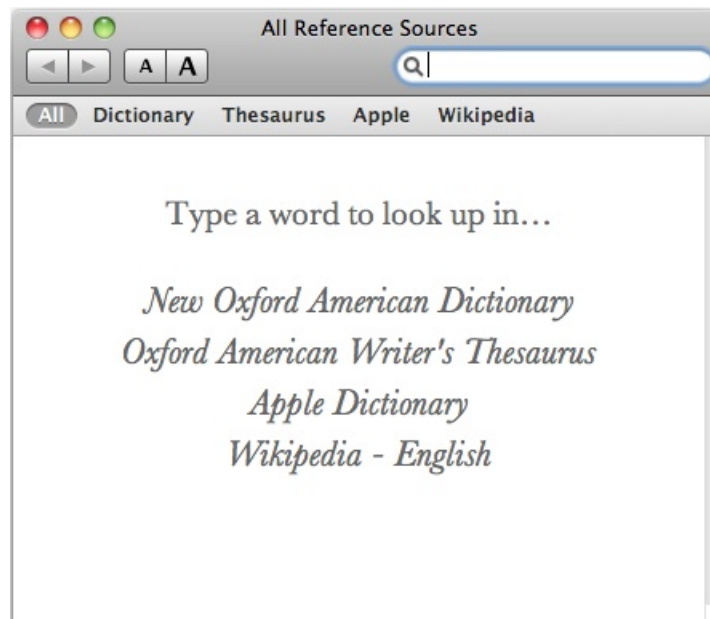
In the Finder, Select the **“Go” Menu** then select **Applications**.



Or you may Select **“Applications”** from the **Side Bar**.



Then, open the **Dictionary Application**.



The Dictionary and All Reference Sources Window appears for your use.