

This year I started learning a language. I am happy to have found a new hobby. It is a lot of fun. For the occasion, I bought a visual dictionary (PONS) and was amused to find the category 'Hobbies' and what it entailed. 'Hobbies' is situated within the umbrella category 'Leisure'. 'Sports' is not contained within this same category. 'Sports' has its own category, without subcategories. 'Leisure' is divided into 'Theatre', 'Music', and 'Hobbies'. For the most part, 'Hobbies' consists of 'Arts and Crafts,' and contains all kinds of artistic and handwork techniques, many colours, and even some quite specific photography terms. 'Reading' belongs to 'Hobbies' too, as does 'Cards, Dice, and Board Games'. This means that many of my concerns and much of how I spend my day are apparently hobbies. In a separate chapter, 'World of Work - Professions', the singer, the dancer, the painter, the photographer, the musician, the tailor, and the sculptor are all squeezed between the moderator and the banker. The terms are not organized in this way in every visual dictionary. I bought and consulted quite a few in order to gather their collections of hobbies. For instance, the BABADADA visual dictionary—which at first glance looks like a non-commercial initiative from Hamburg, a design style very close to my heart—contains no hobbies at all. In this dictionary, the category 'Activities' includes 'to read', but also terms like 'to marry,' 'to kill', 'to sit', 'to lie', 'to brush one's teeth'; all things that feel less like activities than simple verbs. Under 'Professions', the painter is located between the hunter and the baker. My favourite icon is the word 'Tax', represented by a coin from which a slice has been removed, like a cake. In the PONS dictionary you will find 'Tax Return', with no corresponding image, as an item in a list that accompanies a photo of the 'office'.