

Dictionary Skills

GRADES 4-8

REM 400

EDITOR: Becky Majewski
COVER DESIGNER: Don Merrifield
LAYOUT DESIGNER: Christina Farris

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INTRODUCTION

An important awareness that all students should acquire is the many ways a dictionary can help them in their reading, spelling, comprehension, word usage, and writing. This book provides twenty-six appealing exercises that will result in a good working knowledge of this resource tool. The lessons cover alphabetizing, guide words, definitions, syllabication, parts of speech, multiple meanings, and more.

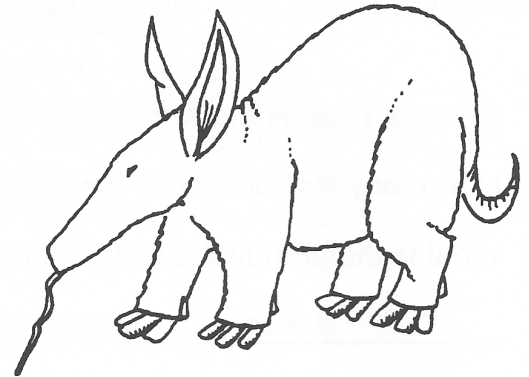
Included are a pre/post-test and an answer key. This book is recommended for use in grades 4-8.

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A dictionary is a book you use to find out about words. It tells you how to spell words, how to pronounce words, how to use words, where words come from, and what words mean.

To be able to use a dictionary, you must know the alphabet. All the words listed in the dictionary are called **ENTRY WORDS**. The entry words are listed in alphabetical order and printed in bold, dark letters.



aard•vark (ärd' värk'), *n.* A burrowing mammal of Africa having long claws and a long, sticky tongue with which it feeds on insects.

The entry words are listed in alphabetical order so they are easier to find. Imagine that your dictionary is divided into three parts: The **FRONT** part has all the words from A thru G; the **MIDDLE** part has all the words from H thru Q; the **BACK** part has all the words from R thru Z.

A-G = Front**H-Q = Middle****R-Z = Back**

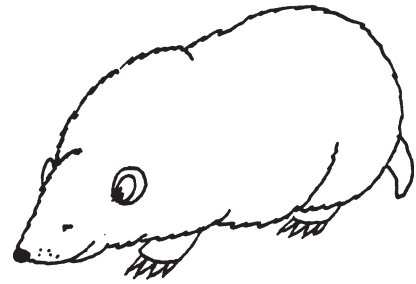
Look at the words below. If you were going to look up each word, which part of the dictionary would you turn to—front, middle, or back? Write the part on the line next to each word.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. fox | _____ | 14. hawk | _____ |
| 2. alligator | _____ | 15. monkey | _____ |
| 3. tiger | _____ | 16. unicorn | _____ |
| 4. jaguar | _____ | 17. quail | _____ |
| 5. zoo | _____ | 18. yak | _____ |
| 6. penguin | _____ | 19. iguana | _____ |
| 7. lion | _____ | 20. koala | _____ |
| 8. bear | _____ | 21. vulture | _____ |
| 9. rat | _____ | 22. nightingale | _____ |
| 10. snake | _____ | 23. crane | _____ |
| 11. deer | _____ | 24. walrus | _____ |
| 12. elk | _____ | 25. gorilla | _____ |
| 13. ox | _____ | 26. xylophone | _____ |

Name _____

**ENTRY WORDS:
ALPHABETICAL ORDER**

BADGER, BAT, BALD EAGLE – Which one comes first in alphabetical order? As you can see, alphabetizing can be tricky. Many words not only begin with the same first two letters, but also with the same first three, four, and even sometimes five letters.



Practice your alphabetizing skills with the words below by putting each group in ABC order.

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------|-------|----|----------|-------|
| 1. | alligator | _____ | 3. | cat | _____ |
| | aardvark | _____ | | crane | _____ |
| | asp | _____ | | cockatoo | _____ |
| 2. | bear | _____ | 4. | dog | _____ |
| | bull | _____ | | deer | _____ |
| | bird | _____ | | duck | _____ |

Now, it gets a little trickier. Put these groups in ABC order.

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-------|----|------------|-------|
| 1. | elephant | _____ | 3. | goat | _____ |
| | elk | _____ | | gorilla | _____ |
| | elder duck | _____ | | gopher | _____ |
| 2. | fawn | _____ | 4. | hartebeest | _____ |
| | falcon | _____ | | hawk | _____ |
| | fang | _____ | | hamster | _____ |

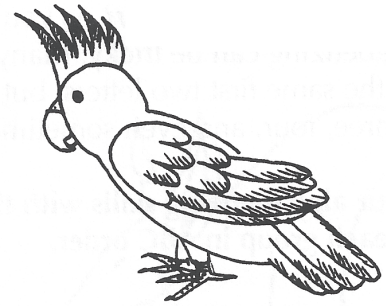
This is even trickier. Put these groups in ABC order.

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-------|----|------------|-------|
| 1. | jackal | _____ | 2. | police dog | _____ |
| | jackrabbit | _____ | | polar bear | _____ |
| | jackdaw | _____ | | pointer | _____ |

Name _____

**ENTRY WORDS:
ALPHABETICAL ORDER**

COCKATOO, COCKATIEL, COCKEREL – Which one comes first in alphabetical order? With so many words in the dictionary, you really must be good at alphabetizing. So, do just a little more practice with putting words in alphabetical order.



Put each group of “L” words in ABC order.

1. loft _____
log _____
loss _____
lodge _____
2. locust _____
love _____
lobster _____
lock _____

Now, try these groups of “M” words.

1. marmoset _____
marquee _____
market _____
marble _____
2. marabou _____
martingale _____
martin _____
marsh _____

Alphabetize each group of “S” words.

1. starfish _____
startle _____
star _____
starch _____
2. starling _____
stargazer _____
starry _____
starve _____

Now, try these groups of “T” words.

1. tread _____
treason _____
treasure _____
treat _____
2. treaty _____
treachery _____
treadmill _____
treatment _____