

Dictionary Challenge

Activity 1

Dictionaries are an important tool to know how to use. They help to expand your vocabulary and are useful when completing reading or writing tasks.

Complete the paragraph, choosing from the list of words below, to explain the purpose of a dictionary.

spell sound means alphabetical similar

We use a dictionary when we don't know how to _____ a word, or when we don't know what a word _____. All the words in the dictionary are in _____ order.

 Check to make sure that the words you've added make sense in the text.

Activity 2

Dictionaries are sometimes split into sections, e.g. A–D, E–H, I–L, M–P, Q–T, U–Z.

Using your knowledge of alphabetical order, match the words to the section of the dictionary in which you'd find them.

caterpillar

A-D

fish

I-L

jelly

Q-T

string

E-H

Dictionary Challenge

Activity 3

Dictionaries are arranged in alphabetical order. You often need to look at the first, second, third and sometimes the fourth letter of a word to help you find it in the dictionary.

Arrange the following words in the order that they would appear in the dictionary, from first to last.

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z
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1. waterfall, earn, leap, open, crop

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	LAST

2. king, length, happy, ink, hole

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	LAST

3. hide, apple, batter, bring, wing

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	LAST

4. jump, journey, joust, jail, junk

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	LAST

5. Think of your own five words that begin with the letter 'b'. List them in the space below and then order them alphabetically.

FIRST	SECOND	THIRD	FOURTH	LAST

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Activity 4

Dictionaries help you to learn the meaning of words. Some words have more than one meaning, although they are spelled in the same way. Often they are pronounced differently, depending on the intended meaning.



If you don't have a dictionary you can use one online.

Complete the questions below to practise using a dictionary to find word meanings.

- 1 Use a dictionary to find the definition of the word 'heron'. Tick the description below that best matches the definition you find.

 - A furry mammal that lives in the Arctic.
 - A large, fish-eating, wading bird with long legs.
 - A person who has conducted heroic acts.

- 2 'Minute' is an example of a word with more than one meaning. It may be pronounced differently, depending on the meaning you wish it to have, or the context in which you are using it.

Record two definitions of 'minute' and write a sentence for each definition to show how you might use the word in different contexts.

Definition 1:

Sentence

Definition 2:

Sentence
