

Collins Dictionary Skills

For ages 5-7

Barry and Anita Scholes

Collins

Collins Dictionary Skills for Ages 5–7

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Introduction

Collins Dictionary Skills

Collins Dictionary Skills provide all-in-one support for developing dictionary skills. Each Skills book provides:

- photocopiable activity sheets, differentiated for a wide range of abilities
- clear teaching notes and answers

Collins Dictionaries — for children aged 2 to 11+

Developed in consultation with teachers, children’s lexicographers, educational advisors and literacy, numeracy and science specialists, these clear, colourful dictionaries have been written and designed to support today’s Primary classroom requirements.

Collins Children’s Dictionaries are carefully streamlined to provide a dictionary for each key level of literacy development. Because Collins’ range of dictionaries progressively builds skills, children will be able to move confidently between levels and become independent dictionary users.

Children need to acquire the ability to use a dictionary successfully and independently. Collins Children’s Dictionaries have been designed to provide all the support that children need, by means of:

- clear, easy-to-use design
- child-oriented definitions and examples
- progressive building of key skills as children move from level to level.

The Collins Children’s Dictionary range:

- *builds essential dictionary skills* progressively, step by step, from beginner to advanced
- supports *today’s curriculum needs* from the Early Years upwards
- incorporates special features to *encourage independent learning*, such as annotated introductions, theme pages, grammar help, word banks and word histories
- has been *rigorously researched and trialled* with teachers and pupils
- has been compiled by a team of experts.

About Collins Dictionary Skills for ages 5–7

Activity sheets

These activity sheets are designed to be used as active literacy resources. They provide a wide range of activities to help Y2 and Y3 (P3 and P4) children develop basic dictionary skills. They give you, the teacher, a variety of strategies to support literacy objectives.

The activity sheets are also suitable as a focus for class teaching, for use with a small group, or for individual work in class or at home. The range of activities enables you to select appropriate activity sheets to meet the needs of individual children.

The activity sheets are grouped in seven sections:

Using a dictionary

Activity sheets 1 and 2 help children to understand the functions of a dictionary.

Alphabetical order

Activity sheets 3 to 6 support children in gaining alphabet skills, reinforce these skills and give practice in finding words in the dictionary.

Dictionary organization

Activity sheets 7 to 9 will help the children to use a dictionary confidently. They show how to open a dictionary near the right place, and then to use guide words and knowledge of alphabetical order to find the word they are looking for. They also show how to find and use other information provided in the dictionary, such as synonyms and antonyms, collective nouns, abbreviations and number words.

Definitions

Activity sheets 10 to 14 encourage the children to use the dictionary to find and check definitions, including multiple definitions. They also encourage children to think of their own definitions and to check them with those in the dictionary.

Spelling

Activity sheets 15 to 23 show how a dictionary can be used for help with spelling. They encourage the children to use suffixes and prefixes and to investigate words with the same sound but different spellings. There is special help for finding words which do not begin with the letter a child might expect, such as write, chemist.

Dictionary games and quizzes

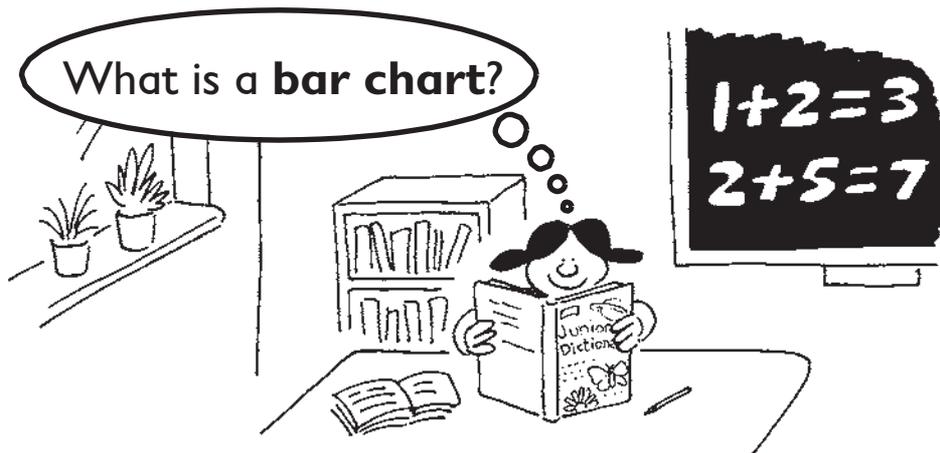
Activity sheets 24 to 30 offer a variety of dictionary games and quizzes to consolidate the children's understanding of the various functions of a dictionary.

Word banks

Activity sheets 31 and 32 encourage the children to collect and classify in groups words of special interest. The last sheet is a template for children to use to add to their word banks across the curriculum.



What is a dictionary? (1)



A **dictionary** is a book that lists words in alphabetical order. It tells you how to spell them and what they mean.

Alphabetical order

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

1. What letter does **bar chart** begin with? _____
2. Put these words in the order you will find them in a dictionary.

half second coffee plait

vase tiger yo-yo melt

What is a dictionary? (2)



Spelling

If you are not sure how to spell a word, a dictionary is the place to find out.

Which is the correct spelling?

1. **sirup** or **syrup**? _____
2. **medicine** or **medcine**? _____

Sometimes a word does not begin with the letter you think it should.

Write begins with a silent **w**. **Photo** begins with **ph**.

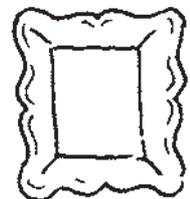
Which is the correct spelling of these words?

3. **rong** or **wrong**? _____



4. **fone** or **phone**? _____

5. **reck** or **wreck**? _____



6. **frame** or **phrame**? _____



Alphabetical order: the first letter

1. Put a ring round the first letter of each of these words.



car



van



plane



submarine

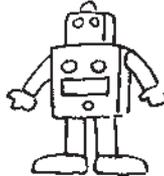
Now put the words in alphabetical order. The first one has been done for you.

car _____

2. Write down the words to match the pictures. Then write all the words in alphabetical order.



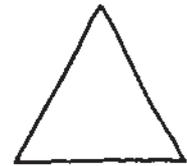
g _____



r _____



c _____



t _____



h _____



g _____



s _____



k _____

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



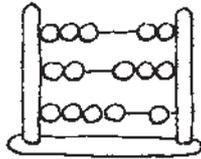
Alphabetical order: the second letter

When words begin with the same letter, look at the second letter for alphabetical order.

1. Put a ring round the second letter of each of these words.



ant



abacus



armchair



alligator

Now put the words in alphabetical order. The first one has been done for you.

abacus

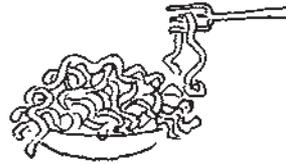
2. Do the same for these words



shell



sandwich



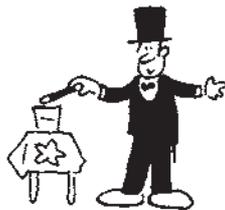
spaghetti



snowman



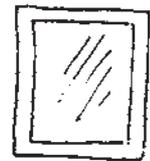
mermaid



magician



mushroom



mirror

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



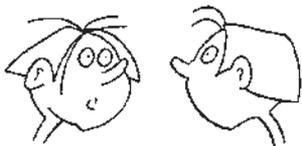
Alphabetical order: the third letter

When words begin with the same letter, look at the third letter for alphabetical order.

3. Put a ring round the third letter of each of these words.



stick



stare



steam



stool

Now put the words in alphabetical order. The first one has been done for you.

stare _____

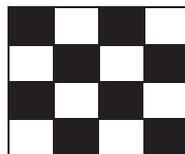
4. Do the same for these words



panda



parcel



pattern



paint



chair



chimpanzee



church



champion

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



Word search (1)

1. All the words in this word search begin with **c**. The pictures give clues to them. Write down each word as you find it.

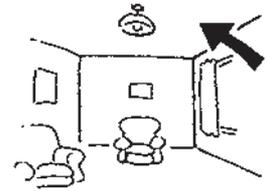
c	y	l	i	n	d	e	r
u	e	c	c	o	m	b	c
s	c	i	r	c	l	e	a
h	s	c	l	i	f	f	c
i	c	h	a	i	n	k	t
o	e	n	c	o	n	f	u
n	c	r	o	w	d	g	s



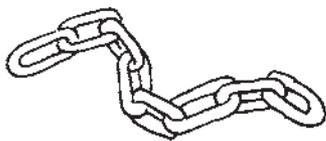
c _____



c _____



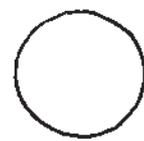
c _____



c _____



c _____



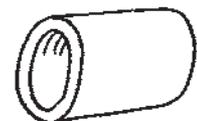
c _____



c _____



c _____



c _____

2. Now number the words above in alphabetical order. Check the spelling in the dictionary. Look at the second letter.

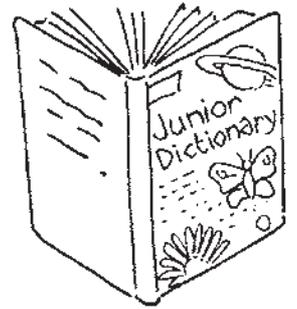
Activity 7

Name _____

Finding your way



Finding your way in a dictionary is much easier if you learn to open it near to the word you want.



Open your dictionary somewhere in the middle.

What letter do the words there begin with? _____

The words in the first half of the dictionary are those beginning from **a** to **m**. The words in the second half begin from **m** to **z**.

Now open your dictionary about halfway between the beginning and the middle.

What letter do the words there begin with? _____

Do the same between the middle and the end.

What letter do the words there begin with? _____

The words in a dictionary are in four parts:

a-e	e-m	m-s	s-z
------------	------------	------------	------------

Write down the missing letters for each of the four parts.

1. **a-e** a _____ e

2. **e-m** e _____ m

3. **m-s** m _____ s

4. **s-z** s _____ z

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



Abbreviations

An abbreviation is a shortened form of one or more words. Try to find out the answers to these questions. You can use a dictionary to help you.

1. Write the abbreviation for each of the words below.



2. What do these abbreviations stand for?

www _____

MP _____

IT _____

PE _____

p.m. _____

PS _____

3. Write the numbers for these words.

One hundred thousand _____

One million _____



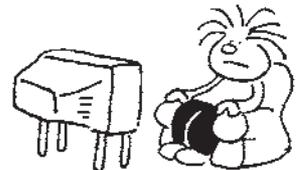
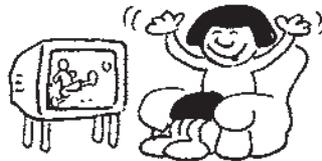
Antonyms and synonyms

An **antonym** is a word that means the opposite of another word. **Synonyms** are words that have the same or similar meaning.

Use the **Antonyms** and **Synonyms** lists at the back of your dictionary to help you answer these questions.

1. Write the correct antonym under each picture:

up	down	exciting	boring
----	------	----------	--------



2. Can you think of an **antonym** for each of these words?

empty _____

before _____

beginning _____

above _____

3. Write a different word with the same meaning, or **synonym**, for each word underlined in these sentences.

He enjoyed a nice meal. _____

The cave was big. _____

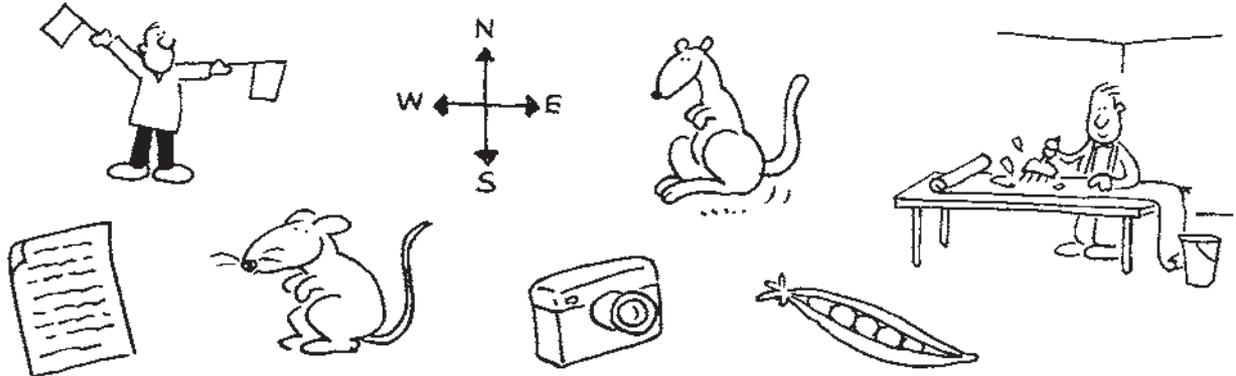
He had a bad pain in his leg. _____





Find the word (1)

Complete each sentence with the correct word.

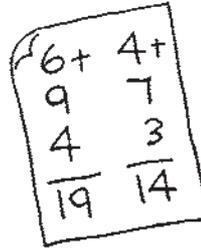


1. A ca_____ is a piece of equipment you use to take pictures.
2. A gr_____ is a broad smile.
3. A ka_____ is a large Australian animal which moves forward by jumping on its back legs.
4. Pa_____ is a thick wet mixture that is easy to spread.
5. A po_____ is a seed cover.
6. A ra_____ is a rodent with a long tail.
7. A si_____ is a message that is given by signs.
8. So_____ is one of the four main points of the compass.
9. Te_____ is any written material.
10. A wa_____ is a tall cupboard where you hang your clothes.



Find the word (2)

Complete each sentence with the correct word.



1. If you ab_____ something, you leave it and do not return.
2. If you ca_____ something in maths, you work it out.
3. Fl_____ is the past tense of fly.
4. When certain animals hi_____, they spend the winter in a sleep-like state.
5. If a child mi_____, they are naughty or behave badly.
6. Pi_____ means to choose.
7. If you re_____ someone, you save them from danger.
8. If something sp_____, it turns round and round quickly.
9. If you tr_____ a dog, you teach it to behave properly.
10. If someone wa_____, they make a long crying noise.



Find the word (3)

An **adjective** is a word that describes someone or something.

1. Match these adjectives with their meanings by drawing a line.
Use a dictionary to check your answers.

fizzy

special

identical

upright

two-dimensional

permanent

horrible

horizontal

lasts forever, or for
a very long time

level, like the horizon

awful or very unpleasant

more important or better than
other things of its kind

full of little bubbles of gas

exactly the same in every detail

something that is a flat shape

standing up straight



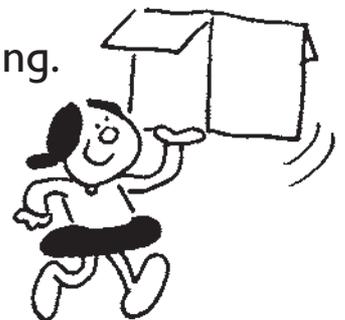
2. Write the correct adjective next to each meaning.

a) very soft and light fl _____

b) not weighing much li _____

c) not saying anything or making any noise si _____

d) having a good flavour ta _____



Definitions



A **definition** explains the meaning of a word.

1. Complete these definitions.

a) A **person** is a man, woman or _____.

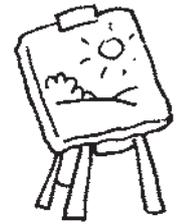
b) A **race** is a competition to _____

_____.

c) A **recipe** is a list of ingredients and _____

_____.

2. Do the same with these.



a) A **mask** is something that you _____.

b) A **painting** is a picture that _____

_____.

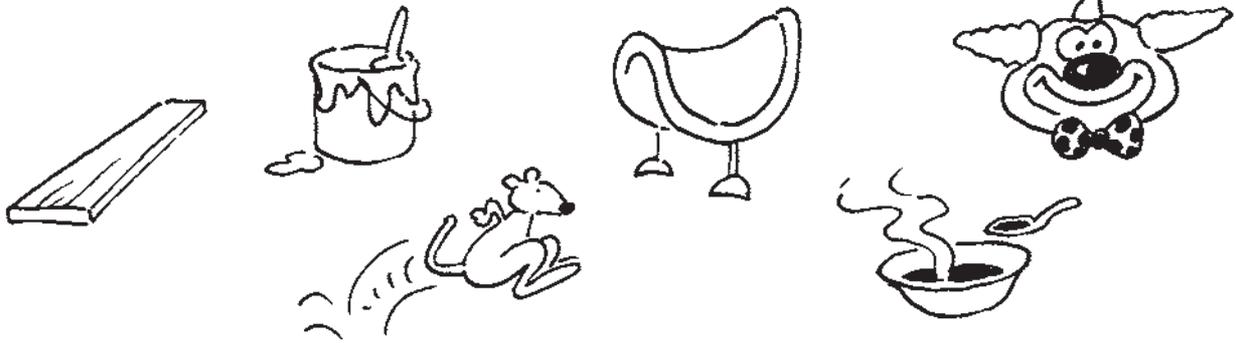
c) Your **knee** is _____

_____.



Writing your own definitions

Write your own definitions for these words. Then use a dictionary to check if you have missed out anything important.



1. A **plank** is _____.

2. **Paint** is _____

_____.

3. A **saddle** is a _____

_____.

4. A **clown** is _____

_____.

5. If you **leap** somewhere, you _____

_____.

6. **Soup** is _____

_____.



Verbs

When you look up a **verb** in the dictionary, you are also given its other forms.

1. Write the other forms of these verbs. The first one has been done for you.

break	breaks	breaking	broke	broken
catch				—
choose				
come				
dig				—
fly				

2. Complete these sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

a) She _____ soundly. This morning
she _____ until ten o'clock. (sleep)



b) He _____ this morning.
He is _____ now. (swim)





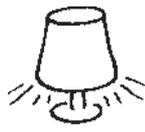
Making words with -er and -est

When you look up a word in the dictionary, you are also given its other forms. For example, at **strong** you can see the words **stronger** and **strongest**.

1. Write the other forms of these adjectives using **-er** and **-est**.



bright





clumsy





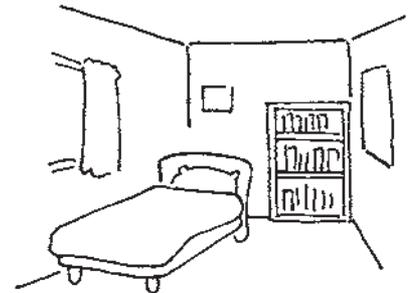
cold





2. Complete these sentences.

a) My room is tidy, but my brother's
is _____ and my
sister's is _____ of all.



b) Your work is easy, mine is _____ but
Anita's is the _____ of all.



The right spelling

Some words with the same sound have different spellings.

The or sound

1. Put **or**, **oor**, **aw**, **au** or **ore** in the spaces below.



cl _____



c _____ ght



st _____

Football, netball and tennis are all sp _____ ts.

He mopped the fl _____.

Cat's feet are called p _____ s.

The er sound

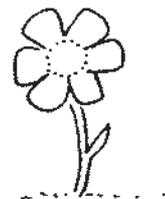
2. Put **er**, **ir** or **ur** in the spaces below.



b _____ d



ch _____ ch



flow _____

Dad b _____ ned some old wood on the fire.

St _____ the soup if you want some for supp _____.



Words which sound the same (1)

Some words sound exactly the same, but have different spellings.

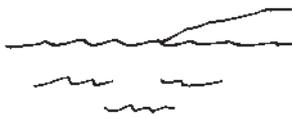


sale



sail

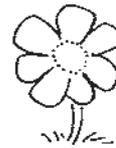
1. Choose the right word.



sea, see



night, knight



flower, flour



dear, deer



right, write



sew, sow

2. Choose the right word to complete these sentences.

- a) _____ is a food which comes from part of an animal. (meat, meet)



- b) Please may I have a _____ of apple pie? (peace, piece)



- c) Did you _____ the bell ring? (hear, here)





Prefixes

A **prefix** is a letter or group of letters added to the beginning of a word to make a new word.



un + happy = unhappy



mini + bus = minibus

1. Choose a suitable prefix from the box to make the words below into new words. The first one has been done for you.

super- micro- de- dis- under- non-

appear disappear

wave _____

ground _____

sense _____

sonic _____

forest _____

2. Match these prefixes with their meanings. The first one has been done for you.

non-, un-

mis-

pre-

micro-

over-

semi-

super-

re-

co-

together

not

very small

wrong

too much

before

again

half

larger, more than





Suffixes

A **suffix** is a letter or group of letters added to the end of a word to make a new word.



lion + ess = lioness

1. Find a suitable suffix from the box below to make new words from these words.

-ful	-y	-able	-ness
------	----	-------	-------



wonder _____ rust _____

comfort _____ good _____

2. Sometimes words change their spellings before adding a suffix, as in **sense** and **sensible**.

Make new words from the words below by adding a suitable suffix from the box.

-ous	-y	-ness	-sion	-ous	-ary
------	----	-------	-------	------	------

happy _____ imagine _____

mischief _____ continue _____

hunger _____ divide _____



The beginnings of words

Checking spellings in a dictionary is easy if you know the first two or three letters of a word. But some words do not begin in the way you might think they do.

These words sound as if they begin with **r**, but they really begin with **wr**:

wrap wren wrist wrinkle wrong



These words sound as if they begin with **f**, but begin with **ph**:

phone photocopy phrase physical

Other words sound as if they begin with **n** but really begin with **kn**:

knee knock knot knowledge



Some words beginning with **g** sound as if they begin with **j**:

generous gentle gerbil ginger

Other words beginning with **c** sound as if they begin with **s**:

cellar cinema city circle

Write the correct spelling for these words.





Sound advice

This guide will help you find words which do not begin with the letter you might expect. Use your dictionary to add more words to the list.



Word	Sounds as though it begins with	Look it up under	Other words like this
ceiling	s	ce	
centipede	s	ce	
circle	s	ci	
cycle	s	cy	
germ	j	g	
gnat	n	gn	
gnome	n	gn	
knuckle	n	kn	
photo	f	ph	
wren	r	wr	
chemist	k	ch	



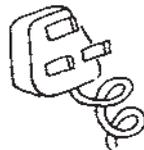
Word search (2)

1. All the words in this word search begin with **p**. There are eight words. The pictures give clues to them. Write down each word as you find it.

p	p	h	o	n	e	p
s	u	o	p	a	n	o
p	p	k	t	f	n	z
l	p	p	e	a	r	i
u	y	q	z	o	t	m
g	r	p	r	a	m	o
p	y	r	a	m	i	d



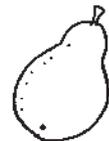
p _____



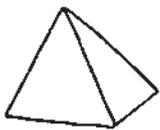
p _____



p _____



p _____



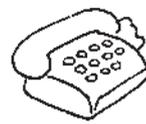
p _____



p _____



p _____



p _____

2. Now list the same words in alphabetical order. Look at the second letter.

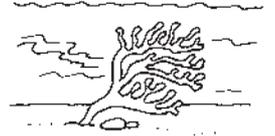


Ready, steady, go!

All these words begin with **s**. Use the second letter to help you find each word. See how quickly you can find all 12 words.

1. sa _____ a journey to see wild animals

2. se _____ a plant that grows in the sea



3. sk _____ a quick drawing

4. sl _____ good at tricking people in a not very nice way

5. sm _____ looks neat and clean

6. sn _____ a soft piece of falling snow



7. so _____ not hollow

8. sp _____ a tiny piece of fire



9. sq _____ a loud harsh noise made by a bird

10. st _____ to take something which does not belong to you

11. su _____ to manage to do what you set out to do



12. sw _____ to lean or swing slowly from side to side



Word steps

1. Read the clues and complete these word steps.

t i

e t

n k

t



1. a car that people pay to be driven somewhere in
2. does not do very much
3. the way out of a place
4. much narrower than it is long

5. the part of your body that joins your head to the rest of your body

6. to make something from wool using two long needles



2. Write your own clues for the word steps below.

c r a b

o

a

t i n y

o

l

k

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Crossword

Use a dictionary to help you complete this crossword.

Clues across

1. not worried or excited
3. a space between two things
5. several people or things arranged in a line
7. it pumps the blood round your body
9. a place in a desert where water and plants are found
12. I want ____ go out.
13. to take the lid off or unfasten
15. a small animal that looks like a lizard
16. a curved part of a bridge, wall or building

1		2			3	4	
5				6			
			7				8
9	10	11				12	
13					14		
15							
				16			

Clues down

1. a funny drawing
2. with only a short distance from the ground to the top
4. two things are this when there is a space between them
6. you say this to agree with someone
7. a suggestion or clue
8. one of the hard white objects in your mouth
10. animals like monkeys but larger and have no tails
11. to join pieces of cloth together by using a needle and thread
14. a thick black substance that is used for making roads



Making a word bank

A word bank is a collection of interesting words. Words such as **move**, **speak**, **look** and **cook** have lots of synonyms, which are words that have the same or similar meaning.

Put these words into their correct word bank. Write other synonyms for each word bank.

stare crawl boil hop whisper fry glance
shout roast gaze wriggle mumble

move

speak

look

cook

**Quiz time (1)**

Write the correct words.

1. the joint between your foot and your leg **a** _____
2. a band or chain worn round the wrist as an ornament **b** _____
3. the place where the land meets the sea **c** _____
4. a long period of time when no rain falls **d** _____
5. a folded paper covering of a letter or a card **e** _____
6. a journey through the air made by an aeroplane **f** _____
7. the group of people who run a country **g** _____
8. a woman or girl who has done something brave or good **h** _____
9. a large piece of ice floating in the sea **i** _____
10. the work that a person does to earn money **j** _____
11. a sharp metal tool for cutting things **k** _____
12. the bags and cases you take with you on a trip **l** _____
13. the hair growing on a man's upper lip **m** _____

**Quiz time (2)**

Write the correct words.

1. a frightening dream **n** _____
2. What someone think about something **o** _____
3. Something given to a person as a reward **p** _____
4. a line of people waiting for something **q** _____
5. a cold-blooded animal with a scaly skin **r** _____
6. the place far above the Earth where there is no air **s** _____
7. a piece of thick cloth for drying things **t** _____
8. a place where people go to carry on learning after they have left school **u** _____
9. a kind of jar used for holding cut flowers **v** _____
10. a small tube which makes a loud sound when you blow it **w** _____
11. a musical instrument made of wooden bars in a row **x** _____
12. the day before today **y** _____
13. a park where wild animals are kept so that people can look at them **z** _____



Word ladder

Change one letter in each word below to make a new word. Use the clues to help you.

f a i l

1. a bucket

2. the back part of an animal

3. higher than other people
or things

4. a drawer where money
is kept in a shop

5. a bird's beak

6. a round object used
in games

7. having no hair on top
of your head

8. not afraid of danger

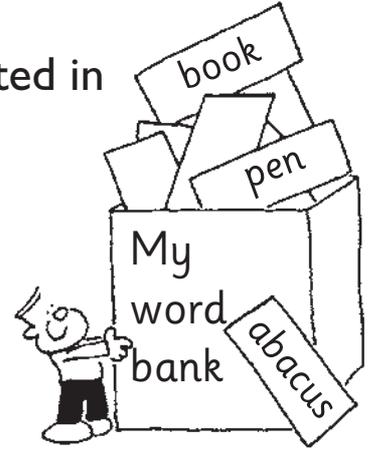
9. a common illness



Collecting words

Use this sheet to make your own collection of words.
Here are some ideas to start you off:

- words connected with a topic you are interested in
- synonyms
- new words you discover in reading
- your own definitions of favourite words



Write the definition of each word you collect.
Learn how to spell each word in your collection.

Word

Definition

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Answers

Activity 1

- b
- coffee, half, plait, second; melt, tiger, vase, yo-yo

Activity 2

- syrup
- medicine
- wrong
- phone
- wreck
- frame

Activity 3

- car, plane, submarine, van
- (in alphabetical order) caterpillar, giraffe, glove, hammer, kitten, robot, skeleton, triangle

Activity 4

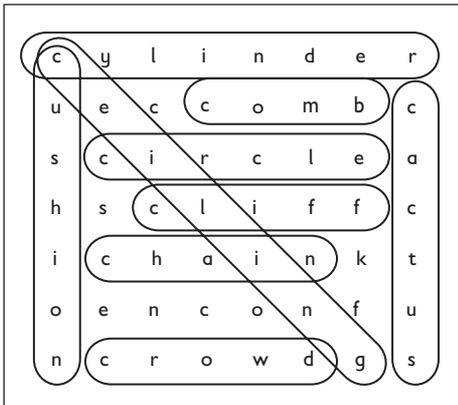
- abacus, alligator, ant, armchair
- sandwich, shell, snowman, spaghetti; magician, mermaid, mirror, mushroom

Activity 5

- stare, steam, stick, stool,
- paint, panda, parcel, pattern chair, champion, chimpanzee, church

Activity 6

cactus, ceiling, chain, circle, cliff, comb, crowd, cushion, cylinder



Check the children's answers are correct.

Activity 7

- bcd
- fgijkl
- nopqr
- tuvwxyz

Activity 8

- CD, kg, PC, UFO
- World Wide Web, Member of Parliament, information technology, physical education, in the afternoon or evening, postscript
- 100 000; 1 000 000

Activity 9

- down, up, boring, exciting
- full, after, end, below
- delicious; huge, large, enormous, gigantic, vast, colossal; severe

Activity 10

- camera
- grin
- kangaroo
- paste
- pod
- rat
- signal
- south
- text
- wardrobe

Activity 11

- abandon
- calculate
- Flew
- hibernate
- misbehaves
- Pick
- rescue
- spins
- train
- walls

Activity 12

- fizzy: full of little bubbles of gas; special: more important or better than other things of its kind; identical: exactly the same in every detail; two-dimensional: something that is a flat shape; permanent: lasts forever, or for a very long time; upright: standing up straight; horrible: awful or very unpleasant; horizontal: level like the horizon
- a) fluffy b) light c) silent d) tasty

Activity 13

- a) child b) see who is the fastest
c) instructions for cooking something
a) wear over your face to protect or disguise you
b) has been painted
c) the joint where your leg bends

Activity 14

- a long flat piece of wood
- a coloured liquid that you put onto a surface to make it look fresh
- seat for a rider on a horse or bicycle
- someone in a circus who wears funny clothes and does silly things to make people laugh
- jump over a long distance or high in the air
- liquid food made by boiling meat, fish or vegetables in water

Activity 15

- catches, catching, caught; chooses, choosing, chose, chosen; comes, coming, came, come; digs, digging, dug; flies, flying, flew, flown
- a) sleeps, slept b) swam, swimming

Activity 16

- brighter, brightest; clumsier, clumsiest; colder, coldest
- a) tidier, tidiest b) easier, easiest

Activity 17

- The *or* sound: **claw**, **caught**, **store**; **sports**; **floor**; **paws**
- The *er* sound: **bird**, **church**, **flower**; **burned**; **Stir**; **supper**

Activity 18

- sea, knight, flower, deer, write, sew
- a) Meat b) piece c) hear

Activity 19

- disappear, microwave, underground, nonsense, supersonic, deforest
- mis- = wrong; pre- = before; micro- = very small; over- = too much; semi- = half; super- = larger, more than; re- = again; co- = together

Activity 20

- wonderful, rusty, comfortable, goodness
- happiness, imaginary, mischievous, continuous, hungry, division

Activity 21

circus, write/writing, giraffe, photograph, knife, cereal, giant, knight

Activity 22

Check the children's answers are correct.

Activity 23

1.

A word search grid with the following words circled: phone, pan, pear, pram, puppy, pyramid, plug, potato, and pram.

- pan, pear, phone, plug, potato, pram, puppy, pyramid

Activity 24

- safari
- seaweed
- sketch
- sly
- smart
- snowflake
- solid
- spark
- squawk
- steal
- succeed
- sway

Activity 25

- taxi, idle, exit, thin, neck, knit
- Make sure the children have good definitions of their own for the given words.

Activity 26

1.

1	c	a	2	l	m		3	g	4	a	p
	a			o						p	
5	r	o	w			6	y			a	
	t			7	h	e	a	r	8	t	
9	o	10	a	11	s	i	s		12	t	o
13	o	p	e	n			14	t			o
15	n	e	w	t				a			t
		s				16	a	r	c	h	

Activity 27

move: crawl, hop, wiggle
 speak: whisper, shout, mumble
 look: stare, glance, gaze
 cook: boil, fry, roast
 Check the children have also added other suitable synonyms for these words.

Activity 28

- ankle
- bracelet
- coast
- drought
- envelope
- flight
- government
- heroine
- iceberg
- job
- knife
- luggage
- Moustache

Activity 29

- nightmare
- opinion
- prize
- queue
- reptile
- Space
- towel
- university
- vase
- whistle
- xylophone
- yesterday
- zoo

Activity 30

pail, tail, till, bill, ball, bald, bold, cold