



Dictionary Skills

Some basic skills are needed in order to use a dictionary effectively and efficiently. All of the words in a dictionary are in alphabetical order. Knowing the ABC's (alphabetical order) makes it easier to quickly locate a specific word.

Guide words are located at the top of each page. The guide words tell the first word that is on the page as well as the last word that is on the page. (Example: *geyser-goat*) The guide words are *geyser* and *goat*. *Geyser* will be the first word on the page. *Goat* will be the last word on the page. All the words that come alphabetically after *geyser* and before *goat* can be found on that particular page.

PRACTICE

Write each word under the correct pair of guide words in alphabetical order.

belly	legs	paw	pet	growl
canine	breed	fur	bowl	mutt
smell	puppy	fleas	bark	domesticated

abalone-dog

doll-listen

little-volume

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Write each word under the correct pair of guide words in alphabetical order.

cat	climb	fluffy	paws	fur
feral	fish	catnip	scratch	room
furball	bell	aloof	pounce	meow

album-fee

feed-man

map-swim

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

WRITE ON!

On a separate sheet of paper, design your own dictionary page, complete with guide words and entry words. Exchange papers with a classmate. Have the classmate add three words to your dictionary page.