

Table of Contents

A to Z Vocabulary	1	Ten-Letter Teasers	45
A to Z Animals	3	Tile Trouble	47
Write Your Own Dictionary	4	S-S-Something's Wrong!	48
Choose Your Words Carefully!	6	Grid Grief	49
A to Z Anagrams	7	This Is 'Ent'ertainment!	50
The Beginning and the End	8	Cubic Quandary	51
Order, Please!	9	Occupational Hazard	52
Eponyms	10	Give Me Five!	53
Vertical Files	11	Under Construction	54
Alphabetical Objects	12	First Things First	55
Score More	14	Three-Two-One	56
A to Z Inserts	15	Inside Insights	58
Weird Words	16	What's in a Word?	60
Antonyms, Homonyms and Synonyms ..	17	Hamburger Surprise	61
Antonym Add-Ons	19	Forward, Please!.....	62
Antonym Word Search	20	Musical Mayhem	63
Addled Antonyms	22	Tricky Turnabouts	64
Homonym Hints	23	Trickier Turnabouts	65
A Goof-Proof Story	24	Check Your I.Q.	66
Alphabetical Homonyms	25	Three from One	68
Intersecting Synonyms	26	One from Three	69
Synonym Sort-Out	27	Missing Animals	70
Rhyming Riddles	28	Calendar Countdown	71
Synonym Sets	29	Shrink and Grow	72
Four-Letter Fun	30	Creative Conundrums	73
'Four'agrams	32	Question, Please!	75
Fit for Four	33	Jabberwocky Jibberish	76
Quote Notes.....	34	Acronym Antics	77
Compound Confusion	35	Adjective Add-On.....	78
Mysterious Mutations	36	Hidden Identities	79
More Mutations	37	Proverbial Wisdom	80
One at a Time	38	From 'C' to Shining 'C'	82
Incomplete Analogies	39	From One to Another	83
Fourfit I	40	Simply Similes	84
Fourfit II	41	Answer Key	85
Food 'Four' Thought	42		
Pair Dare	43		
Four-by-Four Brainstorming	44		

To the Teacher

If you are looking for a resource that will challenge even your brightest students to expand their vocabularies, and one that will do so in a fun, appealing manner, then you have found it! This book contains over 70 different activities in play and creative thinking. The formats of the mind stretchers vary greatly from page to page, but one factor is constant: Students will be challenged to THINK!

To help students gain the greatest benefit from these pages, it is recommended that you instruct students to begin a 'Personal Word List'. As students encounter an unfamiliar word, they should record it in their personal lists, along with a brief definition. As you assign other writing activities during the school year, encourage students to use the new word they have recorded. It is only through regular use that new words truly become a part of students' vocabularies.

Be certain to have a set of classroom dictionaries on hand for many of these pages. The first section of the book is entitled 'A to Z Vocabulary'. These pages use words featuring every letter of the alphabet, and dictionaries will frequently need to be consulted. The second section, 'Antonyms, Homonyms and Synonyms', features fun exercises in the obvious word categories. A word search, which may sound easy, presents a big challenge. In 'Four-Letter Fun', students will be challenged to learn many short, but interesting new words. Activities include wordplay with anagrams and completion of famous quotations. 'Ten-Letter Teasers' sounds more intimidating, but there are many appealing activities here, including one on ten-letter occupations. On the pages of 'Inside Insights', students will look for words within words in a dozen different variations. The final section, 'Creative Conundrums', releases students to do more creative thinking and to use their own developing vocabularies to write unique responses to many different situations.

Vocabulary Mind Stretchers is a genuine treasury of words. It is the author's desire that through its pages students (and teachers, too!) will develop a greater love of language and will appreciate the benefits of having a wide personal vocabulary.

1 A to Z Vocabulary

The mind stretchers in this first section will send students right to their dictionaries, the best place of all to learn new words for expanding vocabularies. On most pages, students will be asked to supply words using every letter of the alphabet. Exercises intentionally expose students to both new words and new uses for familiar words.

Make certain that dictionaries are readily available to students for these pages. In most cases, paperback volumes may be sufficient. Other times, a more complete classroom edition will be necessary. Encourage students to start a 'Personal Word List' where they can record the meanings of interesting new words they meet. (They may even find such a list helpful for other pages later in the book.)

Warm-up activities:

1. Challenge students to make a list of nouns, verbs and adjectives beginning with each of the 26 letters of the alphabet. Do this together, making a classroom composite list. Or, if time allows, ask each student to make his/her own list, then compare outcomes. Reward the most unusual responses, if desired.
2. Ask students to write their own panagrams. A panagram is a sentence that uses every letter of the alphabet at least once. One example a panagram is: *The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

Suggestions for Specific Puzzlers

A to Z Animals

Some answers are much more obvious than others. Encourage students to complete those first and keep close track of the letters they have used by crossing them off the alphabet printed on the page. Keep a dictionary or wildlife book handy for reference. Make certain that students learn about any unfamiliar animals. For example, do they know what a *nutria* or a *junco* is?

Write Your Own Dictionary

Make certain that students know how to use guide words. Some pairs of guide words are closer together alphabetically than others. When the activity is completed, challenge some students to go back and try to add five more words to as many of the pages as possible. Ask students if they know 4 meanings of all the guide words. A few uncommon words have been intentionally included.

Choose Your Words Carefully!

This is a natural follow-up to the previous activity. Here students will have to use every conceivable rule on alphabetisation. If some teaching or review is needed, here is a short list to alphabetise together before assigning the page: *showy, shown, show, show window, shower, showing.* [Answer: *show, shower, showing, shown, show window, showy*]

A to Z Anagrams

This is a straightforward activity which should not present too many problems for most students. A dictionary will be useful only to verify words.

The Beginning and the End

Depending on the ability level of your students, you may choose to tell them the featured letter for at least some of the clues.

Order, Please!

On the longer words, allow students to use double letters. For example, on number 3 the word *hello* could be allowed. Can any students think of six-letter words? In alphabetical order, spell *glossy* or *chilly*. In reverse order, spell *rolled*.

Eponyms

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs or specialised books on inventions will be good sources of information here. Students could work in pairs or in small groups to research a few words together, or individuals could select one or two for their own personal study.

Vertical Files

You may wish to complete one list together on the blackboard before students do their own to be certain that they understand the restrictions. It can be trickier than it appears.

Alphabetical Objects

Sometimes more than one word may be possible for each line, so it is important for students to keep track of the letters they use and to remember that their answers must fit into one of the categories on the second page.

Score More

Note that the words do not have to begin with the letter. Also note the restriction of word length. In the example for the letter p, if students have trouble thinking of other words, suggest *peppy*. Allow the use of dictionaries.

A to Z Inserts

This can be a very challenging puzzle. Suggest that students place vowels and uncommon letters (q, z, x) first. Ask: Where are the only places a q can be inserted? (5, 14, 17, 19 are the only ones with a u.) Which items contain no vowels? (16, 22) Students may enjoy making their own list of 26 items that need inserts when they have finished this one.

Weird Words

In order to gain maximum benefit from this activity, ask students to re-check their dictionaries for complete definitions for five to ten of the new words and write a sentence for each that shows they know its meaning. Feature some of the words again in future lessons and quizzes.

Name _____

A to Z Animals

Add each letter of the alphabet to this word list to spell the names of animals. Some of the animals are very common; others are not. The animals may be mammals, reptiles, insects, birds, molluscs etc. Use each letter of the alphabet only once. Use this set of letters to help you keep track of the letters you use.

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. L _ N _

9. _ I _ CH

2. _ L _ M

10. _ OG

3. B _ A _ ER

11. NU _ R _ A

4. _ _ AIL

12. _ ARK

5. _ O _ SE

13. _ UNC _

6. _ E _ U

14. E _ RET

7. _ NA _ E

15. _ OTH

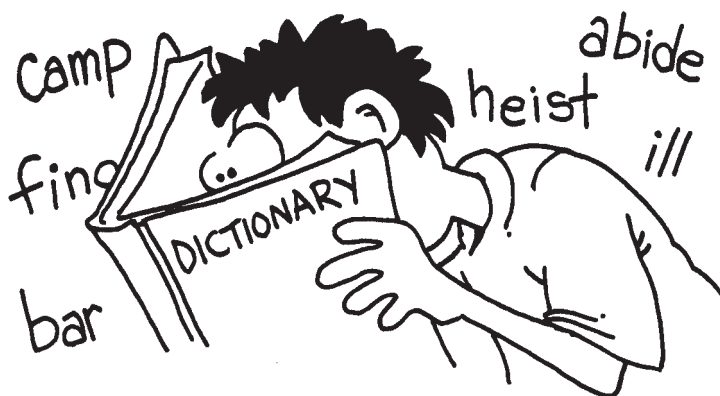
8. S _ ARRO _



Name _____

Write Your Own Dictionary

How quickly can you complete these pages? On each one, list five words that could appear on the page – that is, five words that come alphabetically between the two guide words on the page. There is a page for nearly every letter of the alphabet. You should be able to complete these pages without a dictionary, using your own vocabulary.



abide - abyss

bar - base

camp - canyon

decoy - defy

elephant - embargo

finger - fiscal

gluten - globble

heave - heist

ideal - ill
