



## Guide words in a dictionary

[KS2 / KS3 > Skills > Dictionary and thesaurus skills > Guide words in a dictionary](#)

---

**How it works** This is a quick, straightforward activity that reinforces alphabetical order and illustrates to pupils how the guide words at the top of pages in a dictionary work as well as giving them some practise in application

**Try this!** Pupils could do a quick alphabetical ordering activity of the words in Section A column 2 first, before matching them to the relevant guide words.

**Or this!** If pupils need practise applying their dictionary skills (the theory of which is tested by the resource) they could swap and mark each other's answers by actually looking in the dictionary. (The resource is based on the OUP Oxford Junior Dictionary.)

**Or even this!** As an extension – or alternative to previous suggestion – using whatever dictionaries they do have in the class, pupils make up, say, 5 more questions, making a separate note of the page numbers on which the answers can be found. Swap with partner and complete the matching. Then pass completed sheet to a third person who uses the dictionary to check the answers and as proof they actually looked them up in the dictionary records the relevant page numbers. Pass back to original person for checking!

**Julie Hopkins**

Guide words in a dictionary

Which words belong on these pages of the dictionary?

A. Match the guide words to the word you should find on the same page. The first one has been done for you.

1	<b>grate to grill</b>	street
2	<b>prove to punch</b>	structure
3	<b>straight to stretch</b>	smuggle
4	<b>crumple to curl</b>	sphere
5	<b>smear to snarl</b>	cry
6	<b>speech to spike</b>	prowl
7	<b>truck to tune</b>	greedy
8	<b>lock to lose</b>	triumph
9	<b>trick to truce</b>	loose
10	<b>strict to studio</b>	trunk

B. Circle the word that will not be on the page with these guide words at the top.

1	<b>fifty to finger</b>	hurry	film	figure
2	<b>change to chatter</b>	charm	clean	chat
3	<b>own to pail</b>	paddle	pack	out
4	<b>break to bright</b>	brick	brim	breeze
5	<b>mirror to modern</b>	mime	mixture	mistake

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