

Using Reference Materials to Check Spelling

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 10



Quick Review

When you are not sure how to spell a word, use a reference: a dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, or spell-checker. Dictionary entries are in alphabetical order. GUIDE WORDS at the top of each page show the FIRST and LAST entry on that page — a word fits on the page only if it falls alphabetically between them. An entry also gives a pronunciation respelling (dots show syllables; the mark ' shows the stressed syllable) and may list more than one meaning.

PRACTICE

Choose the best answer.

1. What are the GUIDE WORDS on a dictionary page?
 - A. the longest words on the page
 - B. the words you look up most often
 - C. words that are synonyms of each other
 - D. the first and last entry words on the page
2. Which word would be found on a page with guide words 'magnet — marble'?
 - A. machine
 - B. many
 - C. mask
 - D. meadow
3. Which list is in correct alphabetical order?
 - A. paper, pencil, picture, pond
 - B. pencil, paper, picture, pond
 - C. picture, paper, pencil, pond
 - D. paper, picture, pencil, pond
4. Which list is in correct alphabetical order?
 - A. pencil, peach, penguin, people
 - B. peach, penguin, pencil, people
 - C. peach, pencil, penguin, people
 - D. peach, pencil, people, penguin



5. A dictionary shows: ad·ven·ture. What does this tell you?
- A. The word has three meanings.
 - B. The word has three syllables.
 - C. The word should be pronounced loudly.
 - D. The word is divided into prefix, root, and suffix.
6. If you wanted to check the spelling of 'celebrate', which page would you check?
- A. a page with guide words 'cab — cake'
 - B. a page with guide words 'candy — carrot'
 - C. a page with guide words 'cherry — child'
 - D. a page with guide words 'ceiling — cement'
7. A dictionary shows 'bat': (1) a stick used to hit a ball, (2) a flying animal. Which meaning fits this sentence? 'The player swung the bat hard.'
- A. meaning 1 (the stick used to hit a ball)
 - B. meaning 2 (the flying animal)
 - C. both meanings
 - D. neither meaning
8. A dictionary entry begins: hum·ble (h■m'bl). The mark ' after 'h■m' means:
- A. that syllable is silent
 - B. the word has two meanings
 - C. that syllable is stressed (said more strongly)
 - D. the word rhymes with another word
9. You see the word 'mint' in a book about money: 'The coins came straight from the mint.' Which dictionary meaning of 'mint' fits this sentence?
- A. a small green plant used as flavoring
 - B. a place where coins are made
 - C. a type of candy
 - D. perfect or unused condition
10. Which reference book should you use to find a SYNONYM (another word with the same meaning)?
- A. a thesaurus
 - B. a dictionary
 - C. an atlas
 - D. an encyclopedia



Answer Keys

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Explanations	
1. D	Guide words at the top of a dictionary page show the FIRST and LAST entry on that page, so you can tell at a glance whether your word is on that page.
2. B	Compare the third letter: 'magnet' has g, 'marble' has r. A word fits on the page only if its third letter is between g and r. 'Many' (m-a-n) fits because n is between g and r. A 'machine' (mac) comes BEFORE 'magnet'; C 'mask' (mas) comes AFTER 'marble'; D 'meadow' (me-) comes much later in the dictionary.
3. A	All four words start with 'p', so compare the SECOND letter: a (paper), e (pencil), i (picture), o (pond). Order: paper, pencil, picture, pond.
4. C	Compare letter by letter: peach (pe-a), pencil (pe-n-c), penguin (pe-n-g), people (pe-o). 'Pencil' comes before 'penguin' because c (3) comes before g (7). 'People' comes last because 'o' comes after 'n'.
5. B	The dots in a pronunciation respelling separate SYLLABLES. 'ad-ven-ture' has three syllables (ad-VEN-ture).
6. D	'Celebrate' (cele) falls alphabetically between 'ceiling' (ceil) and 'cement' (ceme). A and B come before celebrate (cab, can come before cel); C comes after (cher after cel).
7. A	Use CONTEXT clues: 'the player swung' tells you the bat is a piece of sports equipment, not an animal.
8. C	The mark ' in a pronunciation respelling shows which syllable is STRESSED — the one you say a little louder and stronger (HUM-bul).
9. B	Use CONTEXT: 'coins came straight from the mint' points to the meaning 'a place where coins are made.' The other meanings of 'mint' do not fit the sentence.
10. A	A thesaurus lists synonyms (and antonyms). A dictionary gives spellings and meanings; an atlas has maps; an encyclopedia has articles about topics.

