

2 Headword hunt

The **headword** is the word you look up. Headwords are listed in alphabetical order in a dictionary.

alphabet *NOUN* alphabets

the letters used in a language arranged in a set order

▷ **alphabetical** *ADJECTIVE*

▷ **alphabetically** *ADVERB*

WORD HISTORY from *alpha* and *beta*, the first two letters of the Greek alphabet



GETTING STARTED

Put these words in alphabetical order.

geography

science

religion

biology

technology

history

art

music

drama

chemistry

1. _____

4. _____

7. _____

2. _____

5. _____

8. _____

3. _____

6. _____

9. _____

10. _____



MOVING ON

Put the following words in alphabetical order in the table. Check if they are next to the correct definition.

idiot

kangha

zucchini

rupee

unguent

aspidistra

mayhem

quintet

journal

grammar

Latin

palindrome

| WORD | DEFINITION | ✓ or X |
|------------|---|--------|
| aspidistra | a newspaper or magazine | X |
| | the rules for using language correctly | |
| | a very silly or foolish person | |
| | a house plant with broad leaves | |
| | a word or phrase that reads the same forwards and backwards | |
| | the language of the ancient Romans | |
| | violent confusion or damage | |
| | a comb worn in the hair by Sikhs | |
| | a courgette | |
| | a group of five musicians | |
| | an ointment or lubricant | |
| | the unit of money in India and Pakistan | |

How many did you get right?

5 = NOVICE

10 = EXPERT

15 = MAESTRO

You can use your Oxford English Dictionary for Schools for these activities