ABC List Detectives

Check whether each word list is in ABC order.

2.2.D "alphabetize a series of words and use a dictionary or glossary to find words; and"

NAME _____ DATE _____

ALPHABETICAL ORDER

The words go from A to Z. Compare the first letters, then compare the next letters if needed.

apple, apron, ax

NOT ALPHABETICAL ORDER

The words do not go from A to Z. Put the words in a different order to alphabetize them.

yarn, violin, wagon

1 SORT

8 items

Circle ORDERED or MIXED for each list, then pick two lists and explain which letters helped you decide.

1. ant, boat, cat — ORDERED MIXED
2. kite, king, key — ORDERED MIXED
3. sun, sand, sock — ORDERED MIXED
4. blue, book, boy — ORDERED MIXED
5. drum, duck, dust — ORDERED MIXED
6. pear, peach, plum — ORDERED MIXED
7. chair, cheese, cherry — ORDERED MIXED
8. frog, fish, flower — ORDERED MIXED

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new ORDERED word list and one new MIXED word list.

ORDERED

MIXED

CHALLENGE

Use a dictionary or glossary to find two words that begin with the same letter. Write them in alphabetical order and tell which letter you compared next.

ANSWER KEY

ABC List Detectives

GRADE 2 · TEKS 2.2.D

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	ant, boat, cat	**ORDERED**	The first letters go a, b, c.
2	kite, king, key	**MIXED**	Key should come before king and kite.
3	sun, sand, sock	**MIXED**	Sand should come first, then sock, then sun; compare the second letters a, o, u.
4	blue, book, boy	**ORDERED**	The words are in alphabetical order.
5	drum, duck, dust	**ORDERED**	The words are in alphabetical order.
6	pear, peach, plum	**MIXED**	Peach should come before pear.
7	chair, cheese, cherry	**ORDERED**	The words are in alphabetical order.
8	frog, fish, flower	**MIXED**	Fish should come first, then flower, then frog.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **ORDERED**: map, mop, mug
- **MIXED**: tiger, rabbit, snake

Challenge: bacon, badge. I compared c and d.

Item answers are ORDERED, MIXED, MIXED, ORDERED, ORDERED, MIXED, ORDERED, MIXED. For Part 2, accept explanations that correctly name the first different letters students compared.