

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.

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	Sock should come first, then sand, then sun.
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.