Ants

Ants in the Apple

Programming for Spelling

Alphabetical Ordering

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Introduction

The ability to order words alphabetically is a pre-requisite skill for competent usage of any written reference material. As with any skill, alphabetical ordering needs to be taught in a systematic way starting with the easiest of tasks and progressing to the more difficult tasks.

Activities are structured as follows.

1. c-v-c, initial consonant blends, final consonant blends, digraphs
2. Progression from easiest tasks to hardest tasks
3. c-v-c words (e.g., 'nut') to complex digraph words (e.g., 'audacious')
4. Beginning exercises contain 3 words to be ordered, with subsequent exercises containing 4-8 words.
5. Beginning exercises include words that begin with *different* letters of the alphabet (e.g., 'nut', 'can, 'peg')
    The next level of exercises contains words that start with the same first letter ('sway', 'spin', 'step').
    The final level includes words that start with the same blends and digraphs (e.g., 'crab', 'cross', 'crust' and 'audience'. 'audacious', 'auditor').

Steps for putting words into alphabetical order.

1. Underline the first letter in each word.
2. Underline the *same first letters* in the alphabet list.
3. Write the first, underlined letters (from the previous step) in a list, in the same order as they occur in the alphabet.
4. Fill in the rest of the words.
5. Hey presto! Alphabetical order!

Example

Put these words into alphabetical order - fan, kiss, bin.

Step 1   Underline the first letter in each word.
            <u>f</u>an   <u>k</u>iss   <u>bi</u>n

Step 2   Underline the same first letters in the alphabet list.
            a <u>b</u> c d e <u>f</u> g h i j <u>k</u> l m

Step 3   Write the first letters in a list in the same order as they occur in the alphabet.
            <u>b</u> __ __
            <u>f</u> __ __
            <u>k</u> __ __

Step 4   Fill in the rest of the words
            bin
            fan
            kiss

Note   If the words to be ordered start with the same letter, then underline the *second* letter.
            If the words to be ordered start with the same initial consonant blend, then underline the *third* letter, etc.

9.   red   tip   bus

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

— — —

— — —

— — —

10.   well   jet   ram

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

— — —

— — —

— — —

11.   ban   pig   fox

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

— — —

— — —

— — —

12.   doll   rim   fun

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

— — —

— — —

— — —

9.   blot   glum   floss   twin

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

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

10.   such   flog   glad   bliss

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

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

11.   chip   twig   flash   bluff

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

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

12.   bled   twig   flip   glum

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

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

-- — — —

Step 1	If the words start with the same letter, underline the second letter in each word.

<div align="center">s<u>w</u>ag   s<u>k</u>ip   s<u>t</u>ep</div>

Step 2	Underline the second letters in the alphabet list.

<div align="center"><u>k</u> l m n o p q r s <u>t</u> u v <u>w</u></div>

Step 3	Write the second letters in a list in the same order as they occur in the alphabet.

<div align="center">s <u>k</u> __ __</div>
<div align="center">s <u>t</u> __ __</div>
<div align="center">s <u>w</u> __ __</div>

Step 4	Fill in the rest of the words

<div align="center">skip</div>
<div align="center">step</div>
<div align="center">swag</div>

Order by *second letter* in each word (3 Words)

Put these words into alphabetical order.

1.   spin   swam   scab

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

__ __ __ __

__ __ __ __

__ __ __ __

2.   skid   stop   smell

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

__ __ __ __

__ __ __ __

__ __ __ __

Lists that contain *some* words that begin with the same letter.

If two words in the list start with the same letter underline the *first* letter then put a box around the *second* letters in those two words.

Example:

Put these words into alphabetical order: force   thorn   flee   short

Step 1   Underline the first letter in each word:
<u>f</u>orce   <u>t</u>horn   <u>f</u>lee   <u>s</u>hort

Step 2   Underline the same first letters in the alphabet list:

a b c d e <u>f</u> g h i j k l m n o p q r <u>s</u> <u>t</u> u v w x y z
               2

(Because there are two words beginning with 'f', write the number '2' under 'f' in the alphabet.)

Step 3   When you get to a letter with a '2' under it you need to write that letter twice in the list:

<u>f</u> __ __ __
<u>f</u> __ __ __
<u>s</u> __ __ __
<u>t</u> __ __ __

Step 4   Now look at the two words that begin with the same letter:
force   flee

Put a box around the *second* letter in each word:

f o rce   f l ee

Step 5   Put a box around the *second* letters in the alphabet

a b c d e <u>f</u> g h i j k l m n o p q r <u>s</u> <u>t</u> u v w x y z
               2

Step 6   Write the second letters, in order, next to the same letters in the list.

<u>f</u> l __ __
<u>f</u> o __ __
<u>s</u> __ __ __
<u>t</u> __ __ __

Step 7   Fill in the rest of the words

<u>f</u> l e e
<u>f</u> o r c e
<u>s</u> h o r t
<u>t</u> h o r n

Digraphs: '-oi-', '-ow' (low), '-ea-' (5 words, one first letter is repeated in list)

1.   heat   low   boil   mow   beat

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

— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____

2.   tow   coil   bead   team   oil

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

— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____

3.   join   row   leaf   rear   void

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

— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____

4.   show   mean   spoil   throw   beat

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

— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____

5.   team   hoist   grown   throw   noise

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

— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____
— ___ _____