An anagram is a word or phrase consisting of letters which can be rearranged to form another word or phrase.

- The letters in the word pins can be used to make the words spin, nips and snip.
- The letters in the phrase a vocal ruby make the word vocabulary.

**Puzzle it out!**

The word in blue in each line of this poem is an anagram of another word. There is a clue in the rest of the line to help you work out what that word is. For example, the answer to ‘Waddle about and drag your feet’ is dawdle which means to drag your feet.

**Answers:** Puzzle it out!

1. **Waddle about and drag your feet.** Answer = dawdle
2. Twist about **skate** for meat to eat.
3. Mix up **races** to give someone a fright.
4. Make **stone** into messages you write.
5. Wipe away **tears** then give me a look.
6. Turn **votes** into something on which to cook.
7. Untie **loop** to find a place to dive in.
8. Knead **bread** into hairs that grow on a chin.
9. Stir up **late** into a story to tell.
10. Shuffle **leap** into the sound of a bell.
11. Spin **reaps** into a weapon to throw.
12. Juggle **times** to strike with a heavy blow.

The word listen is an anagram of silent.
Anagram Antics 2

- An anagram is a word or phrase consisting of letters which can be rearranged to form another word or phrase.
- The letters in the word **pins** can be used to make the words **spin**, **nips** and **snip**.
- The letters in the phrase **a vocal ruby** make the word **vocabulary**.

**Forwards and Backwards**

These anagrams spell the first word if read backwards!

Why are **buns** like a **snub**?
Why is a **reed** like a **deer**?
Why is a **keel** like a **leek**?
Why is a **reel** like a **leer**?

Here is a list of words that form a new word when written backwards. Have a go at writing them backwards!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forwards</th>
<th>Backwards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pool</td>
<td>Nuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guns</td>
<td>Pots</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pets</td>
<td>Trap</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taps</td>
<td>Tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tips</td>
<td>Keep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Can you think of some more anagrams that can be spelled forwards and backwards?

---

Not sure if you got it right?

Check your answer using an Oxford Children’s Dictionary.

---

Oxford Children’s Dictionaries: Search • Discover • Create
Rhyming Slang

- Slang is a type of word used in informal situations – e.g. gobsmacked (amazed) and gutted (very disappointed).
- Different groups of people have their own slang. Cockneys from the East End of London have what is known as Cockney rhyming slang.
- In rhyming slang, a word or pairs of words is invented which rhymes with the word that the speaker would normally use. The slang word or phrase is used instead of the actual word. For example, ‘mouth’ becomes ‘north and south’, ‘tea’ becomes ‘Rosie Lee’, and ‘feet’ become ‘plates of meat’.
- Frequently, when speaking, only one word of the rhyming phrase is used. Thus money is referred to as ‘bread’ rather than ‘bread and honey’, and the stairs may be called ‘apples’ rather than ‘apples and pears’.
- Australia has its own version of rhyming slang. Examples of Australian rhyming slang are: ‘after darks’ for ‘sharks’, ‘Ned Kelly’ for ‘belly’ and ‘steak and kidney’ for Sydney.

Can you make sense of the following statement which uses rhyming slang?

I’m watching Eastenders on the custard. I was cream-crackered and could ‘ardly keep me mincies open. Then the dog goes. It’s me blister. She’s out of bread. Could I give her the lend of an Ayrton? When I says ‘No’ we have a right bull and cow.

Can you Adam and Eve it?

Did you know?
The expression ‘porkies’ meaning ‘lies’ comes from the rhyming slang ‘pork pies’.

Answers: Can you Adam and Eve it?

Adam and Eve = believe
custard = custard and jelly = telly
cream-crackered = knackered
mincies = mince pies = eyes
dog = dog and bone = phone
blister = sister
bread = bread and honey = money
Ayrton = Ayrton Senna = tenner = £10 note
bull and cow = row

Oxford Children's Dictionaries: Investigate • Discover • Imagine
New rhyming slang is constantly being invented. The rhyming slang for a £10 note (a tenner) is an ‘Ayrton’ from ‘Ayrton Senna’ (the Formula 1 racing driver). A new term for ‘money’ is ‘Bugs’ from ‘Bugs Bunny’ (the cartoon character).

A group of children were asked to invent rhyming slang for words about school. Some of the phrases they invented were doom and gloom for classroom, Jack Horner for reading corner, lost and found for playground.

Here are some further examples of school-related rhyming slang. Can you work out what each one means?

1. Dead creature .............................................................. Answer = Head teacher
2. Do your best ............................................................... 
3. Munch and crunch ...................................................... 
4. Skip and climb ............................................................ 
5. Sweepstaker ............................................................... 
6. Grand Slam ................................................................ 
7. Centre Parks ................................................................
8. Mystery session ........................................................ 
9. April Fools ................................................................... 
10. Lucky dip ....................................................................

Can you add to the list of rhyming slang about school? An Oxford Rhyming Dictionary will give you a helping hand!
Letter by Letter

- This is a word-game where you change one word into another. You can only replace one letter at a time and each move you make must create a proper word. You keep on changing a letter at a time until you have the word you require.
- Turn smile into scare in 4 moves - smile, stile, stale, stare, scare
- Turn soft into loud in 4 moves: soft, soot, loot, lout, loud
- Turn cold into warm in 6 moves: cold, fold, food, wood, word, ward, warm

Try it for yourself! In how many moves can you turn:

fast into slow?

....................................................................................................................................................

heavy into light?

....................................................................................................................................................

fresh into stale?

....................................................................................................................................................

north into south?

....................................................................................................................................................

work into play?

....................................................................................................................................................

Did you know?
The most frequently used letter of the alphabet in English words is the letter e.
Word Shrinking

Take apart a word letter by letter, finding a new word each time you subtract a letter, as in this poem What nonsense!

What nonsense!
The Word Wizard said, "Think of a word."
What a lot of nonsense!
I thought: Drivel.
"To find what urges you to act," said the Wizard,
"Subtract the last letter."
Drive.
"Now, remove the second letter.
Go on. Take the plunge!"
Dive.
"To reveal a contraction,
Cross out the first letter."
I've.
"Take away the middle letter
And you'll see that is an abbreviation."
i.e.
"Finally, lose the last letter
And find yourself."
'I.

Take apart these words:

Sandy
Later
Sprite

Think of a word yourself and try to take it apart letter by letter

Not sure if it's a word?

Check your answer using an Oxford Children's Dictionary.

Oxford Children's Dictionaries: Search • Discover • Create
Sounding the Same –
Onomatopoeia 1

Many words sound like the noise or action which they describe. For example, the word *buzz* sounds like the noise made by a bee and the word *rustle* sounds like the noise made by wind moving the leaves on a tree. *Buzz* and *rustle* are examples of onomatopoeia.

**Puzzle it out!**
In each line of this poem about sounds, a word has been left out. Fill in each gap with a word which echoes the sound that is being described.

**Have you heard?**
The ................................of water as it drips from a tap
The ................................waves as they gently lap
The ................................of the air from a hairdryer
The ................................of wood as it burns in the fire
The ................................of doors on a windy day
The ................................of laughter as children play

**Coin a Word!**
If you can’t find a word that exactly matches a sound, you can make up or coin a word.

**Coin a suitable word to fill in the gap in each line of the rest of the poem. There are no right answers, but our poet made some suggestions at the bottom of the page!**

The ................................of melting snow dropping off trees
The ................................of leaves blowing in the breeze
The ................................of air from a deflating balloon
The ................................as you tap a glass with a spoon
The ................................of a startled bird
The ................................of a gently whispered word

Suggestions: Coin a Word!
- plop, murmur, whistling, creek, chittering.

Suggestions: Puzzle it Out!
- sink, splish, ruffle, crickety, crackle.

Oxford Children's Dictionaries: Investigate • Discover • Imagine
Let’s give a cheer for Onomatopoeia

Are you ready? Are you ready?
Start the **fizzing** and the **whizzling**
Start the **rapping** and the **clapping**
Start the **humming** and the **drumming**
Start the **snipping** and the **snapping**
Let’s give a welcome cheer
For onomatopoeia!

With a **pitter-pat-a-pat**
And a **rattling rat-a-tat**
With a **splutter** and a **splatter**
With a **chitter** and a **chatter**
With a **clinking** and a **clunking**
With a **plinking** and a **plunking**
With a **hee-haw** and a **boo-hoo**
With an **oompah** and a **yoo-hoo**
Join in and give a cheer
For onomatopoeia!

What did you hear?

Think of words to describe the sounds you would hear in a particular place. One of you chooses a place and you take turns to think of a word to describe one of the sounds you would hear there.

For example, player 1 says; ‘Walking round the farm, I heard the **clucking** of the hens!’ Player 2 says: ‘Walking round the farm, I heard the **bellow** of a bull!’ Continue until somebody can’t think of a sound and a word to describe it. That player then drops out.

Choose other places from this list: a zoo, a fairground, at the seaside, at a football match, at a theme park, at home during a thunderstorm, at a firework display.

**Here are some words that you could use:**
Roar, hoot, woof, whizz, thud, crash, crack, boom, screech, honk, squeak, yell, snarl, purr, chirp, hiss.
Riddle-me-ree 1

What am I?

Riddles are word puzzles. Can you work out what is being described?

1. Hold it steady in your hand,
   Then you will see another land,
   Where right is left, and left is right,
   And no sound stirs by day or night;
   When you look in, yourself you see,
   Yet in that place you cannot be.

What is it? .................................................................

2. I leave my mark on page or card.
   But you may break me, if you press too hard.

What am I? .................................................................

3. What has two hands, but no fingers,
   A face, but cannot eat,
   And moves at a regular pace,
   Although it has no feet.

It’s a .................................................................

4. You can boil me or beat me.
   You are able to eat me,
   When I’m laid upon your table.

What am I? .................................................................

5. Take season and seasoning,
   Add them together,
   And you’ll spin through the air
   As light as a feather.

What is it? .................................................................

Answers: What am I?
1. mirror 2. pencil 3. clock 4. egg

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The word ‘clue’ originally meant ‘a ball of thread’, which is why to solve a mystery you have to unravel clues.

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Riddle-me-ree 2

What am I?

Riddles are word puzzles. Can you work out what is being described?

1. I hold things together.
   I've two eyes but no head.
   If I'm loose, you can fix me
   With needle and thread.
   What am I?

2. What wears a jacket but no trousers?
   Has no bones, but a skin?
   Is brown on the outside
   But white within?

   It's a

3. The longer I stand and glow,
   The shorter I grow.
   I give light at night,
   Until someone gives me a blow.
   What am I?

4. What hears without ears
   And is able, too,
   Without a mouth
   To speak to you.

   It's an

5. When I am alive, I make no sound.
   But pulling me from the ground
   To cut off my head is no way to treat me,
   So I'll make you cry before you eat me.

   What am I?

Answers: What am I?

1. button
2. potato
3. candle
4. echo
5. onion
Riddle-me-ree 3

Spell it Out

In these riddles, you have to work out what the word is letter by letter.

1. My first is in shooting, but not in shoot.
   My second’s not in kick, but is in boot.
   My third’s in ball, but not in score.
   My fourth’s in penalty. I make the crowd roar.

   I’m a ...........................................................................

2. My first is in fish, but not in bone.
   My second is in iron, but not in stone.
   My third’s in crown and also in throne.
   My fourth’s once in twice,
   But twice in returned.
   Touch me, get burned.

   I’m a ...........................................................................

3. My first is in wish, but not in bone.
   My second is in rock, but not in stone.
   My third’s once in twice,
   But twice in tease.
   Touch me and freeze!

   I’m an ...........................................................................

4. My first is in blood and twice in undead.
   My second is in nightmare and also in dread.
   My third is in fangs, but is not in doom.
   My fourth is in coffin, but not in tomb.
   My fifth’s in bloodsucker, but not in vein.
   My sixth’s in bloodcurdling and in bloodstain.
   My last is in vampire, but not in bite.
   I rise from my grave on the stroke of midnight!

   I’m a ...........................................................................

5. My first is in first and also in second.
   My second is in second, but not in first.
   My third is in second, but not in third.
   My fourth is in third and also in fourth.
   My fifth is in second, but not third or fourth.
   My sixth is in fourth, in fifth, and in sixth.
   My whole is hidden inside a box.
   To find me just undo the locks.

   I’m a ...........................................................................

Answers: Spell it Out

1. goal
2. fire
3. ice
4. Dracula
5. secret
A number of devices are used in txtspk:

1. Single letters are used to replace words b for be, c for see, r for are, t for tea, u for you, and y for why. So see you becomes cu, cutie becomes qt, and your and you are become ur.

2. Numbers are used for individual words e.g. 8 for ate, 4 for for, and 2 for to and too and for parts of words which sound like the number e.g. gr8, str8, l8r, b4.

3. Contractions are used e.g. by removing vowels and leaving a string of consonants which you can still easily recognise as the word. For example, sleep becomes slp, people becomes ppl, party becomes prty, and wicked becomes wkd.

4. Slang spellings or words are used instead of conventional spellings and words. So, night becomes nite, school becomes skool, sorry becomes soz, and love becomes luv.

5. Words are spelt as they are pronounced e.g. wot for what, wiv for with, and NE1 for anyone.

6. Abbreviations, which often consist of the first letters of the words in a phrase, thus DEGT means Don’t Even Go There and GGOH means Gotta Get Outta Here.

Some abbreviations are acronyms i.e. they form actual words e.g. KIT meaning Keep In Touch. Abbreviations have been coined for widely used words and phrases. Thus thanks is thx and please is plz, and between you and me is btw (from BeTWeen you and me).
**I say, I say, I say**

Q. What did Old Mother Hubbard say when she saw that the cupboard was bare?

A.  O I C U R M T
(Oh, I see you are empty.)

---

**Cu l8r Scal8r**

Can you translate this poem into standard English?

---

**Cu l8r Scal8r**

cu l8r scal8r ..........................................................

ina blnk fize drnk ..........................................................

cu l8r lev8r ..........................................................

ina our coleflwr ..........................................................

cu l8r calql8r ..........................................................

in jas pnitnek ..........................................................

cu l8r rde8r ..........................................................

inamin rlng pn ..........................................................

cu l8r opr8r ..........................................................

gtr crnt bun ..........................................................

---

**Answers: Cu l8r Scal8r**

Cu l8r Scal8r

Can you translate this poem into standard English?

---

Symbols used to express feelings in text messages such as :-D are called emoticons.
Find the Letter

You have to find a letter which appears in some words, but not in others. You are given clues.

For example: What's there in werewolf, but not in wizard? The python has it, but not the lizard.

Answer: the letter o

1. What is in the church, but not in the steeple? The parson has it, but not the people. ........................................

2. What's in the ceiling, but not in the floor? The cupboard has it, but not the drawer. ........................................

3. What's once in awhile, but not in time? It's there in ascend, but not in climb. ........................................

4. What's in the bassoon, but not in the drum? It's not in your fingers, but there in your thumb. ................

5. What's there in bread and also in bake? The biscuit has it, but not the cake. ........................................

6. What's there in whistle, but not in scream? The nightmare has it, but not the dream. ...........................

7. What is in friend, but not in mate. Is in fashion but out of date. ........................................

8. What is there in potato, but not in carrot? It is twice in porcupine and once in parrot ...........................

9. What is there in frogspawn, but not in tadpole? The ogre has it, but not the troll. ...............................

10. What is there in pirate and in pistol? It is not in Birmingham, but is in Bristol. ..............................

Answers: Spell it Out

1. r, 2. c, 3. a, 4. b, 5. b, 6. t, 7. f, 8. p, 9. g, 10. t.

The word SWIMS reads the same upside down as it does the right way up.

Did you know?

WordMagicActivitySheets-Jan11-7.indd   14
1/4/11   13:04:08
Find a word which is inside some words but not others. You have clues to help you.

For example: I'm not in pen, but am in then. I am in when, but not in men.
The animal I fear most is a fox. Answer: hen

1. I am in catch, but not in match.
   I'm there in scatter, but not in clatter.
   I like to nap upon your lap.

2. I am in coats, but not in notes.
   I am in floats as well as boats.
   I'm in porridge, of course,
   And I'm fed to a horse.

3. I am there in earth and also in search.
   I am in weary, but not in tired.
   Without me you would not pick up sounds.

4. I am there in shrug, but not in shoulder.
   I am in rugby, but not in soccer.
   I am found on the floor.

5. I am there in scanner and in descant.
   I am in uncanny, but not in strange.
   I am able to hold a drink for you.

6. You'll find me in research, but not in investigate.
   I am in season, but not in summer.
   I am calm or rough, depending on the weather.

7. I am there in open, but not in closed.
   I am in spend and in suspense.
   In your hand, I can make my mark.

8. I am in disappear and in repeat,
   I'm found in Shakespeare, but not in Dickens.
   I'm inside a whistle and found in a pod.

9. I am there in escape and also in chapel.
   I am found in grape, but not in grapple.
   I can swing through the trees with ease.

10. You'll find me in colonel, but not in general.
    I am also in lonely and in money.
    You can count on me always to be first.

Answers: Find the Word

1. cat
2. oats
3. ear
4. rug
5. can
6. sea
7. pen
8. pea
9. ape
10. one
A tongue-twister is a rhyme or a sequence of words that is difficult to say because it uses similar or repeated sounds.

How quickly can you say each of these tongue-twisters without making a mistake?

Get your friends to have a go with you to see who can say them the fastest.

Say, did you say?

Say, did you say, or did you not say
What I said you said?
For it is said that you said
That you did not say
What I said you said.
Now if you say that you did not say
What I said you said,
Then what do you say you did say instead
Of what I said you said?

I saw Esau

Who saw Esau?
I saw Esau
With a saw.
I saw Esau
Cutting up a see-saw,
Cutting up a see-saw
With a saw.
I saw Esau’s
Saw cut Esau.
The saw cut Esau
And Esau swore.

Shaun Short’s Short Shorts

Shaun Short bought some shorts.
The shorts were shorter than Shaun Short thought.
Shaun Short’s short shorts were so short,
Shaun Short thought, Shaun you ought
Not to have bought shorts so short.
One of the main reasons tongue-twisters are hard to say is because they contain a lot of **alliteration** – the use of several words together that all begin with the same letter or sound.

For example:

*Round and round the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran.*
*Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper.*
*She sells seashells on the sea-shore.*

**Write your own tongue twisters**

Begin by making a list of words that start with letters which make the same sound e.g. **ch-** or **cr-** or **st-** or **tr-**. Then fit them together to make a tongue-twister.

It doesn’t matter if your tongue-twister doesn’t make sense. For example, here’s the start of a tongue-twister produce by a group of children: **A chocolate chicken chortling cheerfully chomping cheesecake**

**Your list of words beginning with the same letter**

- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................

**Your own tongue-twister**

- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................
- ............................................

Oxford Children’s Dictionaries: Investigate • Discover • Imagine
Words can be divided into word classes according to the way they are used in sentences. There are eight main word classes in English: nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, and articles. These are also known as the parts of speech.

**Nouns**

A noun is the name of anything, like car or soap or love or ring.

A noun is the name of a person too, like Jason, Wasim, Jill, or Sue.

A noun is also the name of a place – Pakistan, Glasgow, Mars, or Space.

A noun’s any kind of naming word – bluebottle, Bill, Bolton, bird.

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**Spot the Nouns**

Can you find the ten nouns in this sentence?

A boy called John, who lived in Carlisle, kicked a football over the fence into the garden of his neighbour, breaking a window in the greenhouse and knocking over some flowerpots.

1.  
2.  
3.  
4.  
5.  
6.  
7.  
8.  
9.  
10.

**Answers: Spot the Nouns**

1. boy
2. John
3. Carlisle
4. football
5. fence
6. garden
7. neighbour
8. window
9. greenhouse
10. flowerpots
Spot the Verbs
Can you find ten verbs in this sentence?

Verbal Tennis
Player 1 says a verb e.g. take. Player 2 has to reply with another verb beginning with the second letter of that verb a, e.g. add. Player 1 then has to reply with a verb beginning with d e.g. dare. The game continues until one player is unable to answer. The following rounds can be played with other sets of verbs, or with nouns, adjectives, or adverbs instead.

When John kicked a ball, which broke a window in his neighbour’s greenhouse and damaged some flowerpots, he ran and hid, until his father found him, dragged him home, and made him knock on his neighbour’s door to apologise.

VERBS
A verb is a special kind of word. It tells you of things being done, like swim or talk, eat or walk, creep, or crawl or run.

A verb is a word that tells you what people and things are doing, like shining or glowing, swallowing, or chewing.

Answers: Spot the Verbs
1. kicked, 2. broke, 3. damaged, 4. ran, 5. hid, 6. found, 7. dragged, 8. made, 9. knock, 10. apologise.
Add an Adjective: Aunt Agatha’s Cat

A word game for groups of four or more

The aim of the game is to think of as many adjectives as you can which start with the same letter of the alphabet.

Choose a letter of the alphabet and each player in turn has to think of an adjective beginning with that letter to describe a particular animal or object. Say you’ve chosen the letter A and the chosen animal is a cat. The first player might say ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an angry cat’, then the next player might say ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an active cat’. You keep going until someone can’t think of an adjective beginning with A or suggests a word which is not an adjective. Have fun using adjectives and think of unusual ones, e.g. you could say that ‘Aunt Agatha’s cat is an accurate cat’ or an ‘alternative cat’.

When you’ve played the game with one letter, try it with another letter e.g. for the letter B think of adjectives to describe Billy Bunter’s boat or for F to describe Freddie Forest’s fox.
Become a Grammar Wizard:
Nouns, Verbs, and Adjectives

Did you know?
The shortest sentence in the English language is ‘Go!’

I Love My Love

The aim of the game is to think of nouns, verbs, and adjectives which begin with the same letter.

You take it in turns to tell each other about your love. Player 1 starts with the letter A: I love my love with an A because his name is Andrew and he lives in Aberdeen. I love my love with an A because he adores apples. I love my love with an A because he is adventurous.

The second player follows with B, the third with C, and so on through the alphabet. When someone cannot think of a word beginning with the right letter, they drop out and the last player left is the winner.

People often leave out the letters Q, X, and Z, because they are so difficult to do. To help you with these letters, some examples are given at the bottom of the page.

Suggestions: I Love my Love

Q: I love my love with a Q because his name is Quentin and he lives in Quebec. I love my love with a Q because he quells quarrels. I love my love with a Q because he is quaint.

X: I love my love with an X because her name is Xanthe and she lives in Xeres. I love my love with an X because she X-rays xylem. (Xeres is a town in Spain. Xylem is a type of plant tissue.)

Z: I love my love with a Z because his name is Zak and he lives in Zanzibar. I love my love with a Z because he zaps zillions. I love my love with a Z because he is zany.

The shortest sentence in the English language is ‘Go!’

Did you know?
Limerick Laughter

There many anonymous limericks. Here are some examples:

**I Sat Next to the Duchess at Tea**
I sat next to the duchess at tea. It was just as I feared it would be. Her rumblings abdominal Were simply phenomenal And everyone thought it was me!

**There Was an Old Man of Blackheath**
There was an old man of Blackheath Who sat on his set of false teeth, Said he with a start, "Oh Lord bless my heart! I have bitten myself underneath!"

**Consequence Limericks**
A game for groups of three or more

Begin by choosing one of the lists of rhyming words below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ted head bed fed red sped</th>
<th>Rose chose doze froze those hose pose</th>
<th>Clare rare spare hair lair tear air</th>
<th>Bill ill still will chill fill mill grill shrill kill swill skill hill gerbil molehill windmill Brazil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wed bread dread spread shed said misled moped bedstead</td>
<td>throes nose close enclose compose impose dispose</td>
<td>glare heir blare pear square share despair unfair compare elsewhere</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- You will each need a pen and piece of paper.
- Sit in a circle and start by writing the first line of a limerick, ending with the name from your list of rhyming words.
- Without folding the paper, pass it on to the person on your left.
- The next person adds the second line of the limerick, using the words from the list of rhyming words.
- You keep passing the pieces of paper round until all the limericks are complete.
- Then you read out all the limericks and decide which one is best.

Can’t find a word which rhymes?
An Oxford Rhyming Dictionary will give you a helping hand!
Rhyming Synonyms

Can you find synonyms to fill the gaps in this poem? The poem is written in pairs of lines which rhyme, known as rhyming couplets. So the words you find to end the lines of each couplet must rhyme, as *glad* and *sad* do in the first two lines.

I am pleased. I am *glad*.

I am miserable. I am *sad*.

1. I am inquisitive. I am ____________________________
   I am angry. I am ____________________________

2. I am colossal. I am ____________________________
   I am frenzied. I am ____________________________

3. I am savage. I am ____________________________
   I am meek. I am ____________________________

4. I am watchful. I am ____________________________
   I am fearsome. I am ____________________________

5. I am impudent. I am ____________________________
   I am sly. I am ____________________________

Answers: Rhyming Synonyms

1. curious, furious
2. gigantic, frantic
3. wild, mild
4. wary, scary
5. cheeky, sneaky

The word *thesaurus* comes from a Greek word meaning a *treasure* or *storehouse*.

Did you know?

Synonyms are words which mean the same or nearly the same as each other.

For example: synonyms for *happy* include *cheerful, joyful, lively, genial,* and *vivacious*.

Synonyms for *miserable* include *unhappy, sad, sorrowful, dejected, downcast,* and *despondent*.

Spot the Synonym 1

Oxford Children's Dictionaries: Investigate • Discover • Imagine
A word game for groups of five or more

The game begins by everyone sitting in a circle. The youngest in the group chooses a word that is widely used e.g. talk. The player sitting on their left then has to supply a synonym e.g. say, speak, utter, chatter. The player on their left then has to supply another synonym. The round continues until someone is stuck and unable to provide another synonym. They are then eliminated. The player who is eliminated chooses another word for the next round. The rounds continue until only one player is left as the winner. It’s a good idea to have a thesaurus handy to use to settle any disputes!

Not sure if it's the right word?

To help you find the answers, you could use an Oxford Children's Thesaurus – a reference book in which words are grouped according to their meanings. The entries are arranged alphabetically, as in a dictionary. A thesaurus can help writers when searching for a word which means precisely what they want to say and to avoid words that have lost their effectiveness through over use.
There are many games you can play with words. Here are some you can play with your friends. Before you begin, it's a good idea to have a dictionary ready in order to settle any disputes!

**Words Out of Words**

This is a word game in which the players have to see how many new words they can make out of the letters of a word which is three or four syllables long. The players take it in turns to choose a word e.g. **elimination, participate**. The aim is to see who can make the most words from the letters of the chosen word within a time limit e.g. five minutes. A variation of this game is to see who can make the longest word from the letters of the chosen word.

**Taboo**

This is a game for two or more players. One of the players chooses a letter and acts as questioner. In turn the questioner asks each of the other players a different question. The question can be about anything at all. In their answer they have to avoid using the chosen letter. The answers have to make sense and must be given immediately. At the start each player has a set number of points e.g. 12. Every time a player makes a mistake, they lose a point. The winner is the person who has the most points left at the end of the game.

**The Alphabet Holiday Game**

Any number of people can play. The aim is to answer questions using words that begin with a certain letter of the alphabet. The first player chooses a letter, for example S. The other players begin by asking 'Where are you going on holiday to?' The first player has to name a country beginning with S e.g. Spain. Another player then asks: 'What are you going to do there?' The first player has to answer using three words beginning with the letter S. For example, 'I'm going to sing some songs' or 'I'm going to sell souvenir shorts'. If the other players can think of another follow-up question, they ask it e.g. 'Who are you going to sell them to?' Again, the first person has to answer with three words beginning with S e.g. 'I'm going to sell them to several successful sheiks'. The questions continue until no one can think of anything further to ask. Then it is someone else's turn.
Think of a Rhyme

This is a word game for any number of players. You start by choosing a word from this list of words: bear, cake, cat, chin, clap, crack, day, deer, goat, hill, light, nose, rain, roar, snail, snow, spy, sweet, test, tree, wheel.

The first player says the chosen word e.g. goat. The other players have to take it in turns to think of a word that rhymes with goat. When a person is stuck they say 'pass' and the round continues until no one can think of any more words that rhyme with goat.

You can make the game more fun by trying to build up a silly sentence, as new rhyming words are thought of. For example, here's the silly sentence that a group who chose goat developed:

Goat – coat > a goat in a coat
throat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat
boat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat in a boat
float > afloat > a goat with a sore throat in a coat afloat in a boat
wrote > a goat with a sore throat wrote on his coat, while afloat in a boat
note > a goat with a sore throat in a coat wrote a note, while afloat on a boat
stoat > a goat in a coat with a sore throat wrote a note to a stoat afloat in a boat.

Continue until no one can think of anything further to add. Then it is someone else's turn.
Wordplay Games 3

Did you know?
The word 'uncopyrightable' is the only 15-letter word which does not repeat a letter.

Find the Cat

This is a word-finding game for two or more players. You will need pencils and paper and a dictionary (to be used only at the end of the game). To play the game you are given one word and you have to list all the words you can think of which include the letters of the word.

For example, if you are given the word cat, it can be used to build up words such as catastrophe, category, catapult, cattle, catamaran, and catch. The letters c a t are also found in words such as cater and cathedral and inside words such as scatter, educate, and indicator.

Either choose a word yourselves or pick one from the list (below). Set a time limit and then compare your lists. The person with the most words is the winner. Use the dictionary to check whether any disputed words exist and also to find other words which you could have put in your lists.

Apart from cat, other words you could use are: air, ear, for, head, man, tin, water.

Rhyme-Me-Riddle-Me

This is a word game for any number of pairs. First, you have to prepare for your turn by each pair choosing a word. Let’s say a pair chooses the word river. They then have to think of a word that rhymes with river e.g. quiver or shiver. Next they have to think of one or two statements that describe the river, but suggest it is something else e.g. Sometimes I race through fields, sometimes I dawdle.

You then take it in turns to read out your riddles for the other players to guess e.g.

I am a word that rhymes with shiver.

Sometimes I race through fields, sometimes I dawdle.

The further I go, the wider I become.

I am fed from the sky and I feed the sea.

What am I?