Learn how Roald Dahl loved to play with language, and get inspired to gobblefunk with words in your own writing.

Sometimes words which look or sound similar have very different meanings. Follow these tips to avoid getting them muddled up.

If you want to write limericks like Matilda, these Ringbelling Rhymes can help. Use these words in your own poems or songs.

Look out for panels that suggest interesting words to describe everyday things, like good food or bad smells or loud noises.

**Bb**

**babble** verb: babbling, babbled

When people babble, they chat to each other.

All around the summer-holiday guests in this rather grand hotel were babbling away and tumbling into their suppers. — THE WITCHES

**babblement** noun

a friendly conversation or chat

‘You is trying to change the subject,’ the Giant said sternly.

**backside** noun: backside, backside

Your backside is your bottom, the part of your body that you sit on.

**back-to-front** adjective

If something is back-to-front, it is the opposite way to usual.

The Vicar of Nibbleswicke has back-to-front... — THE BFG

**backround** noun

(a) an ending or suffix (-ment) to babble

A suffix is a group of letters that you can add to some words to make others, for example: able to able, -ful in murderous.

**bad** adjective: worse, worst

Something that is bad is nasty or horrible, and a bad person does nasty or horrible things. Here are some words you can use to describe them to make sure your writing is NEVER BORING.

A BAD PERSON OR WITCH OR GIANT CAN BE: beastly, evil, loathsome, malevolent, malicious, mean, monstrous, murderful, nasty, verminious, vile, villainous, wicked

• Opposites are kind-hearted, jolly, noble, virtuous

**baddes** plural noun

(b) a small platform outside an upstairs window of a house

acrobat, poured the BFG’s coffee and placed the

badger noun

A Badger is a grey animal with a black and white head that lives underground. Mr Fox has a friend called Badger who is very good at digging and who helps him to tunnel to the farms of Bunce and Bean.

**bagpiper** plural noun

Bagpipe players are a musical instrument you play by squeezing air out of a bag into a set of pipes. The Queen and other humans call them bagpipers.

Whoopsie shouted the BFG. ‘That is better than bagpipers, is it not, Majester?’ — THE BFG

**bagpipe** verb

(bakes, baking, baked

When you bake food, you cook it in an oven.

‘The toast is finished,’ Mr Tibbs whispered, ‘and chef says there is no more bread.’ ‘Tell him to bake more,’ the Queen said. — THE BFG

**bald** adjective: baldier, baldest

Someone who is bald has no hair on their head.

(When opposite is hairy or hirsute, like Mr Twit.)

He was a very small old man, but he had a huge bald head and a face that was covered all over with bristly black whiskers. — JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

**bad to bald**

The BFG uses lots of words that begin with B, F or G!
Look It Up! Suggests words to find with related information, such as names of other giants or more varieties of sweet.

Footnotes at the bottom of pages suggest places to look in the dictionary for more information, or reveal interesting facts about words.

Words that go bang! are onomatopoeic. Find out more in this dictionary.