

Lesson Plan - Alphabetical Order

Re: @princeandtiger - You can't always have cheese - Pages 10 & 12

Learning question:

- How do I put names/items in alphabetical order?

Learning objectives:

- To understand alphabetical order.
- To be able to list names/items in alphabetical order.

Learning outcome:

- Produce a comprehensive list of names/items in alphabetical order.

STARTER ACTIVITY 1: Write out the letters of the alphabet. Make it clear and neat as it may help you later.

(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)

STARTER ACTIVITY 2: Pick 5 or more different letters and write a person's name beginning with each of those letters.

EXTENSION QUESTION: Think about where you might find alphabetical order?

Alphabetical order is the process of sorting/organising words (E.G. names or items) in the order of the alphabet. You might have noticed that school registers are often listed alphabetically. Usually this is according to surnames but it could also be done by first names. When working out the alphabetical order, we first look at the starting letter of names (or other words).

For example, if we have the names Ben, Charlotte and Anita, Anita will go first because A comes before B and C in the alphabet; Ben will go second because B comes before C in the alphabet. If we have the names Zara, Xavier and Yaya then Xavier would go first because X comes before Y and Z in the alphabet; Yaya would go second because Y comes before Z. The complete list of all six names would be in the following order: Anita, Ben, Charlotte, Xavier, Yaya, Zara (A B C X Y Z). If we added a name to the list beginning with any letter between C and X, then that name would go right in the middle of the list.

MINI TASK 1: Can you think of some names that would go right in the middle of the list? (A B C ? X Y Z)

MINI TASK 2: Look back at the names you wrote down earlier and put them in alphabetical order.

It becomes more difficult when two (or more) names/words start with the same first letter. We then have to look at the next letters to sort the alphabetical order. For example, both Amy and Ava begin with an A but Amy goes before Ava alphabetically because the second letter in Amy (M) comes before the second letter in Ava (V) in the alphabet. (The third letter in each name does not matter unless the second letter is the same.) If 2 names/words have the same first and second letters then we would look at the third letters. If 2 names/words have the same first, second and third letters then we would look at the fourth letters and so on.

MAIN TASK 1: Try putting the following list of names in alphabetical order:

Alice, Alexa, Aaisha, Alec, Alana, Asuka, Abigail.

As all of the names begin with A, we need to look at the second letters - and beyond - in this sequence. Aaisha has another A after the first one so that starts the alphabetical list. Abigail has the next earliest second letter (B) so that goes second on the list. It then gets slightly tricky as 4 of the remaining 5 names begin with the same 2 letters (A and L). The second letter in Asuka is S - which is after L in the alphabet - so we know that is going to go last on the alphabetical list. We need to sort out the order of the 4 names that start with AL. Because they all have the same first and second letters, we need to look at the third letters in the 4 names. The third letter in Alana is A so that will go first out of these 4 names (third in the overall order of the list after Aaisha and Abigail). To make it even harder, Alexa and Alec also have the same third letter which is E. E comes before the third letter in Alice (i) so both Alexa and Alec will go before Alice. To work out what order Alexa and Alec go in, we have to look as far as the fourth letters in those names and we can see that C comes before X in the alphabet so Alec will go ahead of Alexa. We can then finish the alphabetical list with Alice and Asuka. So to recap, the correct alphabetical order is: Aaisha, Abigail, Alana, Alec, Alexa, Alice, Asuka.

EXTENSION TASK: Put the following list of names in alphabetical order:

Rishi, Raj, Ruby, Ronda, Roddy, Rey, Ricky, Randy, Ron, Rhea, Roman.

The correct alphabetical order is: Raj, Randy, Rey, Rhea, Ricky, Rishi, Roddy, Roman, Ron, Ronda, Ruby. You can add more names to the list if you would like, just make sure you add them in alphabetical order.

We can list anything in alphabetical order. Prince Rishi wants to make a wrestling kitbag list in alphabetical order so that he can always check that he has everything he needs for training.

MAIN TASK 3: Can you help put Prince Rishi's wrestling kitbag list in alphabetical order? (Remember to look at the first letter of the items as well as the second, third or even beyond if need be)

T-shirts, trainers, boots, socks, shorts, singlet, knee pads, elbow pads, water bottle, towels, deodorant, shampoo and shower gel.

The correct alphabetical order is: boots, deodorant, elbow pads, knee pads, shampoo, shorts, shower gel, singlet, socks, trainers, T-shirts, towels, water bottle.

EXTENSION TASK: Write your own list of names or items in alphabetical order. Make sure you have a variety of starting letters as well as some names/items starting with the same letter.

PLENARY TASK: Explain why 'shorts' goes before 'shower gel' in Prince Rishi's (alphabetically ordered) wrestling equipment list.