

FUN

FOR FUNAMBULISTS*

Challenge your family and friends:



Name two words that contain the letter sequence "abc."



Crabcake and dabchick (meaning a small bird)

Q What is the only common word in English ending in "mt"?

A Dreamt

Y Name two words that contain every vowel in the alphabet, including "y," in order.

A N S W E R :

Facetiously and abstemiously

MORE

WORDPLAY

A **PALINDROME** is a word, phrase, or sentence that reads the same forward and backward, such as "eve," "race car," and "Rise to vote, sir."

Here are others:

- A nut for a jar of tuna
- I'm a pup, am I?
- Yo, banana boy

A **PANGRAM** is a sentence that uses all of the letters of the alphabet. A well-known example is "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog."

Here are two more:

- Dave unwisely forgot extra bananas; chimpanzees were quick to jeer.
- I humbly request you go wave pixie dust on Jack's fez.

* people who show their mental agility

An **ANAGRAM** uses the same letters to form different words or phrases:

- Care = race
- Dormitory = dirty room
- Snooze alarms = alas, no more Zs
- Statue of Liberty = built to stay free



Make a palindrome, pangram, or anagram. Share it with other kids at Almanac4kids.com/TellUs.

Can you solve these FOOD ANAGRAMS?

(Answers below.)

1. a motto
2. a tropic
3. cheap

Can you solve these SPORTS ANAGRAMS?

(Answers below.)

1. a wet few ran it right
2. lob aloft
3. roman hat

Answers to anagram quizzes:
 Food: 1. tomato; 2. apricot; 3. peach
 Sports: 1. white-water rafting; 2. football; 3. marathon

NEW WORDS

➔ Dictionaries change from year to year. Researchers collect new words with their usage and delete old words.

- If a word becomes common, it eventually gets into the dictionary.
- If a word is popular only for a short time or is used by only a small group of people, it doesn't get into the dictionary.

Beginning in the 1880s, the editors of the *Oxford English Dictionary* maintained a special room called a "scriptorium," which contained 2 tons of pieces of paper with examples of new words that had appeared in print. Today, editors use computers—not bits of paper—to record new words and their sources.

A question guaranteed to stump your friends—and parents!

Q "Constantinople" is a very hard word. Can you spell it?
A "i-t."

