Name two words that contain the letter sequence “abc.”

Crabcake and dabchick (meaning a small bird)

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.

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

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.”