English Challenges for KS2 children

How many challenges can you complete? Tick them off as you go.

Alphabet game

Choose a category (food, animals) or a word class (collective nouns, adverbs) etc. and write a list starting with each letter of the alphabet.
A = alligator
B = baboon
C = chameleon
*Add adjectives e.g. angry alligators, brilliant baboons,

Just a minute

Choose a topic that you know lots about and talk about it for 60 seconds without hesitating (no 'ums' or 'errs' or repetition!).

Just a Minute®

Yes and No

You have one minute to answer as many questions as you can. The rules?

You cannot say yes or no.
You cannot nod or shake your head.
You must answer within 3 seconds.
You may not repeat an answer more than twice!

Riddles

Can you solve this riddle?
I come one in a minute,
Twice in a moment,
But never in a thousand years. What am I?

Write some of your own to challenge your family.

Answer: The letter M

Word Squares

c	a	b
a	r	e
b	e	d

These are trickier than you think because the same three words need to be read horizontally and vertically!

Can you make some of your own?

Source: Playing with Words by A Trussell Cullen

Rebus Puzzles

MILL1ON

Can you solve this rebus puzzle?
Design some of your own to test your family.

Countdown

P T O T I G F E P

You have 5 minutes. How many words can make from the letters above?

Film review

Summarise a film you have recently watched. How many stars would you award it out of 5 and why?

FILM

Boggle

How many words can you find using letters that are next to each other?

M	A	P	O
E	T	E	R
D	E	N	I
L	D	H	C

Would you rather?

Would you rather meet a dinosaur or an alien?

Make a list of the advantages and disadvantages of both to help you to decide.

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Marvellous menu

Choose a character from a book/film. What sorts of things would they like to eat? Make a menu – describe each dish carefully and draw some pictures to illustrate.

Palindromes 1

(Words or sentences that can be read forward or backwards!)

Some words are palindromes: *dad, madam, rotator, Hannah.*
Challenge yourself to find **5** palindromic words.

Sentence palindromes are fun to collect too. E.g. **No lemons, no melon.** (*It reads the same backwards and forwards*).

Can you invent one of your own?

Palindromes 2

This poem can be read from the top line or from the bottom line.

This fierce and hungry shark I saw,
As I was swimming in the sea;
With vicious teeth and powerful jaw,
With beady eye that stared at me.
It seemed to move so powerfully.
Twelve feet long it was, or more.
As I was swimming in the sea,
This fierce and hungry shark I saw.

Challenge yourself to write your own!

Source: Playing with Words by A Trussell Cullen

Anagrams 1

These are all anagrams of well known animals. Can you solve them?

- **star**
- **toga**
- **hear**
- **paws**
- **bolster**
- **raptor**
- **fowl**
- **shore**

Word Staircases

A ten minute challenge. Select a letter at random and build a staircase, adding one more letter each time.

n
no
net
nine
nasty
nearly
naughty

> **How big will your longest word be?**

Kennings

A **kenning** is the process of using a two-word phrase in the place of a one-word noun.

Write a list of kennings to describe your favourite food treat.

E.g. Mouth-watering marvel, Tongue tantaliser, etc.

Tongue Twisters

Learn this tongue twister off my heart:

**A flea and a fly in a flue
Were trapped, so what could they do?
Said the fly, "Let us flee!"
Said the flea, "Let us fly!"
So the flew through a flaw in the flue.**

Scrambled Words

Unscramble these letters to make words connected with food:

- toracr
- lpape
- ootmta
- rippsna
- ryabrsetrw
- ccreubmu

Write a Diary Entry

You could write a diary about what is happening to you.
You could write a diary in role as one of your favourite book/film characters.
You could completely invent a day imagining you are exploring deep space, etc.
The choices are limitless.

Collections

Find the collective noun for these groups:

- sheep
- cows
- thieves
- owls
- crows
- ants
- lions
- fish

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