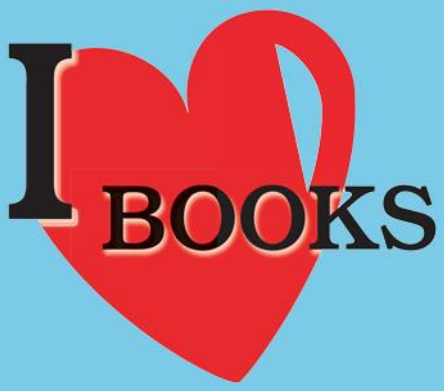


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Opening extract from

Oxford Roald Dahl Dictionary

Written by

Oxford Dictionaries, Susan Rennie & Roald Dahl

Illustrated by

Quentin Blake

Published by

Oxford University Press

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OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP.
United Kingdom

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-273645-1

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural, recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests. The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental regulations of the country of origin.

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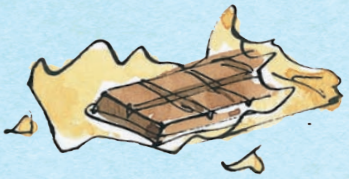
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GREETINGS TO YOU, THE LUCKY READER OF THIS DICTIONARY!

This is not an ordinary dictionary. After all, you wouldn't expect a Roald Dahl Dictionary to be ordinary, would you? Lots of dictionaries will tell you what an **alligator** is, or how to spell **balloon**, but they won't explain the difference between a **ringbeller** and a **trogglehumper**, or say why witches need **gruntles' eggs**, or suggest a word for the shape of a **Knid** (it is **oviform**, by the way), or tell you why **bobolinks** are called bobolinks. This dictionary does all those things. You will even have to read some of the definitions backwards.

ONLY REALLY INTERESTING WORDS are allowed in this dictionary. All the words which Roald Dahl invented are here, like **biffsquiggled** and **gobblefunk**, and both **phizz-whizzing** and **whizzpopping**, to remind you which means what. But that is not all. You will find the names of Roald Dahl's characters and places, and also words to describe them, like **chocolatier** (which is not the same as a chocolate ear) and **hirsute**.

You will also find words that are important in Roald Dahl's world. You might not be surprised to see **blueberry** and **elevator**, but do you know why **alarm-clock** and **anti-freeze** are in here too?

Finally, some words are simply here for fun, like **aardvark**, because just like stories, every dictionary needs a good beginning.

Susan Rennie

CHIEF EDITOR & LEXICOGRAPHER

What is a lexicographer? See page 63.

How to use this dictionary

The alphabet down the side of each page tells you where you are in the dictionary. Look for the mouse who is lost!

Headwords in blue are invented words that you can find in Roald Dahl's stories.

Thousands of example sentences show you how Roald Dahl used words in his own stories and poems.

DID YOU KNOW?
Learn about the history of words and find out how Roald Dahl created his marvellous word inventions.

LOOK IT UP!
Are you looking for names of giants or types of sweet? Find them here.

Gobblefunking with words
Roald Dahl loved to play with language. Get inspired to **gobblefunk** with words in your own writing.



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

Bb



back-to-front beastly biffsquiggled
blueberry bogthumper buzzbomb

babble verb **babbles, babbling, babbled**
When people babble, they chat to each other.
All around us the summer-holiday guests in this rather grand hotel were babbling away and tucking into their suppers. – THE WITCHES
DID YOU KNOW? There is an old word *conjobble* which once meant the same as *babble*, so people chatting to each other would be *conjobbling away.*

babblement noun
a friendly conversation or chat
'You is trying to change the subject,' the Giant said sternly. 'We is having an interesting babblement about the taste of the human bean.' – THE BFG

Gobblefunking with words
To make the word *babblement*, Roald Dahl added 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* in **lickable**, or *-ful* in **murderful**. The word *parliament* (from French *parler* 'to talk') originally meant the same as *babblement*, so the BFG might call the Houses of Parliament *the Houses of Babblement.*



baby noun **babies**
a very young child (or a very old grandparent who has taken too much Wonka-Vite)
Charlie pushed his spoon into the open mouth of the baby and tipped the drops down her throat. – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

backside noun **backsides**
Your backside is your bottom, the part of your body that you sit on.
'Great whistling whangdoodles!' *cried Mr Wonka, leaping so high in the air that when he landed his legs gave way and he crashed on to his backside.* – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR
RINGBELLING RHYMES Try rhyming with *glide*, *slide* or *wide*.
SPARKY SYNONYMS You can also say **rear** or **rump** (and some other words that are too rude to print here).

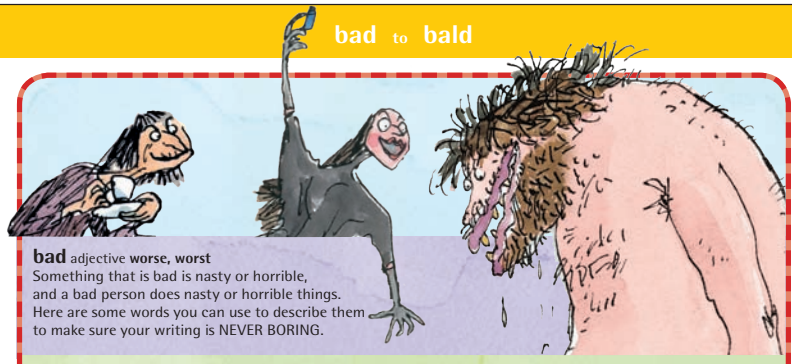
back-to-front adjective
If something is back-to-front, it is the opposite way to usual. The Vicar of Nibbleswicke has **back-to-front dyslexia** which can be very *gnissarrabme*.
'You must walk backwards while you are speaking, then these back-to-front words will come out frontwards or the right way round. It's common sense.' – THE VICAR OF NIBBLESWICKE
DON'T BE BIFFSQUIGGLED! If you see a word in this dictionary that looks *railucep*, try reading it back to front. (You can also try saying it out loud while walking backwards, or reading it to a tortoise.)

backwards adverb
1 towards the place that is behind you
I watched in amazement as the top half of the Pelican's beak began to slide smoothly backwards into his head until the whole thing was almost out of sight.
– THE GIRAFFE AND THE PELLY AND ME
2 in the opposite way to usual
'Esio Trot is simply tortoise spelled backwards,' Mr Hoppy said. – ESIO TROT
LOOK IT UP! You can try reading backwards in the entry for **Esio Trot**.

RINGBELLING RHYMES

Here are words to help you write your own poems or songs — or make up limericks like Matilda.

The first and the last word on each page are shown at the top. If the word you want to look up comes between these words, you are on the right page!



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, verminous, vile, villainous, wicked
• Opposites are: **jumbly**, kind-hearted, noble, virtuous
Mrs Twit may have been ugly and she may have been beastly, but she was not stupid. — THE TWITS

A GROWN-UP MIGHT SAY THAT BAD BEHAVIOUR IS: abominable, deplorable, disgraceful, disobedient, mischievous, naughty
• Opposites are: angelic, exemplary
'You're a nasty little maggot!' the voice screeched back. 'You're a lazy and disobedient little worm, and you're growing too fast.' — GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

A BAD EXPERIENCE OR A BAD DREAM CAN BE: appalling, **bogrotting**, disagreeable, dreadful, frightful, ghastly, **grizzling**, gruesome, horrendous, **horrigust**, **muckfrumping**, unpleasant, unwelcome
• Opposites are: fantabulous, **grobswitcher**, **phizz-whizzing**, splendiferous
A bad dream is a **nightmare** and the REALLY bad dreams that the BFG catches are **bogthumpers**, **grobswitchers** and **trogglehumpers**.
'I watched the whole thing from a corner up in the ceiling,' Miss Spider murmured. 'It was ghastly. We never saw him again.' — JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

SOMETHING THAT SMELLS OR TASTES BAD CAN BE: **disgusterous**, disgusting, **disgustive**, **filthsome**, foul, **foulsome**, **grobswitchy**, **repulsant**, repulsive, revolting, **rotsome**, sickening, **uckyslush**, vile
• Opposites are: delicious, **delumptious**, **glummy**, **scrumdiddlyumptious**
'Just this once,' the Bloodbottler said, 'I is going to taste these rotsome eats of yours. But I is warning you that if it is filthsome, I is smashing it over your sludgy little head!' — THE BFG

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

Badger (FANTASTIC MR FOX)
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.

bagglepipes plural noun
Bagglepipes are a musical instrument you play by squeezing air out of a bag into a set of pipes. The Queen and other **human beans** call them *bagpipes*.
'Whoopee!' shouted the BFG. 'That is better than bagglepipes, is it not, Majester?' — THE BFG

bake 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

balance noun
If you have good balance, you can hold your body steady and not fall over.
'I was just thinking,' he said, 'that if a bird can keep its balance when it's asleep, then surely there isn't any reason why the pills should make it fall down.' — DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

balance verb **balances, balancing, balanced**
When you balance, you hold your body steady and do not fall over.
At the top of the ladder, Mr Tibbs, balancing like an acrobat, poured the BFG's coffee and placed the enormous plate before him. — THE BFG

balcony noun **balconies**
a small platform outside an upstairs window of a building, where people can stand or sit, or where tortoises can munch and sleep
Alfie had been with Mrs Silver for years and he lived on her balcony summer and winter. — ESIO TROT

bald adjective **balder, baldest**
Someone who is bald has no hair on their head. (The 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

The BFG uses lots of words that begin with B, F or G!

REMEMBER! This is an **extra-usual** dictionary. Only words that Roald Dahl used in his stories and poems are in here.

SPARKY SYNONYMS

Try using these words to add variety to your own stories. Some of these are **extra-usual** words invented by Roald Dahl.

NEVER A DULL WORD!
Look for really interesting words like those given at **good**, **bad** or **noise** to make your writing **zippfizz** along.

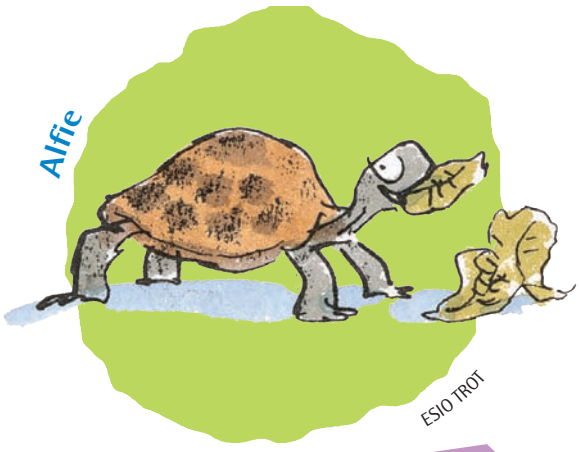
DON'T BE BIFFSQUIGGLED!

Sometimes words look or sound similar but don't mean the same thing. Follow these tips to avoid getting them muddled up.

FOOTNOTES TELL YOU THINGS THAT EVEN GROWN-UPS DON'T KNOW!



Aa



alarm-clock anklet anti-freeze

argying aunts

aardvark noun **aardvarks**
An aardvark is an African animal with a long snout that eats ants and termites. Roald Dahl wrote about lots of African animals, like giraffes, monkeys and crocodiles, but not about aardvarks. However, every dictionary has to start with **aardvark**; otherwise it would start with **aback**, which is just too boring.
DID YOU KNOW? *Aardvark* is an Afrikaans word which means 'earth pig', though aardvarks are not related to pigs at all.

aback adverb
If you are taken aback by something, you are surprised and slightly shocked by it.
Mrs Phelps, slightly taken aback at the arrival of such a tiny girl unaccompanied by a parent, nevertheless told her she was very welcome. – MATILDA

abbreviation noun **abbreviations**
An abbreviation is a short form of a word or group of words, so the BFG's name is an abbreviation of *Big Friendly Giant* and *BLT* is an abbreviation of *bacon, lettuce and tomato*.

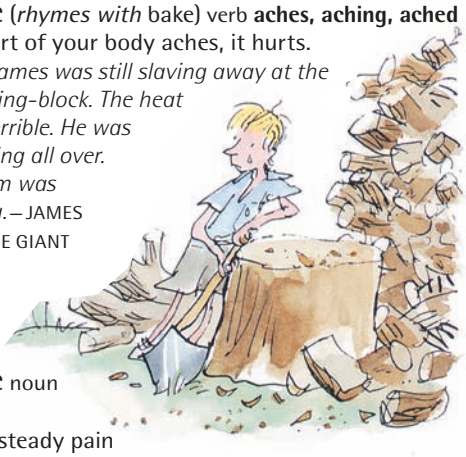
abide (*rhymes with* hide) verb
You can't abide something when you detest it or can't bear it.
*'I **insist** upon my rooms being beautiful! I can't **abide** ugliness in factories!'* – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

ablaze adjective
blazing or burning brightly
The Wolf stood there, his eyes ablaze/And yellowish, like mayonnaise./His teeth were sharp, his gums were raw,/ And spit was dripping from his jaw. – REVOLTING RHYMES
RINGBELLING RHYMES Try rhyming with *amaze* (as well as *mayonnaise*, of course).

absorbed adjective
If you are absorbed in something, like reading, it means your whole mind is focused on it and you can think of nothing else.
Matilda happened to be curled up in an armchair in the corner, totally absorbed in a book. – MATILDA

absurd adjective
If something is absurd, it looks or seems silly or ridiculous.
The chicken looked perfectly absurd with its long long legs and its ordinary little body perched high up on top. It was like a chicken on stilts. – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

ache (*rhymes with* bake) verb **aches, aching, ached**
If a part of your body aches, it hurts.
Poor James was still slaving away at the chopping-block. The heat was terrible. He was sweating all over. His arm was aching. – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



ache noun **aches**
a dull steady pain
The medicine had done Grandma good . . . It seemed to have cured all her aches and pains, and she was suddenly as frisky as a ferret. – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

acrobat noun **acrobats**
An acrobat entertains people by doing exciting jumping and balancing tricks.
At the top of the ladder, Mr Tibbs, balancing like an acrobat, poured the BFG's coffee and placed the enormous plate before him. – THE BFG
DID YOU KNOW? The word *acrobat* comes from ancient Greek and means 'tiptoe-walker'.

address verb **addresses, addressing, addressed**
When you address someone, you speak directly to them.
'Now,' said Mr Wonka, addressing Grandpa George, Grandma Georgina and Grandma Josephine. 'Up you hop out of that bed and let's get cracking.' – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR
LOOK IT UP! For other interesting ways to describe how people speak, see **say**.

admire verb **admires, admiring, admired**
If you admire someone, you like what they do and want to be like them.
Lavender . . . admired the older girl Hortensia to distraction for the daring deeds she had performed in the school. – MATILDA

admit verb **admits, admitting, admitted**
If you admit something, you tell people that it is true.
'I must admit,' said Mr Wonka, 'that for the first time in my life I find myself at a bit of a loss.' – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

adore verb **adores, adoring, adored**
If you adore someone, you like them a lot. Mrs Silver adores her pet tortoise, Alfie, and Miss Honey's class all adore her. Mr and Mrs Twit definitely do not adore each other.
Miss Jennifer Honey . . . possessed that rare gift for being adored by every small child under her care. – MATILDA

adult noun **adults**
An adult is another word for a **grown-up**.
adult adjective
An adult book is one that grown-ups think you are too young to read.
'But does it not intrigue you,' Miss Honey said, 'that a little five-year-old child is reading long adult novels by Dickens and Hemingway?' – MATILDA

adventure noun **adventures**
something exciting that happens to you, or that you hope will happen one day
Many of them were always begging him to tell and tell again the story of his adventures on the peach. – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

aerioplane noun **aerioplanes**
Aeroplanes are called aerioplanes in Giant Country (and **airplanes** in North America).
'But human beans is squishing each other all the time,' the BFG said. 'They is shootling guns and going up in aerioplanes to drop their bombs on each other's heads every week.' – THE BFG

afford verb **affords, affording, afforded**
If you can afford something, you have enough money to pay for it.
The only meals they could afford were bread and margarine for breakfast, boiled potatoes and cabbage for lunch, and cabbage soup for supper. – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

afraid adjective
1 If you are afraid, you are frightened of something, such as a bonecrunching giant or a **bogthumping** nightmare, or maybe a monstrous headmistress or vicious Knid.
They were trying . . . to get away from that huge angry Vermicious Knid with the purple behind. Mr Wonka wasn't afraid of it, but Grandma Josephine was petrified. – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR
2 You say *I am afraid* if you mean that you regret something.
'Ladies and gentlemen,' the Old-Green-Grasshopper said . . . 'I am afraid that we find ourselves in a rather awkward situation.' – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH



afraid
Try using these fearsome phrases in your writing to describe people who are afraid, or who make others afraid.

SOMEONE WHO FEELS AFRAID MIGHT: be fossilized with fear, be frozen stiff with terror, be petrified, blanch or turn pale, give a shriek of terror, quake or tremble in their boots, stand rooted to the spot, be terror-struck, tremble like a leaf in the wind
'If you'd had even the faintest idea of what horrors you were up against, the marrow would have run out of your bones! You'd have been fossilized with fear and glued to the ground!' – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

Sophie, crouching on the floor of the cave in her nightie . . . was trembling like a leaf in the wind, and a finger of ice was running up and down the length of her spine. – THE BFG

SOMETHING WHICH MAKES YOU AFRAID MIGHT: freeze your blood, give you goosebumps, make icicles in your veins, make your hair stand on end, make your knees tremble, strike fear into your heart, suck the marrow out of your bones, turn you to jelly
Little Billy glanced back quickly over his shoulder, and now, in the distance, he saw a sight that froze his blood and made icicles in his veins. – THE MINPINS

afternoon noun **afternoons**
The afternoon is the time from the middle of the day until the evening, when giants usually take a nap.
'Every afternoon,' the BFG said, 'all these giants is in the Land of Noddy.' – THE BFG

An old word for an alphabet is *abecedarium*, which gets its name from the letters A, B and C.

aghast adjective
If something makes you aghast, it shocks and horrifies you.
*'The Fleshlumpeater is longing dearly to guzzle her up,' the BFG said, smiling a little now. 'Who, the **Queen**?' Sophie cried, aghast.* —THE BFG

air noun
Air is the gas all around us, which we breathe.
'Dreams,' he said, 'is very mysterious things. They is floating around in the air like little wispy-misty bubbles.' —THE BFG

alarm-clock noun **alarm-clocks**
An alarm-clock is a clock that you set to wake you up in the morning when you would rather stay in bed.
A rrroasted alarm-clock is a vital ingredient in The Grand High Witch's Delayed Action Mouse-Maker formula.
'You set your alarm-clock to go off at nine o'clock tomorrow morning. Then you rrroast it in the oven until it is crrrisp and tender. Are you wrrriting this down?'
—THE WITCHES

alarmed adjective
If you are alarmed, you are afraid that something dangerous or horrible is going to happen.
But don't, dear children, be alarmed;/ Augustus Gloop will not be harmed,/ Although, of course, we must admit/ He will be altered quite a bit. —CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Alfie (ESIO TROT)
Alfie is a small tortoise who belongs to Mrs Silver and lives on her balcony. He weighs just thirteen ounces and Mrs Silver worries that he is not growing very fast.

alight adjective
1 lit up or on fire
When you have sucked a Devil's Drencher for a minute or so, you can set your breath alight and blow a huge column of fire twenty feet into the air. —THE GIRAFFE AND THE PELLY AND ME
2 If your face is alight, you are beaming with happiness or excitement.
The whole face, in fact, was alight with fun and laughter. And oh, how clever he looked! How quick and sharp and full of life! —CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY



alive adjective
1 If someone is alive, they are living and not yet dead.
'I want a good sensible loving child, one to whom I can tell all my most precious sweet-making secrets — while I am still alive.' —CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 If a place is alive with something, it means it is filled or teeming with it.
*The grass was wet with dew . . . And now suddenly, the whole place, the whole garden seemed to be **alive** with magic.* —JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

alligator noun **alligators**
An alligator is an animal that looks like a crocodile. Alligators are reptiles and they live in parts of North and South America and China.
If you chopped off a newt's tail, the tail stayed alive and grew into another newt ten times bigger than the first one. It could be the size of an alligator. —MATILDA
DID YOU KNOW? The word *alligator* comes from an old Spanish phrase meaning 'the lizard of the Indies'.
RINGBELLING RHYMES Try rhyming with *ate her* or *elevator*.

alliteration noun
Alliteration is the use of words that begin with the same sound to create a special effect in writing.

Gobblefunking with words
Roald Dahl loved to use alliteration and you can find lots of lovely alliterative lines in his splendidly spellbinding stories. Here are a few fantabulous examples.
'Here I come, you grizzly old grunion! You rotten old turnip! You filthy old frumpet!' —THE TWITS

PIG PILLS, the label announced. FOR PIGS WITH PORK PRICKLES, TENDER TROTTERS, BRISTLE BLIGHT AND SWINE SICKNESS. —GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

Alliteration is good for making character names and similes too: see more examples in the entries for **ghoulish** and **mad**.

allowed adjective
If you are allowed to do something, it means that grown-ups will not try to stop you doing it.
Little Billy's mother was always telling him exactly what he was allowed to do . . . All the things he was allowed to do were boring. All the things he was not allowed to do were exciting. —THE MINPINS
DON'T BE BIFFSQUIGGLED! The words *allowed* and *aloud* sound the same, but they mean different things. In a library, you wouldn't be *allowed* to talk *aloud* (but you might be allowed to whisper).

almighty adjective
very big or very loud
At once, there came a blinding flash,/And then the most almighty crash,/And sparks were bursting all around,/And smoke was rising from the ground. —DIRTY BEASTS

aloft adverb
high up in the air
Matilda had never before seen a boy, or anyone else for that matter, held aloft by his ears alone. – MATILDA

alone adjective
If you are alone, there is no one with you.
Mr Hoppy lived in a small flat high up in a tall concrete building. He lived alone. – ESIO TROT

aloud adverb
If you say something aloud, you say it in a voice that can be heard (even if you are only talking to yourself).
'Well,' George said aloud to himself as he tipped in the whole bottleful, 'the old bird won't be losing any feathers after she's had a dose of this.' – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

alphabet noun **alphabets**
An alphabet is all the letters that we use in writing, arranged in a particular order. There are 26 letters in the English alphabet starting at A and ending with Z. This dictionary is arranged in alphabetical order, from **aardvark** to **zozimus**, which makes it easier to find the word you want quickly.

alter verb **alters, altering, altered**
If you alter something, you change it in some way.
'The plain fact is,' my grandmother said, 'that your son Bruno has been rather drastically altered.' 'Altered!' shouted Mr Jenkins. 'What the devil d'you mean altered?' – THE WITCHES
LOOK IT UP! When a person is altered into a mouse, it is called **metamorphosis**.

Amanda Thripp (MATILDA)
Amanda Thripp is a pupil at Crunchem Hall who makes the mistake of wearing **pigtails** to school, not realizing how much Miss Trunchbull hates them.



amaze verb **amazes, amazing, amazed**
If something amazes you, it makes you feel very surprised.
'Dear lady,' said Mr Wonka, 'you are new to the scene. When you have been with us a little longer, nothing will amaze you.' – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

amazing adjective
If something is amazing, it is both wonderful and surprising.
It was wonderful to stand there stirring this amazing mixture and to watch it smoking blue and bubbling and frothing and foaming as though it were alive. – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

ambition noun **ambitions**
something that you want to do very much
My blinding ambition, you see, my dream of dreams, was to become one day the owner of a White Mouse Circus. – THE WITCHES

amble verb **ambles, ambling, ambled**
When you amble, you walk along slowly or casually.
The Centipede . . . got down off the sofa and ambled across the room and crawled into his hammock. – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

amphibian noun **amphibians**
An amphibian is an animal that lives some of its life in water and some on land. Newts are amphibians, which is why Lavender is able to transport one inside her pencil-box.
DID YOU KNOW? The word *amphibian* means literally 'having both lives' because amphibians can live both on land and in water.

amuse verb **amuses, amusing, amused**
If you amuse yourself, you do things to keep busy and not get bored.
Miss Honey said to the class, 'I think you'd all better go out to the playground and amuse yourselves until the next lesson.' – MATILDA

amusing adjective
If something is amusing, it makes you laugh or smile, like Roald Dahl's stories (or, just occasionally, a dictionary definition).
The service turned out to be an amusing business because the vicar kept peppering his sentences with the most extraordinary words. – THE VICAR OF NIBBLESWICKE

anagram noun **anagrams**
An anagram is a group of letters or words made by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase or name. For example, *inky wallow* is an anagram of *Willy Wonka*, and *a brash clashing tumult* is an anagram of *Miss Agatha Trunchbull*.

Gobblefunking with words
Anagrams are a good way of creating secret codes or messages. For example *Physician with Kit* could be a secret-code anagram for *I think I spy a witch*. For other interesting ways to jumble up words, see the entry for **Esio Trot**.

ancient adjective
An ancient person or creature is very old.
He was some sort of an elf, I used to think to myself each time I saw him, a very ancient sort of an elf with wispy white hair and steel-rimmed spectacles. – DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

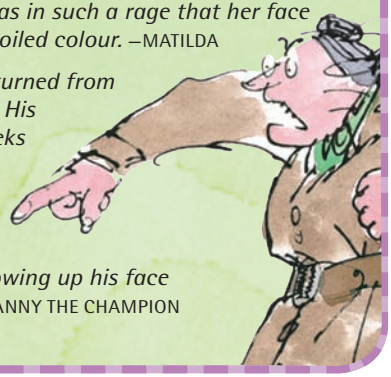
a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z

The word *alphabet* comes from *alpha* and *beta*, the first two letters of the Greek alphabet.

angry adjective **angrier, angriest**
If you are angry, you are very annoyed or cross about something.
Aunt Spiker . . . had a screeching voice and long wet narrow lips, and whenever she got angry or excited, little flecks of spit would come shooting out of her mouth as she talked. – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

Gobblefunking with words
One way to describe angry people is to use colours. People usually go *red* or *purple with rage* (unless they are turning into a blueberry and then they go purple anyway), or start to *see red*, but you can use variations on these. There are lots of angry characters (not forgetting a raging rhinoceros and a seething **grobswitcher**) in Roald Dahl's stories and many of them turn interesting colours, for example:
The Trunchbull was in such a rage that her face had taken on a boiled colour. – MATILDA

Mr Hazell's skin turned from scarlet to purple. His eyes and his cheeks were bulging so much with rage it looked as though someone was blowing up his face with a pump. – DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD



animal noun **animals**
An animal is anything that lives and can move about. The word *animal* is normally used to mean creatures that are not **human beans** or giants.
'If an animal is very fierce and you is putting it in a cage, it will make a tremendous rumpledumpus. If it is a nice animal like a cockatootloo or a fogglefrump, it will sit quietly.' – THE BFG

ankle noun **ankles**
Your ankle is the thin part of your leg where it is joined to your foot.
There is no way you can become a royal footman unless you have a well-turned ankle. It is the first thing they look at when you are interviewed. – THE BFG

anklet noun **anklets**
An anklet is the joint that giants have between their leg and their foot. It is very similar to a human ankle.
'The teeth of the dreadly viper is still sticking into me!' he yelled. 'I is feeling the teeth sticking into my anklet!'
– THE BFG

anniversary noun **anniversaries**
An anniversary is a day when you remember something special that happened on the same day in the past. The anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth is on 13 September, which is now celebrated as Roald Dahl Day.

announce verb **announces, announcing, announced**
When you announce something, you tell everyone about it.
'This is the living-room,' announced Muggle-Wump. 'The grand and glorious living-room where those two fearful frumptious freaks eat Bird Pie every week for supper!' – THE TWITS

annoying adjective
If something is annoying, it makes you angry or frustrated.
'I've tried it twenty times in the Testing Room on twenty Oompa-Loompas, and every one of them finished up as a blueberry. It's most annoying.' – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

annual adjective
An annual event happens once every year, like the Annual Meeting of all the witches in Inkland.
I am told that The Grand High Witch makes it a rule to fry at least one witch at each Annual Meeting.
– THE WITCHES

answer noun **answers**
something you say or write to someone who has asked you a question
And how often did Mr Twit wash this bristly nailbrushy face of his? The answer is NEVER, not even on Sundays.
– THE TWITS

answer verb **answers, answering, answered**
When you answer someone, you say something to them after they have asked you a question.
'What mischief are you up to in there now?' Granny screeched. 'I hear noises.' George thought it best not to answer this one. – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

ant noun **ants**
Ants are tiny insects that live in large groups.
A group of ants is called *a colony of ants*.
'I is hearing the little ants chittering to each other as they scuddle around in the soil.' – THE BFG
LOOK IT UP! When you say *a colony of ants*, you are using a *collective noun*. You can find more examples of collective nouns in the entry for **colony**.



antenna noun **antennae**
another word for a **feeler** on the head of an insect such as the Old-Green-Grasshopper

anti-freeze noun
Anti-freeze is a liquid that grown-ups put in car engines to stop them freezing in cold weather. George tries it in his Marvellous Medicine to see if it will make his grandma less grumpy (it doesn't).
Back in the kitchen once again, George, with Mr Kranky watching him anxiously, tipped half a pint of engine oil and some anti-freeze into the giant saucepan. – GEORGE'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE

antonym noun **antonyms**
An antonym is a word that means the opposite of another word. For example, **midgy** is an antonym of **gigantuous**, and **horrigust** is an antonym of **wondercrump**.
LOOK IT UP! For more examples of opposites, see the entry for **um-possiple**.

anxious adjective
If you are anxious, you feel worried.
The four old people . . . propped themselves up on their pillows and stared with anxious eyes at the bar of chocolate in Charlie's hands. – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

apologies plural noun
You send your apologies if you are unable to accept an invitation, or unable to do something you have been asked to do.
Mr Tibbs sidled up to the Queen . . . and whispered in her ear, 'Chef sends his apologies, Your Majesty, and he says he has no more eggs in the kitchen.' – THE BFG

apologize verb **apologizes, apologizing, apologized**
When you apologize to someone, you tell them you are sorry.
'Pest!' cried the Earthworm. 'Why must you always be so rude and rambunctious to everyone? You ought to apologize to James at once.' – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

appendix noun **appendixes**
Your appendix is a small tube-shaped organ inside your body.
The next day, we were allowed to inspect the appendix itself in a glass bottle. It was a longish black wormy-looking thing. – BOY

appetite noun **appetites**
If you have an appetite, you feel hungry.
'How many girls and boys are they going to eat tonight?' 'Many,' the BFG said. 'The Fleshlumpeating Giant alone has a most squackling whoppsy appetite.' – THE BFG

apple noun **apples**
An apple is a round, crisp, juicy fruit that grows on a tree. A farm of apple trees, like the one that Farmer Bean owns, is called an **orchard**.
Bean . . . never ate any food at all. Instead, he drank gallons of strong cider which he made from the apples in his orchard. – FANTASTIC MR FOX

approve verb **approves, approving, approved**
If you approve of something, you think that it is good or suitable.
'We'll mow them down with machine-guns!' cried the Head of the Army. 'I do not approve of murder,' the Queen said. – THE BFG

arch noun **arches**
a curved part of a bridge or building, or of a rainbow
They now saw a most extraordinary sight. It was a kind of arch, a colossal curvy-shaped thing that reached high up into the sky and came down again at both ends.
– JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

argue verb **argues, arguing, argued**
When people argue, they talk in an angry way because they do not agree with each other.
Everybody gathered around the wretched Centipede and began arguing about the best way to get the paint off his body. – JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH

argument noun **arguments**
a quarrel
*'No arguments, **please!**' said Mr Wonka. He turned away and clicked his fingers three times in the air.* – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

argy verb **argies, argying, argied**
If giants or **human beans** or **cattlepiddlers** are argying, they are having an argument.
'One of the biggest chatbags is the cattlepiddlers . . . They is argying all the time about who is going to be the prettiest butteryfly.' – THE BFG

arithmetic noun
When you do arithmetic, you do sums with numbers.
'Simple arithmetic,' said Mr Wonka. 'Subtract eighty from seventy-eight and what do you get?' 'Minus two!' said Charlie. – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

arm noun **arms**
Your arms are the long parts of your body that are joined to your shoulders. Giants have arms too, which they reach through bedroom windows in order to snatch human **chiddlers**.
The next moment, a huge hand with pale fingers came snaking in through the window. This was followed by an arm, an arm as thick as a tree-trunk. – THE BFG
DID YOU KNOW? An old slang word for an arm is a *smiter* (meaning something you *smite* or hit with), which sounds like a word the giants of Giant Country might use.



armadillo noun **armadillos**
a South American animal whose body is covered with bony plates
'For dinner on my birthday shall I tell you what I chose:/ Hot noodles made from poodles on a slice of garden hose/ And a rather smelly jelly/Made of armadillo's toes.'
– JAMES AND THE GIANT PEACH
RINGBELLING RHYMES Try rhyming with *pillow* or *willow*.

The word *armadillo* comes from Spanish and means 'small armed creature'.

army noun **armies**
a large group of people who are trained to fight on land in a war
'Hooray!' said the Chief of the Army. 'Let's blow everyone up! Bang-bang! Bang-bang!' – CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

asinine adjective
extremely stupid and making no sense whatsoever
But the fact remained that any five-year-old girl in any family was always obliged to do as she was told, however asinine the orders might be. – MATILDA
DID YOU KNOW? The word *asinine* means literally 'like an ass' (i.e. a donkey) because asses were thought to be stupid and stubborn animals, rather like Matilda's parents.

asleep adjective
When you are asleep, you are sleeping. (The BFG calls it being in the *Land of Noddy*.)
'The Big Friendly Giant makes his magic powders out of the dreams that children dream when they are asleep,' he said. – DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD

assembly noun **assemblies**
An assembly is a meeting of a large group of people, such as a whole school or a great gathering of witches.
In a matter of seconds, the entire assembly of witches had taken up the dreaded cry of dogs' droppings. 'Dogs' droppings!' they shouted. – THE WITCHES

astonish verb **astonishes, astonishing, astonished**
If something astonishes you, it surprises you a lot.
'I am preparing other surprises that are even more marvellous and . . . that will entrance, delight, intrigue, astonish, and perplex you beyond measure.' – CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

astronaut noun **astronauts**
someone who travels in a spacecraft
The capsule they were travelling in was manned by the three famous astronauts, Shuckworth, Shanks and Showler, all of them handsome, clever and brave.
– CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR

athlete noun **athletes**
someone who is good at athletics or other sports
Miss Trunchbull . . . was above all a most formidable female. She had once been a famous athlete, and even now the muscles were still clearly in evidence. – MATILDA

atlas noun **atlases**
a book of maps
The Head of the Air Force . . . kept staring first at the atlas, then at the ground below, trying to figure out where they were going. – THE BFG
DID YOU KNOW? *Atlas* is the name of a character in ancient Greek mythology who held up the heavens on his shoulders. His picture was used in early books of maps so people started to call them *atlases*.

atmosphere noun
1 the air around the Earth
'They're not shooting stars at all,' said Mr Wonka. 'They're Shooting Knids . . . trying to enter the Earth's atmosphere at high speed and going up in flames.'
– CHARLIE AND THE GREAT GLASS ELEVATOR
2 a feeling you get in a room or at a place
In the space of thirty seconds the atmosphere in the tiny room had changed completely and now it was vibrating with awkwardness and secrets. – MATILDA

attach verb **attaches, attaching, attached**
If you attach something, you fix or fasten it onto something else.
The poor chap couldn't see where he was going without twisting his head over his shoulder . . . But by attaching a small rear-view mirror to his forehead with an elastic band, he overcame this difficulty. – THE VICAR OF NIBBLESWICKE

attack verb **attacks, attacking, attacked**
If you attack someone, you fight them and try to hurt them.
Waiters were attacking the mice with chairs and wine-bottles and anything else that came to hand.
– THE WITCHES

