Before and after: answers and notes

What your child practised: using the order of the alphabet to find the letter that comes next, the letter that comes before, and a missing letter. Year 1 spelling, national curriculum in England.

Page 1 · Warm up

a b c **d** · **d** e

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. For example, the sandwich for **p** is **o** p **q**. a has no letter before it and z has no letter after it.

Page 2 · A. What comes next?

d e f **g** · p q r **s** · l m n **o** · w x y **z**

Page 3 · B. What comes before?

b c · **l** m · **r** s · **g** h

Page 3 · C. Missing letter

g **h** i · o **p** q · t **u** v · j **k** l

Page 3 · D. Sneaked in

1. **x** · 2. **b** · 3. **k**

Page 3 · E. Alphabet order

a b c · **m n o** · **r s t**

Challenge: No. **n** comes **after** m. The letter before m is **l**: "k, l, m, n". If your child says "l", ask them to say the letter after m too.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up before and after.** Use a hand: point back over your shoulder for "before" and forwards for "after" as you say the letters.
- **Running l, m, n, o, p together** and missing one out (as in B and C). Say that part slowly, one letter per finger.
- **Skipping a letter**, so the answer is two letters away (f instead of g after d e f). Ask your child to touch each letter as they say it.
- **Starting from a every time.** That's fine! Later, try starting from a group (h i j k l m n).

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Neighbour quiz:** in the car or on a walk, ask "What comes after r?" or "What comes before f?". Take turns asking.
- **Backwards a little:** say three letters backwards together, such as "e, d, c".
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Letter names: spelling words out loud, like c-a-t, uses letter names to spell words.