Half the dictonary first. Look on the left side and see if the first letter of that word is greater or lesser then the target word (in alphabetical order). If the target word is larger then the halved word, then you split the left half. If the target word is smaller then the halved word, then you split the right half. Repeat halving and checking until you find the word. If you do not find it then the target word is not in the dictonary.