

Writing Exercise: The Dictionary Game

In your notebook or on a sheet of paper, make a column of letters of the alphabet, leaving a couple of lines between each one.

For each letter invent a word.

I recommend compound words. What's a compound word? a word made from two or more other words: "dogcatcher"; "fishmonger". For example I just was watching a pretty little house finch out my window. So "finchwarble". "Finchtastic". Or maybe something more perplexing: "finchbutter."



(I swiped this image from the official post-it notes website -- it's a matching game for teachers to get elementary school kids to identify compound word. But if you look, you can imagine some fun ones -- footflower, snakeprints, suncup . . .)

But you don't have to stick to compound words. What might "alabranstic" mean? "chrobble"?

For each word, give a short definition -- and don't forget that a word can be a noun, a verb, and adjective, an adverb . . .

Pick a handful or two of (five or ten) of your favorite new words and definitions and post them. Based on an exercise in Nick Bantock's "The Trickster's Hat"