On these pages, we’ll take some of the mystery out of the dictionary. You’ll get an idea of how to look up words and how to make the dictionary a valuable tool to unlock the mysteries of word meanings and spellings.

All dictionaries are in alphabetical order. The two words in dark type at the top of the page are called guide words. They indicate the first and last word on that page. Guide words help you to locate the word you are looking up.

On this page, you would find the word narrate. Here is what narrate means, and how it would appear in a dictionary.

**Narrate** (năr’ät) v. 1. To give a description or account; relate. 2. To give a running talk or discussion about a performance, such as a movie. —narration n. —narrator n.
EXPAND YOUR VOCABULARY

1. Make up a sentence using the word *narrate*.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

2. Write a sentence using the word *narrator*.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

3. Remember, a dictionary has words listed in alphabetical order. Use the guide words at the top of the page. Between which guide words would you find the word *lime*?

   Between the guide words:  **like and limp**, or **lark and lawyer**?

   (The answer is at the bottom of the page)

4. Find the words *impostor*, *oxymoron*, *dyslexia* in the dictionary. Read the definitions. On the lines below, use each of the words in a sentence. Some words have more than one definition. You can pick just one or write different sentences using the different definitions. Enter these words in your personal dictionary. By the way, isn’t “jumbo shrimp” an oxymoron?

   **IMPOSTOR**

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

   **OXYMORON**

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

   **DYSLEXIA**

   __________________________________________
   __________________________________________

Dictionary Tips

- Use the abbreviations and symbols pages in the dictionary to help you understand any unknown symbols.
- Many dictionaries have synonyms (syn) for some words, so a dictionary can help you build your vocabulary. Synonyms are words that have similar meanings.
- The Pronunciation Key in a dictionary shows you how to pronounce a word.

Answer: *Lime* goes between *like* and *limp*. 