Smart Cub Learning

11+ TOPIC PACK

Missing Letters

Verbal Reasoning

60 questions from warm-up to exam level, with worked solutions

SAMPLE

Smart Cub Learning topic packs are original practice material. We are not affiliated with GL Assessment, CEM, Quest Assessments, Kent County Council or any school.

How to do it

In a missing-letter question, one letter is missing from a gap between two word parts. That letter must finish the first word and start the second word. These questions test how well you know your words.

Learn the method

1. Read the first word part and the second word part. Say each one in your head.
2. Pick one letter from the options. Put it on the end of the first part and say the new word.
3. Now put the same letter at the start of the second part and say that word too.
4. Both words must be real words. Names do not count. If either word is not real, cross the letter out.
5. If there is more than one pair, check the same letter in every pair. One bad pair means the letter is wrong.

Worked example 1

Find the one letter that ends the first word and starts the second word. The same letter must work in every pair of the question.

WH (?) ELLOW

A [O] **B** [Z] **C** [Y] **D** [J]

How to work it out

1. Try each letter in the gap.
2. The letter Y makes two real words: WHY and YELLOW.
3. The letter has to end the first word and start the second word.

The answer is C (the letter Y).

SAMPLE

Worked example 2

Find the one letter that ends the first word and starts the second word. The same letter must work in every pair of the question.

BA (?) HOSE
WAN (?) HEIR

A [D] **B** [G] **C** [T] **D** [R]

How to work it out

1. Try each letter in every gap.
2. The letter T makes real words every time: BAT and THOSE, WANT and THEIR.
3. The same letter has to work in every pair.

The answer is C (the letter T).

Top Tip

Try the letters that often end or start words, such as E, T, D, N and R. Say both words aloud in your head.

Watch Out

- Do not stop at the first word. A letter can make a real first word and still fail the second word.
- Do not trust how the answer looks. Say the whole word out loud in your head, because the sound often shows a mistake.

Exam Tip

Test every option, even when you think you have found the answer. Two letters may look right at first, and only one works in every pair.

Watch

Stuck? **Watch a short video** that shows this skill step by step.
smartcublearning.com/go/67976

Explore

Want more practice? **Practise this skill online.**
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Key words

pair	Two word parts with a gap between them, such as TO (?) PEN.
gap	The bracket with a question mark, where the missing letter goes.
real word	A word you would find in a dictionary. Names and made-up words do not count.
word part	The letters on one side of the gap. A part may already be a word, but it must still make a real word with the new letter.

Part 1 Warm up

15 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Use spare paper for your working.

Find the one letter that ends the first word and starts the second word. The same letter must work in every pair of the question.

1 TRAI (?) EAF

A [N] **B** [L] **C** [B] **D** [U]

2 AG (?) NLY

A [X] **B** [C] **C** [O] **D** [E]

SAMPLE

22 TO (?) ASY

A Z B O C P D E

23 WI (?) HEY

A T B N C G D K

24 BEA (?) ABBIT

A C B R C D D K

25 SA (?) HITE

A T B Y C W D A

26 SE (?) VEN

A C B E C A D T

27 CU (?) WO

A X B P C B D T

28 HO (?) OET

A W B T C P D F

29 CAR (?) ESK

A D B N C T D E

30 WA (?) TEP

A U B Y C S D R

Score: _____ / 15

Part 3 Stretch

15 questions. Circle the letter of your answer. Use spare paper for your working.

Find the one letter that ends the first word and starts the second word. The same letter must work in every pair of the question.

31 SA (?) ORLD

A Z B T C Y D W

32 PE (?) TE

A A B C C N D T

33 HA (?) TREAM

A S B D C T D F

34 BU (?) TILL
GLAS (?) POT

A N B S C Y D T

35 TO (?) PEN
ZO (?) UT

A E B N C O D P

36 SHO (?) HAT
MARKE (?) HERE

A P B E C W D T

37 SHO (?) ACE
STO (?) ARROT

A P B T C E D W

38 CA (?) LAN
CLA (?) ENCIL

A R B N C T D P

SAMPLE