



# From A to Z

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**T**he quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.

Lizard typed the sentence again and again, faster and faster, into her laptop.

*The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.*

*The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy—*

“Hey, who are you calling lazy?” barked Dog. He had been reading over Lizard’s shoulder. “I had a busy day at the ranch. I was merely taking a nap.”

“I-I-I didn’t mean—” stammered Lizard.

“Yes, I am quick,” interrupted

Fox. “But brown? Not at all. My fur has a rich, reddish hue.”

“Auburn,” suggested Dog. “OK,” Lizard said, “but—” “And really,” Fox continued, “jumps? I’m more graceful than that. I would say *springs* or even *vaults*.”

Lizard sighed, then typed: *The graceful auburn fox vaults over the merely napping dog.* She frowned. “That won’t work. It’s missing a *J*, a *K*, a *Q*, a *W*, and a *Z*.”

“Why does that matter?” asked Dog.

**“I was just practicing my typing.”**

“I applied for a job at the local newspaper, *The Albuquerque View*,” said Lizard. “But I failed the typing test.”

“Surely the newspaper has another position that doesn’t require typing,” said Fox.

“I want to be a journalist,” said Lizard.

“What’s a journalist?” asked Dog.

“A news reporter,” Fox said. “All the more reason you should get the facts straight,” woofed Dog.

“Accuracy is essential to journalism,” purred Fox.

“I know that,” hissed Lizard. “I also have to be able to type quickly to get my news stories in on deadline. I was just practicing my typing so I can retake the test.”

Lizard gave that some thought. “You like music,” she said.

Dog sat up proudly. “I do like to play jazz on my saxophone.”

“How’s this?” Lizard typed: *The quick, graceful auburn fox vaults over the dog who plays jazz when he is not napping.* She shook her head. “That’s not right either.”

“You lost the *M* by dropping *merely*,” Fox pointed out. “Why not describe Dog as *mangy*?”

Dog snarled at Fox. “Well, you *could* use a bath,” said Fox.

“Why not *handsome*? That has an *M*,” Dog suggested. “And do we really need *graceful*? That doesn’t add anything, letter-wise.”

Lizard typed: *The quick auburn fox vaults over the handsome, not mangy, dog who plays jazz when he is not napping.*

“A bit wordy, perhaps,” murmured Fox. “Also, the jazz reference doesn’t seem relevant to the story.”

“Perhaps Your Royal Auburn Quickness should apply for the journalist job,” Dog snapped.

Lizard began typing furiously.

“What did you write that time?” asked Dog.

Lizard read from her computer screen. “*Lizard practices typing while the mocking fox and jealous dog quarrel about adjectives.* There! That uses the whole alphabet, and it is accurate.” She closed her laptop. “I have to leave now or I’ll be late for the test.”

When Lizard returned, Fox was vaulting gracefully over the fence. Dog, freshly bathed, was playing jazz on his saxophone. They stopped when they noticed Lizard.

“What was the result of your effort?” asked Fox.

“How’d the test go?” asked Dog.

“I still need to work a bit more on my

typing,” Lizard admitted. “But I have another sentence to practice with.” She powered up her laptop and typed: *Happily, thanks to Fox and Dog, Lizard has become a journalist for The Albuquerque View.*

“Is that accurate?” yapped Fox. “Does it have all the letters?” yipped Dog.

Lizard grinned. “It is and it does, from A to Z.”

**“We could help you write a sentence that’s true and has all the letters.”**

**When Lizard returned, Fox and Dog were practicing.**



**What sentences can you create using all the letters of the alphabet?**