

Spelling Strategies: Effective Ways to Learn Spellings

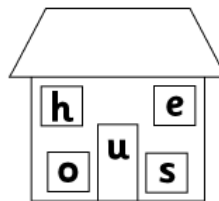
☺ **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check, (Correct):**

- **Look** at the word (the shape, number of letters, etc.) and picture it in your head.
- **Say** the word out loud and then say each letter/sound slowly.
(Any problem letters should be said louder than the rest.)
- **Cover** the word over.
- **Write** the word out.
- **Check** to see if you have spelt it correctly.
- **Correct** the word if you have spelt it incorrectly (and try again).

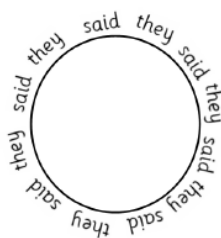
☺ **Picture Perfect:** Try and make the word into a picture. For example:

look

t hat



☺ **Spellamadoodles:** Draw a simple picture or geometric shape (or place the picture underneath a blank sheet of paper) and write the word/s several times around the edge of and/or inside the picture in different colours. For example:



☺ **To The Tune:** Sing or chant the letters of the spelling word/s (to a tune/rhythm/rhyme they already know).

☺ **Invisible Ink:** Write out the spelling word/s with missing letters and have your child insert the missing letters. (Alternate which letters are missing each time you visit the word.)

☺ **Trace It Out:** Use your finger (foot, nose, etc.) to trace the word in the air as large as you can, looking at the movements your finger is making. You can also do this with your eyes closed and visualise painting it in different colours.

☺ **Sounding Out the Syllables:** e.g. yes-ter-day sis-ter shop-ping

- ☺ **Noughts and Crosses (Tic Tac Toe):** Play this game using two of the words your child is learning instead of Os and Xs.

For example:

went		wkat
went	wkat	
wkat		

- ☺ **Memorable Mnemonics:** Make up an amusing phrase or sentence using each letter to make a word in a short sentence. For example:

Silly Anne is dancing = said

Tim had a train = that

Betty eats custard and uncle sucks eggs = because

- ☺ **Hidden Words:** Find a word within your spelling word. For example:

w-hat g-one the-y

wh-at g-on-e t-he-y

w-ha-t go-ne t-he-y

- ☺ **Rainbows:** Use a variety of colours to write out different parts of the word (e.g. syllables, phonemes/blends, or letters).

- ☺ **Stack 'em Up:** Write the spelling word letter by letter to form a pyramid.

For example: a

ap

app

appl

apple

- ☺ **Word Detective:** Encourage your child to look for the words they are learning in their reading book (other books, papers, magazines, etc.) at home and keep a tally chart to record how many times they find each spelling word. (Circle/Highlight each occurrence of the word if possible – **not** in printed books!)

- ☺ **Word Pairs:** Write down two copies of each of the words your child is learning on pieces of paper/card. Turn them over and spread them out in front of you. Take it in turns to pick up two pieces (saying the words you've found) – If you find the pair you keep them, and if not, you place them back down. The person with the most pieces at the end of the game is the winner!

☺ **Mispronunciations:** Say the word the way it looks.
e.g. *Wed-nes-day*
pe-o-ple

☺ **Disappearing Act:** Write the word out one letter less each time until the word disappears, e.g. *happy, happ_, hap__ , ha___ , h_____*
(or **Reappearing Letters:** *The reverse of the above activity.*)

☺ **Ransom Letters:** Cut out the individual letters from newspapers/magazines and stick them on paper to spell out the spelling word/s.

☺ **Back to Nature:** Make the spelling word/s out of sticks, leaves, stones, etc.
(*Try using foods too – pasta, peas, lentils, etc.*)

☺ **Word Hunt:** Cut out spelling words from newspapers or magazines.
(*Try and find as many as possible.*)

☺ **Super Sentences:** Write sentences about something that interests you
(e.g. football, horses, Star Wars, etc.) that include the spellings that you are learning.