

To write fluently, children need to be able to 'spell quickly and accurately'. NC 2014

Spelling Tests

Accept that there will be mistakes in tests, and just look for consistency and improvement. After all, two out of 10 is twice as good as one out of 10! Be positive!

Identifying their own mis-spelt words

Encourage your child to identify mis-spelt words in their own writing; keep individual lists and learn to spell them. Test your child on their mis-spelt words at various times.

How to learn weekly spellings

We suggest children learn their spellings using the 'Look, Say/Think, Cover, Write, Check' method. This encourages children to 'see' and 'hear' the word, and to see for themselves if they have spelt it right.

- Look at a spelling word.
- Say the word aloud or think about which strategy you might use to remember it.
- Cover the spelling word.
- Visualise the covered word in the mind.
- Write the word from memory.
- Check what has been written with the uncovered word.

Other ways to learn spellings

- Find words within the word (there's a 'hen' in 'when' and 'iron men' in environment!)
- Break the word up into smaller parts/syllables (Wed + nes + day = Wednesday or chim-pan-zee = chimpanzee)
- Break the word up into sounds (th-a-nk)
- Make up a silly sentence (mnemonic) using the letters (big elephants can always understand small elephants spells 'because')
- Say the word as it is written e.g. sounding out silent letters (like 'knight')
- Find a word that rhymes with it: is the spelling the same?
- Find the root word - e.g. finite in definite
- Look for historical links to words e.g. holiday comes from 'holy day'

Spelling rules

There will always be exceptions, but they work most of the time:

1. Most question words start 'wh'
2. i before e except after c
3. Add 's' for plurals except those that end in 's', 'x', 'z', 'ch' and 'sh', when you add 'es'
4. Nouns ending in 'y' change to 'ies'
5. Use 'ce' for nouns and 'se' for verbs (you advise with advice)
6. When adding 'ing' or 'ed', double the last consonant after a short vowel sound (so drop becomes dropping or dropped)
7. Don't drop the final 'e' when you add 'ly' ('comely'), but do drop it to add 'ing' ('coming')
8. 'tion' for nouns and 'cian' only ever for jobs (e.g. magician, electrician etc.)

Spelling Tips

1. You **hear** with your ear.
2. The word separate has "a rat" in it (separate).
3. Never 'dance' on independence day.
4. A **car** can be stationary, **pens** are stationery
5. Donkeys, monkeys - There are keys in **donkeys** and **monkeys**.
6. The word here is also in its opposite **there**.
7. Villain - A **villain** is one who lives in a villa.
8. There is no word in English ending in -full except full.

thankful

grateful

spoonful

9. **N**ever **E**at **C**elery **E**at **S**alad **S**andwiches **A**nd **R**emain **Y**oung - spells necessary