How to improve your spelling

Reading: Reading a range of texts helps you to recognise and see a variety of words on a regular basis. Over time, some spelling will remain in your memory.

Correct your work in class: Any spelling which are marked as incorrect, within any of your lessons, write it three times in your margin correctly. Use a ‘look-cover-write-check’ method, to help commit it to memory.

Break the word down in to syllables: A syllable is a beat in the pronunciation of a word. Saying the beats separately can help us spell a word – especially if it is a long word.

Or gan i sa tion

Take note of keywords: There are many keywords around school and in your classrooms. These words are there because they are important to your learning and will be used often. Use a “look-cover-write-check” method to ensure you know these.

Affixes: With some long words we can look at the original part or root of the word and then build on it. For example, Misspelling is often spelt incorrectly (leaving out one ‘s’). However, if you write the root of the word ‘spell’ and then a common way to start words (prefixes) is with ‘mis-‘. You can put those two together and get ‘misspell’. Finally a common ending to words (suffix) is ‘-ing’, add that to the word and you get the relatively long word – misspelling.

Other common word prefixes and suffixes are in the table opposite:

Mnemonics

This is a great one. Making up sayings to help you remember spellings:

- NECESSARY = Never Eat Cake Eat Salad Sandwiches And Remain Young
- BECAUSE = Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants

Etymology - Similar Words: By looking at where words come from (etymology) and similar word that we know how to spell, we can figure out how to spell some words. For example a common misspelling is definitely (often spelt definately). The word derives from the same word as finish (fini) and is spelt in a similar way.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fini</th>
<th>Infinite</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finish</td>
<td>Definite</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Mispronunciation: I still mispronounce some words in my head as I write them (see below). Are there any words you could mispronounce to help you with the spelling?

- february
- scissors
- library
- sentence

Spelling rules: The problem with spelling “rules” is that there are almost always exceptions. However, here are a few as they are helpful.

- ‘I’ before ‘E’ except after ‘C’
- Remove the ‘E’ before adding ‘–ing’

If you are making a word plural and the word has a consonant before the ‘y’, take off the ‘y’ and add ‘ies’

- baby → babies
- difficulty → difficulties

There are many more, which can be found easily on the internet. You could even have a look at the video on my website for additional help: http://www.teacherbentley.com/415-2/