

Spelling Strategies

No Nonsense Spelling

Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check

Look, say, cover,
write, check

This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings.

Look: first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.

Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.

Cover: cover the word.

Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.

Check: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.

Use a grid like this to do
this strategy...

Word	1 st try	2 nd try	3 rd try

Trace, Copy and Replicate

Trace, copy and replicate (and then check)

This is a similar learning process to 'look, say, cover, write, check'

Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time. Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it. Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly.

If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words.

You will need
tracing paper for
this strategy...



Segmentation Strategy

Segmentation
strategy

Split the word into its constituent phonemes or syllables in the correct order and then spell each one.

Mother:

Broken into syllables: mo – ther = 2 syllables

Broken in phonemes: m– o– th - er = 4 phonemes

Quickwrite

Quickwrite

The aim of this method is to write as many words as possible within a time constraint.

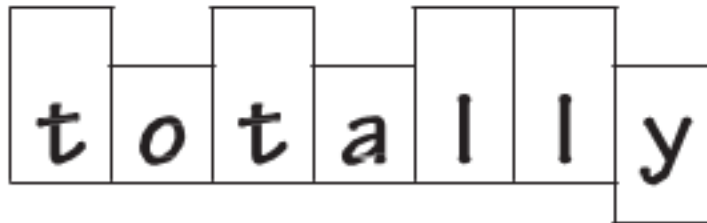
You can write words given to you by the teacher or generate your own examples. For example, in two minutes write as many words as possible with the /j/ phoneme or in thirty seconds write the word 'consistent' as many times as possible.

This can be turned into a variety of competitive games including working in teams and developing relay race approaches.

Word Drawing

Drawing around
the word to show
the shape

Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.



Drawing an Image

Drawing an image around the word

This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.



You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.



Words Without Vowels

Words without vowels

This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words. Your teacher, or another child that is testing you, will write the words without the vowels and you have to choose the correct letters to put in the space. For example, for the word *field*:

f _ _ ld



Pyramid Words

Pyramid words

This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.

p
py
pyr
pyra
pyram
pyrami
pyramid

You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.

Rainbow Writing

Rainbow Writing

Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky part or parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour.



Other Methods...

- Saying the word in a funny way – for example, pronouncing the ‘silent’ letters in a word,
For example: ‘gnome’ or ‘know’
- Mnemonics - make a sentence to remember difficult words.
For example, because is:
Big, Elephants, Can, Always, Understand,
Small, Elephants.