

Three ways to become a better speller

We all make spelling mistakes but the good news is that there are ways to improve your spelling.

This worksheet looks at three ways that can help.

1. **Look** at the word, **say** the word, **cover** the word, **write** the word and **check** the word.
2. Break up the word into smaller parts.
3. Keep a list of the words you want to remember.

The answers to the exercises are on the last page.

1. **Look** at the word, **say** the word, **cover** the word, **write** the word and **check** the word.

This is a very good way to learn spellings. There are 5 things to do – look, say, cover, write and check.

This is how it works.

Pick a word that you want to spell.

Make sure it is spelled right. You could ask someone or check in the dictionary.

1. **Look** carefully at the word. Think about how it's made up. Are there particular things you notice?
2. **Say** the word slowly and if possible out loud. Can you hear all the letters or are some *silent*?
3. **Cover** the word and picture the letters.
4. **Write** the word. It might help to say it slowly.
5. **Check** it by looking at the original word.

Now you try it.

Choose a word. Check it is spelled right.

Write it here _____

Look at it

Say it aloud

Cover it

Write it here _____

Check it

This is the most popular way to learn spellings. Can you remember what the order is?

Exercise 1 - What's the order?

1. L
- 2.
- 3.
4. W
- 5.

2. Break words into smaller parts

Longer words can be easier to spell if you break them into smaller parts.

Look at how these words can be broken up.

December = De-cem-ber

transport = trans-port

medicine = med-i-cine

Now think of a long word and say it slowly. Can you hear the breaks? Look at these words and say them slowly.

conference

apartment

allowance

independent

opportunity

relative

Exercise 2 – Breaking words into smaller parts

Say these words and break the word into smaller parts for example,

conference = con-fer-ence

apartment = _____

allowance = _____

independent = _____

opportunity = _____

relative= _____

Don't worry if you break the word up differently to someone else. The important thing is that it makes sense to **you**.

There are also words that have letters that you can't hear when you say the word. These are called silent letters. For example say the word "Wednesday". What letter is silent? You can't hear the "d". Look at how it is broken up and the "silent d" is underlined.

Wednesday = Wedu-nes-day

Now say this word – February

What letter is silent?

It's the first "r". feb-r-ary

Underline the silent letter in these words. Break them up if it helps.

Exercise 3 - Silent letters

pleasant = pleas-ant

library = _____

night = _____

autumn = _____

plumber = _____

debt = _____

government=_____

3. Keeping a list

It is very useful to keep a list of words that you use most often. You could use a piece of card or get a small phone or address book with the letters of the alphabet down the side.

Put the words in alphabetical order and add new words when you need to. **YOU'RE SCANNING IN HERE**

a	b	c	d	e	f	g
h	i	j	k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r	s	t	u
v	w	x	y	z		

The last word

You may use other ways to learn spellings. The important thing is that you choose ways that work for you. Spelling gets easier with practice so keep your eyes open and look at new words when you can, for example when you're on the bus, in a waiting room or at the shops.

Answers

Exercise 1 - What's the order?

1. Look
2. Say
3. Cover
4. Write
5. Check

Exercise 2 – Breaking words into smaller parts

conference = con-fer-ence

apartment = a-part-ment

allowance = allow-ance

independent = in-de-pend-ent

opportunity = opp-ort-unity

relative = rel-a-tive

Exercise 3 - Silent letters

pleasant = pleas-ant

library = lib-rary

night = night

autumn = aut-umn

plumber = plum-ber

debt = debt

government = gov-ern-ment