

Spelling Tips

SPELLING is a bit like learning to swim, or to ride a bicycle, or master a new computer game. But to be honest, it's a lot more difficult because the only way to learn to spell well is to work at it, and to keep working at it. That's because English spelling is the most irregular of all the languages in the world. But learning to spell well is a skill worth acquiring and it's an effort worth making.

Ten minutes a day – six days a week – a few weeks later you will not be an expert speller but you will be a very good one, and this is an advantage that will last a lifetime.

Best of all is to work with someone. Get a family member to help you. Choose an activity to help you learn your spellings – but DO something every day.

Use the look, say, cover, write, check strategy to learn your spellings.

1. Look carefully and say the word out loud. Make sure you know what it means.
2. Count the letters – helps to see if you have written it correctly.
3. Is there anything unusual or anything difficult? Colour the hard spot.
4. Make notes about ways to remember the spelling.
5. Write the word and draw round the outline – this helps fix the image in their mind. Look away and 'see' the word.
6. Cover the columns, try to see the word and then write it down.
7. Check if it's correct and give a tick if it is.
8. Write the word again and check.
9. Test yourself later in the final column. If you get the spelling wrong, cross out the bit that was wrong and try to work out why you made that mistake.

CHALLENGE: Find more words connected with the same patterns that you are learning. Write them on the back of your spelling sheet.