

# Spelling for Success

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## Signs of a Successful Speller

All students are expected to become successful spellers according to these criterion:

- Acceptance of personal responsibility for correct spelling in one's own writing.
- Mastery of the most common and useful words and rules.
- A systematic and adequate method for approaching the study of new words.
- Independence in using the dictionary and other memory aids.
- Recognition of regular and irregular spellings (*state* v. *great*).
- An understanding of word construction, roots, prefixes and suffixes (*made* v. *played*).

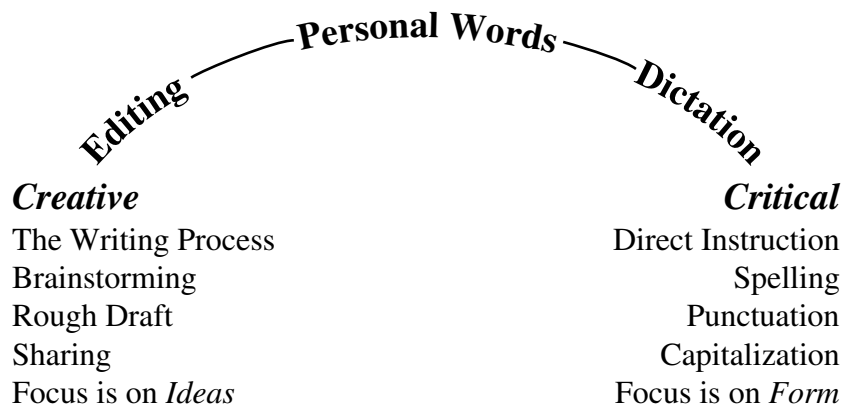
## Steps to Mastery of a Spelling Word

Spellings have not been *mastered* until they seem "easy" and are correctly written in first draft writing. The weekly test is just the *first* step. Without extensive mixed review and dictation, the time spent memorizing a weekly list may essentially be wasted. There are five steps toward mastery of a spelling word. The word is spelled correctly:

1. On the weekly test.
2. On a mixed review test.
3. In dictation.
4. In final draft writing. Mistakes in first draft writing are caught and corrected as the work is edited.
5. In first draft writing and at all times.

## The Creative / Critical "Bridge"

Creative and critical thinking are incompatible and should not be taught at the same time using the same methods. Teach spelling separately from creative writing and help students "bridge the gap" with editing, dictation and personal words.



## Daily Practice Activity (10-12 minutes)

Use a list from this handout *or* compile lists of words your child doesn't know by pretesting from the 1000 word list or collecting misspelled words from his/her writing. The same words should be taught again and again until they're mastered.

The procedure below gives six practices in just a few seconds per word.

1. Point to the first word. Spell and read it.
2. Trace, spell and read the word.
3. Cover the model. Write the word and read it.
4. Check from the model.
5. Check and correct the word you wrote.
6. Close your eyes. Spell the word and say it.

## Daily Dictation (15-20 minutes)

Dictate four sentences daily, containing review spelling words, homophones, and capitalization/punctuation children have been taught. Teach language rules and review them frequently.

1. The sentence is, "Who's coming?"
2. Say, "Who's coming?"
3. Students say the sentence.
4. Write, "Who's coming?"
5. Students write the sentence.
6. Ask if there is anything special about the sentence (apostrophe, question mark).
7. Teacher writes the sentence correctly.
8. Students check and correct their sentences.

## Spelling Rules

The following rules in English spelling have very few exceptions:

1. The letter *q* is always followed by a *u* in English words. (*question, quite*)
2. English words do not end with the letter *v*. (*gave, have*)
3. When a one-syllable word ends with a short vowel and a single consonant, double the final consonant before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel. (*swim + -ing* is *swimming*)

In a two-syllable word, double the final consonant only if the word is accented on the last syllable. (*begin + -ing* is *beginning* but *open + -ing* is *opening*)

4. When a word ends in silent *e*, drop the *e* before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel. (*make + -ing* is *making*)  
Keep the silent *e* before adding a suffix beginning with a consonant. (*time + -ly* is *timely*)
5. When a word ends in a consonant and *y*, change the *y* to *i* before adding a suffix, unless the suffix begins with *i*. (*happy + -ly* is *happily*, but *hurry + -ing* is *hurrying*)  
When a word ends in a vowel and *y*, do not change the *y* to *i*. (*play + -ed* is *played*)
6. Capitalize proper nouns.
7. Write *i* before *e* except after *c*, or when sounded like *-ay* as in *neighbor* and *weigh*. This rule doesn't apply when *ci* is pronounced *sh* as in *ancient*.

## Spelling Mnemonics

all right	It's either all right or all wrong.
beauty	Be a <u>be</u> auty.
believe	Don't <u>beli</u> eve a <u>lie</u> .
business	Busy ness.
February	You say " <u>br</u> " in <u>Febr</u> uary.
friend	You'll be my <u>fr</u> end to the <u>end</u> .
hear	You <u>he</u> ar with your <u>ear</u> .
independent	There is a <u>dent</u> in <u>independ</u> ent.
piece	Have a <u>pie</u> ce of <u>pie</u> .
pleasant	Picnics are <u>pleas</u> ant for an <u>ant</u> .

## Spelling Guidelines

1. ***k* or *c*** — *k* is used before short *e* and short *i* in one-syllable words. *c* is used before short *a*, *o*, and *u* in one-syllable words.
2. To pluralize many nouns ending with a single *f* or *fe*, change the *f* to *v* and add *-es*.
3. Add *-es* rather than *-s* to words ending with the sound of *s*, *x*, *z*, *sh*, or *ch*.
4. ***-ize*, *-ise* or *-yze*** — Most common words end with *-ize*. *Surprise, exercise* and *revise* are common two-syllable words which end with *-ise*. *Paralyze* and *analyze* are the only common words ending with *-yze*.
5. ***-ary* or *-ery*** — Most common words end with *-ary* rather than *-ery*, with the exception of *cemetery* and *stationery*.
6. ***-able* or *-ible*** — The suffix *-able* is more common than *-ible*. *-ible* is generally not added to a whole word. *-ible* is used to keep *c* or *g* soft (*eligible, invincible*). Since *notice* is a whole word, *-able* is added. *Noticeable* retains its *e* to keep the *c* soft. *-ible* is used if a related word ends in *-ion* (*collection / collectible*).
7. ***-le*, *-el* or *-al*** — *-le* is more common at the end of a word than *-el* or *-al*.
8. ***-ence* or *-ance*** — If the base word ends with *-ent*, *-ence* is correct. If the base word ends with *-ant*, *-ance* is correct.
9. ***-cede*, *-ceed* or *-sede*** — *-cede* is the most common spelling of this root. Three words end with *-ceed*: *succeed, proceed*, and *exceed*. Only *supersede* ends with *-sede*.

prairie	There is <u>air</u> on the <u>prairie</u> .
principle	A <u>rule</u> can be called a <u>principle</u> .
prison	Her <u>son</u> is in <u>prison</u> .
secretary	A <u>secretary</u> can keep a <u>secret</u> .
separate	There is a <u>rat</u> in <u>separate</u> .
stationery	Use <u>stationery</u> to write a <u>letter</u> .
together	to get her
tomorrow	Tom or row
weather	We <u>eat</u> in all kinds of <u>weath</u> er.
weird	<u>We</u> are <u>weird</u> .

## Level 1

## List 4

1. and
2. can
3. plan
4. hand
5. stand
6. man
7. than
8. that
9. last
10. as
11. ask
12. had
13. has
14. was
15. a

## List 2

1. I
2. if
3. in
4. it

## List 3

1. on
2. not
3. got

## List 5

1. let
2. get
3. yes
4. red
5. led
6. men
7. end
8. went
9. then
10. them
11. best
12. felt
13. help
14. next
15. kept

## List 6

1. is
2. his
3. him
4. big
5. did
6. win
7. sit
8. quit
9. wish
10. with
11. list
12. this
13. the
14. they
15. are

## List 7

1. hot
2. lot
3. dog
4. cost
5. stop
6. drop
7. us
8. up
9. but
10. cut
11. run
12. just
13. must
14. much
15. such

## List 8

1. back
2. black
3. check
4. sick
5. clock
6. luck
7. quick
8. off
9. class
10. pass
11. less
12. miss
13. you
14. your
15. our

## List 9

1. all
2. call
3. small
4. do
5. to
6. be
7. he
8. me
9. we
10. she
11. by
12. my
13. try
14. cry
15. fly

## List 10

1. go
2. no
3. so
4. do
5. ate
6. state
7. age
8. page
9. take
10. make
11. made
12. grade
13. sale
14. face
15. place

## List 11

1. came
2. same
3. name
4. game
5. ate
6. state
7. age
8. page
9. take
10. make
11. made
12. grade
13. sale
14. face
15. place

## List 12

1. time
2. nine
3. line
4. shine
5. nice
6. price
7. life
8. quite
9. like
10. mile
11. smile
12. fire
13. wide
14. side
15. size

## List 13

1. day
2. may
3. pay
4. lay
5. way
6. away
7. gray
8. play
9. stay
10. say
11. said
12. were
13. here
14. there
15. these

## List 14

1. home
2. hope
3. note
4. chose
5. those
6. those
7. broke
8. love
9. above
10. some
11. come
12. one
13. done
14. gone
15. use

## Level 2

## List 15

1. free
2. three
3. see
4. seem
5. seen
6. green
7. deep
8. sleep
9. keep
10. street
11. meet
12. week
13. feel
14. need
15. been

## List 16

1. car
2. far
3. dark
4. hard
5. arm
6. warm
7. war
8. art
9. part
10. start
11. large
12. talk
13. walk
14. want
15. her

## List 17

1. or
2. for
3. north
4. short
5. horse
6. house
7. out
8. about
9. around
10. found
11. ground
12. south
13. hour
14. oh
15. of

## List 18

1. took
2. look
3. book
4. stood
5. foot
6. good
7. goodbye
8. hello
9. even
10. evening
11. morning
12. blue
13. true
14. boy
15. their

## List 19

1. asked
2. called
3. looked
4. played
5. stayed
6. filled
7. doing
8. going
9. playing
10. trying
11. crying
12. being
13. feeling
14. goes
15. does

## List 20

1. old
2. cold
3. told
4. both
5. most
6. find
7. mind
8. kind
9. child
10. second
11. month
12. among
13. front
14. from
15. other

## List 21

1. once
2. four
3. two
4. six
5. seven
6. any
7. many
8. never
9. ever
10. every
11. very
12. would
13. could
14. should
15. shall

## List 22

1. its
2. it's
3. that's
4. let's
5. I'll
6. I'm
7. they're
8. you're
9. can't
10. don't
11. didn't
12. doesn't
13. aren't
14. weren't
15. haven't

## List 23

1. who
2. who's
3. whose
4. lose
5. why
6. what
7. when
8. where
9. which
10. whether
11. white
12. while
13. awhile
14. whole
15. more

## List 24

1. act
2. fact
3. saw
4. draw
5. work
6. word
7. world
8. only
9. open
10. over
11. under
12. after
13. become
14. became
15. welcome

## List 25

1. itself
2. himself
3. themselves
4. into
5. upon
6. forget
7. maybe
8. cannot
9. today
10. inside
11. outside
12. without
13. understand
14. another
15. put

## Level 3

## List 26

1. along
2. long
3. length
4. strong
5. strength
6. spring
7. bring
8. thing
9. think
10. thank you
11. year
12. near
13. hear
14. dear
15. clear

## List 27

1. weak
2. speak
3. each
4. reach
5. teach
6. teacher
7. eat
8. cheat
9. easy
10. east
11. least
12. please
13. leave
14. real
15. really

## List 28

1. sea
2. season
3. reason
4. lead
5. leader
6. clean
7. team
8. mean
9. meant
10. read
11. ready
12. case
13. care
14. scare
15. animal

## List 29

1. now
2. how
3. however
4. down
5. brown
6. town
7. allow
8. power
9. dirty
10. bird
11. girl
12. third
13. first
14. begin
15. began

## List 30

1. too
2. loose
3. food
4. moon
5. soon
6. room
7. smooth
8. school
9. afternoon
10. choose
11. eye
12. body
13. copy
14. wear
15. bear

## List 31

1. own
2. know
3. known
4. show
5. shown
6. blow
7. slow
8. grow
9. throw
10. low
11. below
12. follow
13. yellow
14. window
15. tomorrow

## List 32

1. wait
2. waiting
3. rain
4. plain
5. main
6. paid
7. laid
8. fail
9. again
10. against
11. afraid
12. air
13. fair
14. hair
15. raise

## List 33

1. new
2. knew
3. few
4. blew
5. threw
6. view
7. die
8. died
9. lie
10. believe
11. pie
12. piece
13. field
14. chief
15. heart

## List 34

1. better
2. matter
3. gotten
4. dinner
5. summer
6. sudden
7. happen
8. happened
9. suppose
10. supposed to
11. bottom
12. great
13. break
14. breakfast
15. quiet

## List 35

1. stepped
2. slipped
3. grabbed
4. planned
5. planning
6. dropped
7. dropping
8. stopped
9. stopping
10. hopping
11. getting
12. running
13. sledding
14. swimming
15. beginning

## List 36

1. tired
2. scared
3. liked
4. lived
5. used to
6. using
7. shining
8. dining
9. taking
10. making
11. moving
12. giving
13. living
14. hoping
15. coming

## Level 4

- List 37**
- nobody
  - nothing
  - anyway
  - anybody
  - everyone
  - everything
  - everywhere
  - somebody
  - something
  - somewhere
  - sometimes
  - catch
  - watch
  - stretch
  - little
- List 38**
- cover
  - later
  - center
  - corner
  - water
  - winter
  - wonder
  - wonderful
  - careful
  - awful
  - until
  - yesterday
  - type
  - road
  - board
- List 39**
- weather
  - measure
  - heavy
  - head
  - bread
  - dead
  - death
  - instead
  - pleasant
  - search
  - heard
  - early
  - earth
  - learn
  - learned
- List 40**
- fight
  - light
  - might
  - right
  - right
  - fight
  - high
  - Mr.
  - Ms.
  - (your city)
  - (your state)
  - American
  - American
  - United States
  - buy
- List 41**
- bought
  - brought
  - thought
  - through
  - through
  - enough
  - tough
  - touch
  - young
  - group
  - before
  - because
  - between
  - private
  - friend
- List 42**
- write
  - writer
  - writing
  - handwriting
  - wrote
  - wrong
  - wreck
  - written
  - laugh
  - laughed
  - laughed
  - laughed
  - caught
  - taught
  - course
  - fourth
- List 43**
- Sunday
  - Monday
  - Tuesday
  - Wednesday
  - Thursday
  - Friday
  - Saturday
  - Sunday
  - turn
  - return
  - during
  - purpose
  - further
  - sure
  - sugar
- List 44**
- circle
  - single
  - middle
  - people
  - chocolate
  - favorite
  - trouble
  - terrible
  - remember
  - important
  - surprise
  - surprised
  - program
  - problem
  - promise
- List 45**
- busy
  - city
  - story
  - enemy
  - hungry
  - country
  - lucky
  - study
  - sorry
  - carry
  - hurry
  - happy
  - pretty
  - family
  - beauty
- List 46**
- always
  - almost
  - already
  - although
  - alone
  - lonely
  - across
  - unless
  - recess
  - address
  - lesson
  - carrying
  - hurrying
  - studying
  - student
- List 47**
- cries
  - countries
  - families
  - stories
  - tried
  - hurried
  - carried
  - unless
  - stuffed
  - prettier
  - earlier
  - exist
  - luckily
  - happiness
  - business
  - beautiful
- List 48**
- noise
  - noisy
  - point
  - voice
  - poison
  - prison
  - person
  - period
  - perhaps
  - perfect
  - else
  - idea
  - office
  - notice
  - practice
- List 49**
- mountain
  - captain
  - certain
  - certainly
  - entertain
  - eleven
  - twelve
  - twenty-one
  - forty
  - nineteen
  - ninety
  - hundred
  - thousand
  - million
  - clothes
- List 50**
- sister
  - mother
  - brother
  - father
  - grandfather
  - grandma
  - daughter
  - son
  - parents
  - uncle
  - uncle
  - uncle
  - niece
  - nephew
  - relative
- List 51**
- stairs
  - prairie
  - duty
  - rules
  - minute
  - secret
  - secretary
  - hospital
  - enjoy
  - destroy
  - together
  - forest
  - northern
  - modern
  - pattern
- List 52**
- January
  - February
  - March
  - April
  - May
  - June
  - July
  - August
  - September
  - October
  - November
  - December
  - northern
  - library
  - alot
  - all right
- List 53**
- sentence
  - often
  - fasten
  - listen
  - listened
  - doubt
  - climb
  - climbed
  - climbing
  - answer
  - half
  - blood
  - poor
  - central
  - medicine
- List 54**
- ridge
  - bridge
  - edge
  - knowledge
  - able
  - table
  - simple
  - article
  - possible
  - impossible
  - ache
  - stomach
  - character
  - tragedy
  - force
- List 55**
- woman
  - women
  - children
  - final
  - finally
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
  - social
- List 56**
- several
  - toward
  - probably
  - language
  - guess
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
  - guard
- List 57**
- tie
  - tying
  - author
  - motor
  - doctor
  - argument
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
  - truly
- List 58**
- sense
  - pocket
  - ticket
  - nickel
  - figure
  - picture
  - speech
  - regular
  - dollar
  - calendar
  - question
  - direction
  - action
  - addition
  - attention

## Level 5

- List 59**
- accept
  - except
  - excellent
  - excuse
  - excite
  - exciting
  - excitement
  - example
  - exercise
  - experience
  - explain
  - expect
  - develop
  - development
  - government
- List 60**
- carefully
  - complete
  - completely
  - extremely
  - definite
  - definitely
  - actual
  - actually
  - usual
  - usually
  - practical
  - practically
  - generally
  - immediate
  - immediately
- List 61**
- music
  - misspell
  - magazine
  - lightning
  - opinion
  - benefit
  - different
  - deceive
  - patient
  - intelligent
  - independent
  - independence
  - reference
  - existence
  - convenient
- List 62**
- eight
  - weight
  - height
  - neighbor
  - leisure
  - either
  - neither
  - deceive
  - receive
  - receipt
  - seize
  - weird
  - foreign
  - rhythm
  - grammar
- List 63**
- incident
  - accident
  - accidentally
  - escape
  - innocent
  - difficult
  - guarantee
  - procedure
  - responsible
  - separate
  - restaurant
  - similar
  - particular
  - poem
  - disease
- List 64**
- affect
  - effect
  - suggest
  - prepare
  - continue
  - imagine
  - concentrate
  - education
  - national
  - describe
  - description
  - repeat
  - repetition
  - pronunciation
  - identify
- List 65**
- approach
  - opportunity
  - necessary
  - recommend
  - appear
  - disappear
  - disappoint
  - exaggerate
  - accommodate
  - committee
  - embarrass
  - opposite
  - parallel
  - sandwich
  - system
- List 66**
- college
  - privilege
  - achieve
  - relief
  - control
  - commit
  - occur
  - occurring
  - occurred
  - occurrence
  - equipped
  - referred
  - area
  - journal
  - machine
- List 67**
- summary
  - apology
  - apologize
  - realize
  - recognize
  - criticize
  - criticism
  - perform
  - distance
  - acquaint
  - acquaintance
  - appearance
  - brilliant
  - peculiar
  - familiar
- List 68**
- principle
  - principal
  - physical
  - decide
  - decided
  - decision
  - occasion
  - success
  - succeed
  - profession
  - professor
  - possess
  - progress
  - discuss
  - discussion
- List 69**
- scene
  - fascinate
  - discipline
  - scissors
  - science
  - conscience
  - conscious
  - nervous
  - jealous
  - serious
  - humorous
  - continuous
  - miscellaneous
  - delicious
  - appreciate

## Level 6

- List 70**
- carefully
  - complete
  - completely
  - extremely
  - definite
  - definitely
  - actual
  - actually
  - usual
  - usually
  - practical
  - practically
  - generally
  - immediate
  - immediately
- List 71**
- music
  - misspell
  - magazine
  - lightning
  - opinion
  - benefit
  - different
  - deceive
  - patient
  - intelligent
  - independent
  - independence
  - reference
  - existence
  - convenient
- List 72**
- eight
  - weight
  - height
  - neighbor
  - leisure
  - either
  - neither
  - deceive
  - receive
  - receipt
  - seize
  - weird
  - foreign
  - rhythm
  - grammar
- List 73**
- incident
  - accident
  - accidentally
  - escape
  - innocent
  - difficult
  - guarantee
  - procedure
  - responsible
  - separate
  - restaurant
  - similar
  - particular
  - poem
  - disease
- List 74**
- affect
  - effect
  - suggest
  - prepare
  - continue
  - imagine
  - concentrate
  - education
  - national
  - describe
  - description
  - repeat
  - repetition
  - pronunciation
  - identify
- List 75**
- approach
  - opportunity
  - necessary
  - recommend
  - appear
  - disappear
  - disappoint
  - exaggerate
  - accommodate
  - committee
  - embarrass
  - opposite
  - parallel
  - sandwich
  - system
- List 76**
- college
  - privilege
  - achieve
  - relief
  - control
  - commit
  - occur
  - occurring
  - occurred
  - occurrence
  - equipped
  - referred
  - area
  - journal
  - machine
- List 77**
- summary
  - apology
  - apologize
  - realize
  - recognize
  - criticize
  - criticism
  - perform
  - distance
  - acquaint
  - acquaintance
  - appearance
  - brilliant
  - peculiar
  - familiar
- List 78**
- principle
  - principal
  - physical
  - decide
  - decided
  - decision
  - occasion
  - success
  - succeed
  - profession
  - professor
  - possess
  - progress
  - discuss
  - discussion
- List 79**
- scene
  - fascinate
  - discipline
  - scissors
  - science
  - conscience
  - conscious
  - nervous
  - jealous
  - serious
  - humorous
  - continuous
  - miscellaneous
  - delicious
  - appreciate