Spelling for Success

Susan C. Anthony, P.O. Box 111704, Anchorage, AK 99511, 907-345-6689, SusanCAnthony.com

Signs of a Successful Speller

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

- 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.

Creative

The Writing Process Brainstorming Rough Draft Sharing Focus is on *Ideas*

In first c.. - Personal Words Dictation

Critical

Direct Instruction Spelling **Punctuation** Capitalization Focus is on Form

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.

© 1995 Susan C. Anthony. From Spelling Plus: 1000 Words toward Spelling Success.

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 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.

Spelling Mnemonics

all right It's either all right or all wrong. Be a beauty.

believe Don't be<u>lie</u>ve a <u>lie</u>.

business Busy ness.

February You say "<u>br</u>" in Fe<u>br</u>uary. friend You'll be my friend to the <u>end</u>.

hear You hear with your ear.

independent There is a <u>dent</u> in independent.

piece Have a piece of pie.

pleasant Picnics are pleasant for an ant.

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

weird We are weird.

© 1995 Susan C. Anthony. From the Personal Dictionary.

Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
List 14 1. home 2. hope 3. note 4. chose 6. those 6. those 7. broke 8. love 9. above 10. some 11. come 12. one 13. done 14. gone 15. use	List 25 1. itself 2. himself 3. themselves 4. into 5. upon 6. forget 7. maybe 8. cannot 9. today 10. inside 11. outside 11. without 12. without 13. understand 14. another	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 11. giving 12. giving 13. living 14. hoping
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	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	List 35 1. stepped 2. slipped 3. grabbed 4. planmed 5. planming 6. dropped 7. dropping 8. stopping 9. stopping 10. hopping 11. getting 11. getting 12. running 13. sledding 14. swimming 15. beginning
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 14. side 15. size	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	List 34 1. better 2. matter 3. gotten 4. dinner 6. sudden 7. happen 8. happened 9. suppose 10. suppose 11. bottom 12. great 13. break 14. breakfast 15. quiet
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	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 11. didn't 12. doesn't 13. aren't 14. weren't	List 33 1. new 2. knew 3. few 4. blew 6. view 7. die 8. died 9. lie 10. believe 11. pie 12. piece 13. field 14. chief
List 10 1. go 2. no 3. so 4. do 5. to 6. be 7. he 8. me 9. we 10. she 11. by 12. my 13. try 14. cry	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	List 32 1. waiting 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
List 9 1. all 2. call 3. small 4. well 5. fell 6. fill 7. will 8. still 9. full 10. have 11. gave 12. give 13. live 14. five	List 20 1. old 2. cold 3. told 4. both 5. most 6. find 7. mind 8. kind 9. child 11. month 12. among 13. front 14. from	List 31 1. own 2. known 3. known 4. show 6. blow 7. slow 8. grow 9. throw 10. low 11. below 11. below 12. follow 14. window 15. tomorrow
List 8 1. back 2. black 3. check 4. sick 6. luck 7. quick 8. off 9. class 10. pass 11. less 12. miss 13. you 14. your	List 19 1. asked 2. called 3. looked 4. played 5. stayed 6. filled 7. doing 8. going 9. playing 110. trying 111. crying 112. being 114. goes 15. does	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
List 7 1. hot 2. lot 3. dog 4. cost 5. stop 6. drop 7. us 8. up 9. but 11. run 12. just 13. must 14. much 15. such	List 18 1. took 2. look 3. book 4. stood 5. foot 6. good 7. goodbye 8. hello 9. even 10. evening 11. morning 11. blue 13. true 14. boy	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 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	List 17 1. or 2. for 3. north 4. short 5. horse 6. house 7. out 8. about 9. around 11. ground 11. ground 11. south 13. hour 14. oh	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 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 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. ber	List 27 1. weak 2. speak 3. each 4. reach 5. teach 7. eat 8. cheat 9. easy 10. east 11. least 12. please 13. leave 14. real
List 4 1. and 2. can 3. plan 4. hand 6. man 7. than 8. that 9. last 10. as 11. ask 12. had 13. has 14. was	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	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
List 1 1. am 2. an 3. at List 2 1. I 2. if 3. in 4. it List 3 1. on 2. not 3. got		

Level 6	Level 5	Level 4
List 59 1. accept 2. except 3. excellent 4. excuse 5. excitement 8. example 9. exercise 10. experience 11. explain 12. expect 13. development 15. government	List 48 1. noise 2. noisy 3. point 4. voice 5. poison 6. prison 7. person 8. period 9. perhaps 10. perfect 11. else 12. idea 13. office 14. notice 15. practice	List 37 1. nobody 2. nothing 3. anyway 4. anybody 5. everyone 6. everything 7. everywhere 8. somebody 9. something 10. somewhere 111. sometimes 12. catch 13. watch 14. stretch 15. little
List 60 1. carefully 2. complete 3. completely 4. extremely 5. definitely 7. actual 8. actually 9. usual 10. usually 11. practical 12. practically 13. generally 14. immediate 15. immediately	List 49 1. mountain 2. captain 3. certainly 4. certainly 5. entertain 6. eleven 7. twelve 8. twenty-one 9. forty 10. nineteen 11. ninety 12. hundred 13. thousand 14. million 15. clothes	List 38 1. cover 2. later 3. center 4. corner 5. water 6. winter 7. wonder 8. wonderful 9. careful 10. awful 11. until 11. until 12. yesterday 13. type 14. road 15. board
List 61 1. music 2. misspell 3. magazine 4. lightning 5. opinion 6. benefit 7. different 8. difference 9. patient 10. intelligent 11. independent 12. independence 13. reference 14. existence 15. convenient	List 50 1. sister 2. mother 3. brother 4. father 5. grandfather 6. grandma 7. daughter 8. son 9. parents 10. uncle 11. aunt 12. cousin 13. niece 14. nephew 15. relative	List 39 1. weather 2. measure 3. heavy 4. head 5. bread 6. dead 7. death 8. instead 9. pleasant 10. search 11. heard 12. early 13. earth 14. learn 15. learned
List 62 1. eight 2. weight 3. height 4. neighbor 5. leisure 6. either 7. neither 7. neither 8. deceive 9. receive 10. receipt 11. seize 12. weird 13. foreign 14. rhythm 15. grammar	List 51 1. stairs 2. prairie 3. duty 4. rules 5. minute 6. secret 7. secretary 8. hospital 9. enjoy 10. destroy 11. together 12. forest 13. northern 14. modern 15. pattern	List 40 1. fight 2. light 3. might 4. night 5. right 6. tight 7. high 8. Mr. 9. Ms. 10. (your city) 11. (your state) 12. America 13. American 14. United States 15. buy
List 63 1. incident 2. accidentally 4. escape 5. innocent 6. difficult 7. guarantee 8. procedure 9. responsible 10. separate 11. restaurant 12. similar 13. particular 14. poem 15. disease	List 52 1. January 2. February 3. March 4. April 5. May 6. June 7. July 8. August 9. September 10. October 11. November 12. December 13. library 14. a lot 15. all right	List 41 1. bought 2. brought 3. thought 4. though 6. enough 7. tough 8. touch 9. young 10. group 11. before 12. because 13. between 15. friend
List 64 1. affect 2. effect 3. suggest 4. prepare 5. continue 6. imagine 7. concentrate 8. education 9. national 10. describe 11. description 12. repeat 13. repetition 14. pronunciation 15. identify	List 53 1. sentence 2. often 3. fasten 4. listen 6. doubt 7. climb 8. climbed 9. climbing 10. answer 11. half 12. blood 13. poor 14. central 15. medicine	List 42 1. write 2. writer 3. writing 4. handwriting 5. wrote 6. wrong 7. wreck 8. written 9. laugh 10. laughed 11. laughter 12. caught 13. taught 14. course 15. fourth
List 65 1. approach 2. opportunity 3. necessary 4. recommend 5. appear 6. disappear 7. disappoint 8. exaggerate 9. accommodate 10. committee 11. embarrass 12. opposite 13. parallel 14. sandwich 15. system	List 54 1. ridge 2. bridge 3. edge 4. knowledge 5. able 6. table 7. simple 8. article 9. possible 10. impossible 11. ache 12. stomach 13. character 14. tragedy 15. force	List 43 1. Sunday 2. Monday 3. Tuesday 4. Wednesday 5. Thursday 6. Friday 7. Saturday 8. hurt 9. turn 10. return 11. during 12. purpose 13. further 14. sure 15. sugar
List 66 1. college 2. privilege 3. achieve 4. relief 5. control 6. commit 7. occur 8. occurring 9. occurred 10. occurrence 11. equipped 12. referred 13. area 14. journal 15. machine	List 55 1. woman 2. women 3. children 4. final 5. finally 6. social 7. special 8. especially 9. since 10. sincerely 11. barely 12. safety 13. statement 14. argue 15. arctic	List 44 1. circle 2. single 3. middle 4. people 5. chocolate 6. favorite 7. trouble 8. terrible 9. remember 10. important 11. surprise 12. surprised 13. program 14. problem 15. promise
List 67 1. summary 2. apology 3. apologize 4. realize 5. recognize 6. criticize 7. criticism 8. perform 9. distance 10. acquaint 11. acquaintance 12. appearance 13. brilliant 14. peculiar 15. familiar	List 56 1. several 2. toward 3. probably 4. language 5. guess 6. guard 7. guilty 8. built 9. build 10. building 11. island 12. sign 13. key 14. money 15. etc.	List 45 1. busy 2. city 3. story 4. enemy 5. hungry 6. country 7. lucky 8. study 9. sorry 10. carry 11. hurry 12. happy 13. pretty 14. family 15. beauty
List 68 1. principle 2. principal 3. physical 4. decide 5. decided 6. decision 7. occasion 8. success 9. succeed 10. profession 11. professor 12. possess 13. progress 14. discuss 15. discussion	List 57 1. tie 2. tying 3. author 4. motor 5. doctor 6. argument 7. truly 8. interest 9. interesting 10. skiing 11. passed 12. straight 13. absent 14. gym 15. bicycle	List 46 1. always 2. almost 3. already 4. although 5. alone 6. lonely 7. across 8. unless 9. recess 10. address 11. lesson 12. carrying 13. hurrying 14. studying 15. student
List 69 1. scene 2. fascinate 3. discipline 4. scissors 5. science 6. conscience 7. conscious 8. nervous 9. jealous 10. serious 11. humorous 12. continuous 13. mischievous 14. delicious 15. appreciate	List 58 1. sense 2. pocket 3. ticket 4. nickel 5. figure 6. picture 7. speech 8. regular 9. dollar 10. calendar 11. question 12. direction 13. action 14. addition 15. attention	List 47 1. cries 2. countries 3. families 4. stories 5. tried 6. hurried 7. carried 8. studied 9. prettier 10. earlier 11. easiest 12. luckily 13. happiness 14. business 15. beautiful