

My Smart Guide to Spelling

Upper School



Wallisdean Junior School



Spelling

If you are careful, you can spell better.
Spelling can be tricky, but there are ways to help you get the spelling right.



Here are six ways to make your spelling better:

Way to spell	Explanation	Example
Sound it out using your phonics	Carefully say the word out loud and write down the sounds you hear.	thank has four sounds- th-a-n-k sounds has five sounds- s-ou-n-d-s
Break it down and sound it out using syllables	Break the word into syllables. Say each syllable and write down each one.	target has two syllables- tar-get Understand has three syllables- un-der-stand
Find the root word	Some words are made using other words.	The root of undo is do; un has been put on the front. The root of quickly is quick; ly has been added to the end.
Memory tricks	Invent memory games to help you remember tricky words.	There is a rat in separate
Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check	Look carefully at the word, say it, cover it up, write it down and then check that you are right. Repeat this until you spell it right.	Here are some examples of words that you may need to learn this way: eight, yacht, scissors
Say it like it is	Some words have silent letters. When you say these words, say the silent letters too.	For example, Wed-nes-day , muscle , stomach

Break it down and sound out
using syllables.



This is like sounding out with phonics, but easier.

This is how you do it.

1. Take a word and break it up into parts (syllables)
2. Say each part of the word out loud, clearly and slowly.
3. Now try to spell each part of the word.

Try it out

Try breaking down these words into syllables and sounding these out:

assembly suggest ordinary
Saturday suddenly



Find the root (or stem) word.

Some words that sound difficult are really just ordinary words with bits added on. For example walked is just walk with an **ed** on the end.

- **ed** goes on the end of lots of verbs and puts them in the past tense.
Jump-jumped discuss- discussed

- **ly** goes on the end of lots of adjectives turning them into an adverb. Just remember that when adjectives end in y you must turn the y to an i and then add ly.
sudden-suddenly happy-happily

- **ing** goes on the end of verbs. Just remember that if the vowel is a short sound with only one consonant after it, then you must double the consonant. If the verb ends in a silent e you must drop the e before adding ing.
run- running bake-baking

You can add other affixes to root words to change their meaning.

Prefix (an affix in front of a root word)		
Prefix	meaning	example words
anti	against	antifreeze
de	opposite	defrost
dis	not, opposite of	disappear
mis	wrongly	misfire
non	not	nonsense
pre	before	prefix
sub	below	submarine
trans	across	transport

Suffix (an affix at the end of a root word)		
Suffix	meaning	example words
able ible	can be done	capable
ful	full of	beautiful
less	without	clueless
tion ion ation ition	to act or process	occasion attraction
ous eous ious	having the qualities of	joyous
s es	more than one (plural)	books churches

Try it out

Write down one word for each of these affixes.

anti- dis- mis- pre- sub-

-able -ful -less -ous -es

Try a memory trick.
(Mnemonics)



You can remember some spellings by making up fun rules for them. These rules are called mnemonics.

Make each letter start the words in a strange sentence:

- Because- **b**ig elephants **c**an't always **u**se **s**mall **e**xits
- Could- **c** **o**h **u** lucky **d**ucky
- Through- **t**hr **o**h **u** great **h**ooligan
- Rhythm- **r** **h**elps **y**our **t**wo **h**ips **m**ove

Picture the word in your head:

Their
There

There's
a rat
in
separate.

Make up a silly sentence:

1. *Gumbo* lost an e in an **argument**.
2. Never **believe** a *lie*.
3. *Dara* checked the **calendar** every *day*.
4. Eileen found her e's in the **cemetery**.
5. *Emma* faced a **dilemma**.
6. It's hard to **embarrass** really *righteous* and *serious* students.
7. A new **environment** will *iron* me out.
8. Goofy Greg loved to **exaggerate**.
9. That *liar* looks **familiar**.



Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check.

When you try to spell a word can you see it in your head? Do you know when a word looks right or wrong? It's worth learning the look of words.

Here is how you do it:

- Find a word you want to spell and copy it down carefully.
- Look at it closely. You may even want to trace the word with your finger.
- Say the word carefully out loud.
- Cover up the word.
- Write the word without looking at it. Just remember what the word looks like.
- Check that you have spelt the word right.
- If it is wrong, then do it all again. Start by looking at the word closely again.

Top tip

If you are unsure of the spelling of a word in your writing, don't ignore it and go for a more simple word, have a go and write it down on a piece of paper or whiteboard first. Have a few goes and see what it looks like. **JUST HAVE A GO!**

Say it like it is.



Some words have silent letters. For example, there is a c in science, but we don't say it. Know has a silent k and w. Try saying science and know speaking their silent letters aloud:

science sky-ence

know k-no-w

The correct spelling	Say it like this....
Wednesday	Wed-nes-day
average	av-er-age
parliament	par-li-a-ment
chocolate	choc-o-late
interesting	in-ter-est-ing
business	bus-i-ness



We don't all say every word the same way. People have different accents and there are lots of different accents. For example some people say *pahth*. There are no right accents, just different ways of saying some words.

Here are some tricky spellings that you should learn in Upper School.



accommodate	conscience	familiar	nuisance	shoulder
accompany	conscious	foreign	occupy	signature
according	controversy	forty	occur	sincere(ly)
achieve	convenience	frequently	opportunity	soldier
aggressive	correspond	government	parliament	stomach
amateur	criticise	guarantee	persuade	sufficient
ancient	curiosity	harass	physical	suggest
apparent	definite	hindrance	prejudice	symbol
appreciate	desperate	identity	privilege	system
attached	determined	immediate(ly)	profession	temperature
available	develop	individual	programme	through
average	dictionary	interfere	pronunciation	twelfth
awkward	disastrous	interrupt	queue	variety
bargain	embarrass	language	recognise	vegetable
bruise	environment	leisure	recommend	vehicle
category	equipment	lightning	relevant	yacht
cemetery	especially	marvellous	restaurant	
committee	exaggerate	mischievous	rhyme	
communicate	excellent	muscle	rhythm	
community	existence	necessary	sacrifice	
competition	explanation	neighbour	secretary	



Here are some final tips
and advice on spelling.

1. If you have trouble spelling a word...

- Try one of these spelling strategies. Choose the best one for the word you need to spell.
- Use the Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check method to “firm up” your spelling of all new words.

2. Look or ask for help...

- Find the word in a dictionary and copy it down.
- Ask a friend or teacher to help you.

3. Don't guess at spellings...

- Use a good method.

4. Don't spend a long time worrying over a spelling...

- It's better to spell a word the best way you can rather than avoid using it.
- Put a pink for think line under the tricky word so that your teacher can see that you want some help.

Good luck and keep working on those spellings!

