

Ideas for spelling practice.

SNAPSHOT.

Pretend your head is the camera on your mobile phone. Focus carefully on the word you want to practise and try to see it through the lens of the camera. Close your eyes as you click the camera button. Can you see the picture on the screen? Open your eyes and check each part of the picture. Take as many photos as you need to get it right. Write the word down from memory and check it. Any mistakes? Underline them and try again.

SYLLABLES

Break your word down into syllables and highlight each in a different colour. Practise the word by building it up, syllable by syllable.

MINI-WORDS

Find all the small words you can inside your big word. Highlight or underline them. Practise them first and then practise the whole word.

WORD SHAPES

Using graph paper, find out, draw, cut out and remember the shape of your word. Can you find a word that has the same shape as your focus word?

WORD STRETCH

Stretch your word to form a staircase effect. Now shrink your word until you only have one letter left, like this:

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S

WORD FAMILIES

Find 6 relatives for your word (similar spelling patterns). Highlight the repeated pattern and practise that first. Then practice all the words in the word family you have created.

RHYMING WORDS

Find groups of words to rhyme with your word. Look carefully at them and sort them into groups with the same spelling pattern. Practise all the words that match your focus word.

MNEMONICS.

Create a mnemonic for your word, eg **B**old **E**ddie and **U**ncle **T**om in fairly ugly long-johns - [beautiful]. Write it out like an acrostic poem and colour the initial letters.

BLINDFOLD.

Practise writing your words in cursive script (joined up writing). Now close your eyes and practise them without looking at the page. Open your eyes and see how well you've done.

SUFFIXES AND PREFIXES.

If your word has a suffix or a pre-fix, separate the two sections, learn each part, then put the word back together and learn it as a whole.

ROOT AND BRANCH.

Look up your word in a dictionary to find its root. See how many other words you can make from the same root, eg 'act' 'actor' 'activity' 'react', 'reaction'. You might also like to investigate the origin of your word using an etymological dictionary

SPELLING TRICKS AND RULES.

Does your word obey one of the spelling rules you have learnt in class? Look back at the work you did and remind yourself how the rule works and what the exceptions are.

WHO AM I?

Create a 'who am I?' riddle for your word, and try it out on a friend, like this:

My first is in 'sit', but not in 'pit'.
My second's in 'fan' but not in 'fin'.
My third is in 'no' but not in 'go'.
My last is in 'go' but not in 'so'
WHO AM I?

(Sang.)