

HOW TO PRACTISE SPELLINGS

1

Work out which ones you need to practise.

Your teacher will have set you a set of words to revise which you have already covered. There may be lots of words on the list, but you won't need to practise them all as you should remember most of them.

Ask someone to test you to work out which words you need to revise.

2

Choose how to practise.

We learn in different ways so we should practise our spellings in ways that suit us. Here are some ideas:

Use a chart like this:

Copy it	Copy it	Recall it
What	What	What

After your child has copied the word twice, fold the paper over so they can't see what they've written and ask them to have a go at writing the word unaided. They should be able to recall the spelling without looking.

Another classic technique is known as **Look, cover, Write and Check**. So, they **look** at the word...
Cover the word...
Write the word...
 And finally **check** it.

This is reportedly one of the most popular methods used by contestants at **American Spelling Bees**. Simply learn the word by saying or singing the letters out loud, developing a melody. This melody should then imprint in your child's memory; if they forget a spelling they will still remember how the word's rhythm and sound, which will serve as a prompt.

Try some more unusual, yet effective methods to **help your child learn how to spell**, then reinforce what you've learned with our range of **spelling worksheets**.

If one or two parts of a particular word just don't seem to 'sink in' by simply highlighting them, try to think of other ways to help them stick. For example:

- With weird, people often get the i and e confused. Help by saying **we** are **weird**, so your child remembers that **we** is the first part of the word.
- For the double s in dessert: desserts are both sweet and sugary.
- For a word with two 'tricky' parts, like necessary, think **Cats Eat Salty Sardines** to remember the c and the double s (see 'Make it an acronym' below).

Sometimes, visualising a difficult word in a different way can suddenly make it stick. Create a phrase from each letter of a word and turn it into an acrostic, which can be easier to remember than the word itself. Try these, or have your child make up their own!

Because:

Big
 Elephants
 Can
 Always
 Understand
 Small
 Elephants

To remember **double s**, really stress and extend the sound: fusssssss.
 To remember **double z**, again stress and extend it: buzzzzzzzz.
 Same for **double e**: seeeeeeeeeem.
 To remember **ea** instead of **ee**, pronounce it as two separate sounds: cre - a - m.

Frequently, there will be one part of a word that trips up your child each time. Look at the word together and highlight the part that they find particularly tricky. For example:

Night Separate Was Receive Weird
 What Two Friend Said Cheap

Or there may be two parts that need attention, for instance:

Accommodate Address Necessary

Once you've done the highlighting together, get them to write out the word again without looking. This time they'll be more focused on getting that tricky bit right, and will be able to remember how it looks.

Write the first letter of a word. Underneath it, write it again and add the next letter in the word. Repeat this process until you complete the word, and you'll have your very own pyramid! For example:

D
 DR
 DRA
 DRAI
 DRAIN

More tips @

- [ThoughtCo](#)
- [Doodle English](#)
- [British Council](#)
- [The School Run](#)

3

Check how you have done.

Have a spelling competition against someone

Use flashcards

ASK SOMEONE to test you

Then identify which words to continue learning