


## SPELLING HOT TIPS

- Praise!! Encourage student on correct parts of text.
- Tutor and student choose repeated mistakes to work on, words that will be important to know how to spell, or ones the student wants to work on. All mistakes don't need to be corrected unless it is a formal piece of writing that others will read.
- When writing, don't worry in first draft about spelling mistakes. Keep the flow going, and go back when finished, underlining words the words that may be wrong. Then work on those.
- Tutor to tick the correct letters of wrongly spelt words. Ask student for alternatives for incorrect letters.
- Make sure student knows both the alphabet names AND sounds for each letter.
- Write the word out, using a different colour for the letters the student spells incorrectly. They only need to learn this part to get the whole word correct.
- Copying - try to remember word in chunks, not letter by letter.
- Look, Cover, Write Check - very effective! Student looks at the word, covers it, writes it out then checks it. Repeat same word 3 times. Good homework activity.
- Personal Dictionary (use small address book with alphabetical index). Student write words in dictionary that they find difficult.
- Alphabet Box (file box with alphabet divisions - write words on cards and file)
- Say word slowly as you write it.
- Divide into syllables eg hos-pi-tal.
- Write word on a scrap of paper several times - which one looks right?
- Word families - if an incorrectly spelt word has other words in same family, look at these as well (eg walk, talk, stalk or cheap, charge, chip etc) .
- Mnemonics - memory joggers eg 'a *piece of pie*' See training course handout for others.
- Learning spelling rules eg *i before e except after c*.  
Common spelling rules can be found in RWN's Spelling Handbook, pgs 20-28 or in Literacy Face to Face Section 5 pg 26,27.
- Cloze - provide text that they have pre-read, but this time with missing words (eg every 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> word missing.) Leave a gap for student to fill in missing word. Always provide a list of missing words for student to refer to. If necessary, also provide original text.
- Proof reading - very important tool that we all use to correct spelling/grammar etc. Start from the end of the text so words are viewed out of context.
- 'Develop a Spotter's Eye' - include some spelling errors in a text. Student to read through, identify mistakes and write wrongly spelt words correctly.

PTO

- Add suffixes & prefixes to word the student is learning eg  
organise / disorganise / organisation/ organising etc
- Look at the origin of the word eg *medicine* - although the 'c' is pronounced 's', it comes from the word *medical*, therefore we know it is a 'c'.
- Learn the 'shape' of the word (good for visual learners) eg holiday 

<http://tools.atozteacherstuff.com/word-shapes/wordshapes.html> is a great site to create your own worksheets using word shapes.

- For kinaesthetic learners (who learn best through touch)
  - trace the word with their finger on desk, arm, misty mirror, or on sandpaper
  - write the word out, cut into syllables, rearrange in correct order
- Create a word sleuth - <http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com> is an excellent site for word sleuths (can even create one with a hidden message once the words are found). Other word and maths puzzles can also be created in this site, but the following site is better for crosswords.
- Create a crossword puzzle - [www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com](http://www.crosswordpuzzlegames.com) is an excellent site for creating your own puzzle using words of your choice
- Play games with spelling words written onto cards
- Dictionaries are a great tool, but really only effective for the occasional "look up" and only if student knows the first few letters of word. Dictionaries should not be their first or only option to find correct spelling.
- However, bi-lingual dictionaries for CaLD students are highly recommended and should be purchased by the student.
- <http://www.hi.com.au/spellingworks> is a good site that gives plenty of ideas and worksheets on how to help someone with spelling.
- Look in your region's resource cupboard to find other books and resources to help with spelling.