

SPELL

How to Study for SPELLING TESTS

by Jody Norman

The weekly spelling test presents an ongoing challenge for many students. Try some of these helpful – and sometimes fun – tips when helping your child study for the next spelling test.

In a flash

Have your child copy his spelling list to index cards, one word on each. The cards are more than just a useful tool; the process of writing reinforces the correct spelling of each word. Make sure he prints the word rather than writing it in cursive. Researchers have found this practice helps spellers by matching the written words with what kids see when they find the words in other situations. Then ask your child to:

- Study the word, breaking it down letter by letter.
- Say the word aloud.
- Close his eyes and visualize the word, then spell it aloud.
- If he misspells the word, have him look at it again and sound it out, syllable by syllable.
- Ask him to close his eyes and again spell it aloud.
- Repeat with each word until your child has learned all the words on the list.

Quiz time

Give your child a practice spelling test at home. When you're done calling out words, give your child the list and have her "grade" the quiz. Have her say the misspelled words aloud while looking at the correct spelling (pull out those flash cards again!) as reinforcement.


Spelling fun

Play Hangman, using the words on the spelling list as the focus of the game. Or try playing a board game that uses dice to advance the game. Instead of rolling the die, have your child spell a word from the list. If he spells it correctly, he can move his game piece forward the same number of spaces as letters in the word. For example, spelling "handle" would let him move six spaces.

Cont'd on page 62

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