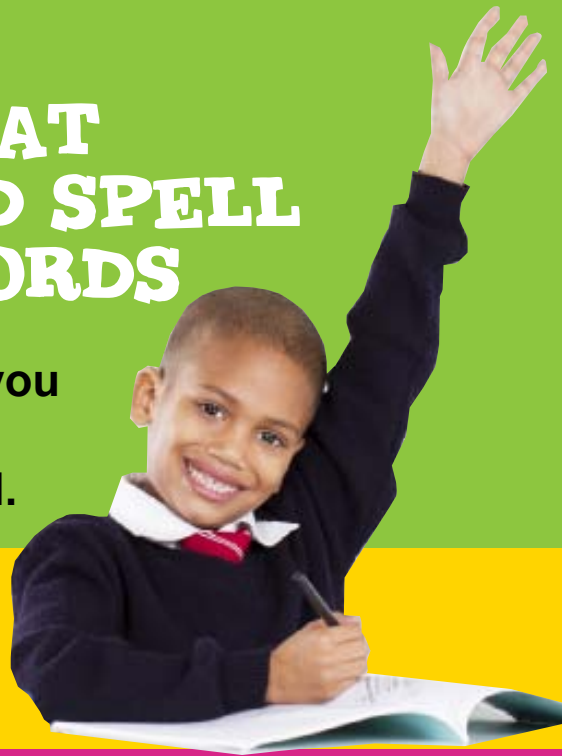


5 SPELLING TRICKS THAT WILL HELP YOUR CHILD SPELL EVEN THE HARDEST WORDS

Has learning spellings become a chore for you as well as your child? Here's how to make spelling practice more playful than stressful.

Helping your child learn to spell starts in Reception and continues through the primary years. These 5 essential tricks will help your child master even the most challenging words.



1. LOOK AT SHAPE: Encourage your child to study the pattern of letters

As adults, if we are asked to spell a word, we sometimes write it down so that we can see whether it looks right. "Learning to recognise the pattern of a word and the shape it makes on paper is also a great spelling tool for children," says Andrew Brodie, a former primary school head teacher and author of the *Spelling Today* books series. "Kids get to see where the ascenders and descenders are positioned in the word – or, in other words, the letters that go above the line and those that go below it.

"For this method to work, your child needs to write out the word in their best handwriting. If their handwriting is sloppy, the word is never going to look right."

FIND OUT MORE:

[Teachers' tricks to make spelling easy](http://www.theschoolrun.com/teachers-tricks-make-spelling-easy) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/teachers-tricks-make-spelling-easy>

[5 unusual ways to help with spelling](http://www.theschoolrun.com/5-unusual-ways-help-spelling) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/5-unusual-ways-help-spelling>

2. BREAK IT DOWN: Break longer words down into syllables

Help your child learn how to spell long, tricky words by breaking them down into syllables and thinking about how each one sounds and is spelled. You and your child can work out how many syllables are in a word by clapping the word together, one clap for each syllable. For example, for a two-syllable word, like 'vision', you would have vi / sion. And for a three-syllable word, such as 'remember', re / mem / ber.

FIND OUT MORE:

[Strategies for primary school spellings](http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-school-spelling-strategies) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/primary-school-spelling-strategies>

[9 spelling tips from real parents](http://www.theschoolrun.com/9-spelling-strategies-real-parents) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/9-spelling-strategies-real-parents>

3. SAY IT OUT LOUD: Try the Look, Say, Cover and Write technique

Encourage your child to first look at a word, hear it spoken and then say it out loud. Finally, your child needs to cover the word with their hand and write it down before checking for mistakes. "I think the multisensory approach is crucial as every child learns in a different way," says Andrew. "This means each part of this technique is important – listening to how the word is spoken and saying it out loud is as important as looking at it and covering it."

FIND OUT MORE:

[What is Look, Cover, Write, Check?](http://www.theschoolrun.com/Look-Cover-Write-Check-explained) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/Look-Cover-Write-Check-explained>

[Look, Cover, Write, Check template](http://www.theschoolrun.com/Look-Cover-Write-Check-blank-spelling-list) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/Look-Cover-Write-Check-blank-spelling-list>

4. ALPHABET TIME: Arrange three words in alphabetical order

Ask your child to arrange three or four words into alphabetical order (for example: apple, banana, carrot). To do this correctly, your child has to study the letter placement in the words really carefully. "Next, ask them to arrange three words starting with the same letter into alphabetical order, for example apple, apricot and avocado. It means the child needs to pay attention to the second and third letters and so on in each word," says Andrew.

FIND OUT MORE:

[Letter strings explained](http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-letter-string) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/what-is-a-letter-string>

[Memory aids for children](http://www.theschoolrun.com/memory-aids-for-kids) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/memory-aids-for-kids>

5. MAKE IT FUN: A child who's having fun will be a happier learner

Games are a really enjoyable way to get the hang of tricky spellings – and your child won't even realise they're learning! From "eating your words" to multi-sensory tray play (which also help children practise correct letter formation), we suggest five do-it-yourself game options to try (<http://www.theschoolrun.com/5-great-spelling-games>).

FIND OUT MORE:

[Simple ways to make spelling fun](http://www.theschoolrun.com/simple-ways-make-spellings-fun) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/simple-ways-make-spellings-fun>

[Best word games for children](http://www.theschoolrun.com/best-word-games-for-children) <http://www.theschoolrun.com/best-word-games-for-children>