



Included in your child's language arts program will be lessons about sentences, nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, quotations, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, and other grammar related concepts. Students will be tested once a week, usually on Fridays, on a list of spelling words appropriate to their ability level. The list of words correlates with a piece of literature that is being studied. Below please find a spelling guide to help your child study his or her words:

How to Study a Word

1. LOOK at the word.

What does the word mean?

What letters are in the word?

Name and touch each letter.

2. SAY the word.

Listen for the consonant sounds.

Listen for the vowel sounds.

3. THINK about the word.

How is each sound spelled?

Close your eyes and picture the word.

What familiar spelling patterns do you see?

What other words have the same spelling patterns?

4. WRITE the word.

Think about the sounds and letters.

Form the letters correctly.

5. CHECK the spelling.

Did you spell the word the same way it is spelled in your word list?

If you did not spell the word correctly, write the word again.

Short Vowel Patterns:

A short vowel sound is usually spelled a, e, i, o, or u and is followed by a consonant sound.

Long Vowel Sounds:

The long a sound can be spelled with the pattern a-consonant-e, ai, or ay.
(shade, play, tail)

The long e sound is often spelled with the pattern e-consonant-e, ea, or ee.
(these, deep, beach)

The long i sound can be spelled with the pattern i-consonant-e, igh, or ie.
(ripe, tie, right)

The long o sound can be spelled with the pattern o-consonant-e, oa, or ow.
(home, own, soap)

The long u sound /yoo/ or /oo/ may be spelled with the pattern u-consonant-e, ew, or oo. (use, booth, drew)

The long i sound at the end of a word may be spelled y. (cry)

The long e sound at the end of a word may be spelled y. (penny)

Other Vowel Sounds:

The vowel sound in cook may be spelled with the pattern oo or u. (woods, pull)

The sound /ou/ is often spelled with the pattern ow or ou. (town, proud)

The sound /oi/ is spelled with the pattern oi or oy. (noise, boy)

The vowel sound in saw can be spelled with the pattern aw, a before l, ough, or augh. (saw, thought, talk, caught)

Vowel + r Sounds:

The vowel + r sounds you hear in dark can be spelled with the pattern ar.
(start)

The vowel + r sounds you hear in near can be spelled with the pattern ear.
(year)

The vowel + r sounds you hear in more can be spelled with the patterns or
and ore. (story, store)

The vowel + r sounds in first can be spelled with the pattern er, ir, ur, or or.
(were, first, turn, work)

Consonant Sounds:

The /s/ sound you hear at the beginning of city may be spelled c when the c
is followed by i or e. (circle, once)

The /j/ sound you hear at the beginning of just can be spelled with the
consonant j or with the consonant g followed by e. (just, large)

Syllable Patterns:

The schwa + r sounds that you hear in grandmother are often spelled with
the pattern er. (never)

The schwa + l sounds that you hear in people can be spelled with the pattern
le. (table)

Some two-syllable words have the vowel-consonant-consonant-vowel pattern.
Divide a word with this pattern between the two consonants to find the
syllables. Look for spelling patterns you have learned. Spell the word by
syllable. (win/dow, din/ner)

Word Endings:

Add s to most words to name more than one. Add es to words that end with s,x,sh, or ch to name more than one. (trips, buses, boxes, wishes, peaches)

If a base word ends with e, drop the e before adding the ending -ed or -ing. (shape - shaped, take - taking)

If a base word ends with a vowel and a single consonant, double the consonant before adding -ed or -ing. (dropped, hitting)

When a base word ends with a consonant and y, change the y to i before adding -es or -ed. (sky - skies, try - tried)

Prefixes and Suffixes:

Prefixes are added to the beginning of base words or word roots. Re-, un-, and dis- are prefixes. (reread, unfair, dislike)

Suffixes are added to the end of base words or word roots. These word parts are suffixes: -ful, -ly, -er. (playful, softly, writer)