





Why is spelling so difficult?

Five key reasons:

1. Words in English are 'borrowed' from lots of different languages.
2. There are different ways of spelling the same sound.
3. English is full of tricky homophones.
4. It's also full of homonyms.
5. And heteronyms!

**bow, buffet,
does, dove,
lead, minute,
row, wind**

to	too
toe	tow
waist	waste
wait	weight
way	weigh
weak	week
wear	where

	saw
	saw
	leaves
	leaves

Why is spelling so important?



1. Spelling and reading are inter-connected.
2. It's a central part of the National Curriculum.
3. It ensures that writing is read accurately and makes clear sense.

Games and activities for spelling



Look, Cover, Write, Check

- Old favourite that does what it says on the tin.
- Look at the word and try to memorise it.
- Cover the word.
- Write it down.
- Check the word.

Using specific colours

- Write the tricky part of the word in a different colour.
- e.g. because
- This helps children to learn and memorise just the difficult part of the word.
- We often tick the letters that are right just to highlight to the children that they are not spelling the **whole** word wrong.

Mnemonics

Big
Elephants
Can
Always
Understand
Small
Elephants

Encourage children to spell different ways

- If children are unsure of how to spell a word, encourage them to write it down in different ways to see which one looks right:
- becuase
- becouse
- because

Using visuals and drawing

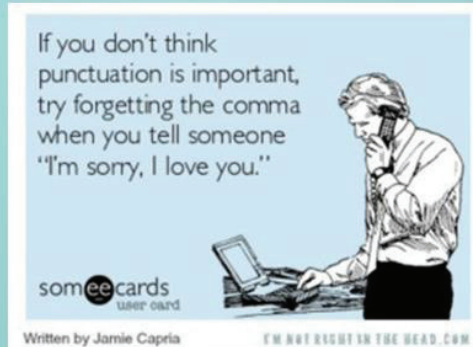
- Children could be encouraged to draw round the shape of the word, to build a shape in the mind.
- Children could mindmap doodles and other visuals to link with the word.
- They could also try writing it out using another media - maybe shaving foam, sand or cream!

Spell speak

- Try breaking down the word into syllables, e.g. Wed/nes/day.
- Silly pronunciations are encouraged, e.g. w/hat, w/hen.

What is grammar?

- Grammar is the complete system and structure for learning a language.
- It could be considered as the 'rules' of a language.
- Educationally, it has been in and out of fashion for decades.
- At Hemingford, we have been teaching grammar for a long time with the Sentence Snake.



Sentence Snake

- Visual and kinaesthetic approach to learning about grammar and sentence structure right from the Foundation Stage.



How to support grammar at home



- Please don't expect children to be able to articulate the definitions of different grammatical terms 'parrot fashion'.
- Instead, discuss word class and punctuation in the context of reading and writing.
- Pick one key grammatical term and make that the focus, e.g. adjectives or question marks.