

Strategies for learning spellings

1. **Look:** first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.
Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.
Cover: cover the word.
Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.
Check: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again - look, say, cover, write, check.
2. Write the word forwards then write the words backwards, e.g. **forwards**
sdrawrof
3. Write the word and every vowel complete in green, e.g. spell**ing**.
4. Write the word in a pyramid, e.g.

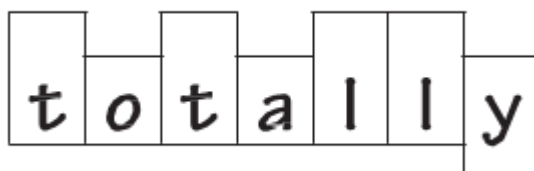
s
sp
spe
spel
spell
spelli
spellin
spelling

5. Write the word across the page then down the page, e.g

s p e l l i n g
p e l l i n g
e l l i n g
l l i n g
l i n g
i n g
n g
g

6. Write the word and find smaller words within them, e.g. spelling = line, gel, in, etc....

7. Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.



8. Draw an image around the word to make it more memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.



You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.

9. Rainbow writing. Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on.
10. Making up memorable 'silly sentences' containing the word
11. Saying the word in a funny way - for example, pronouncing the 'silent' letters in a word
12. Clapping and counting to identify the syllables in a word.