

Steps for Spelling New Words

This is one strategy that you can use to learn any new spelling word. It has six steps.

Step 1

Look at the word. **Say** it and listen to the sounds.



Step 2

Spell the word aloud.



Step 3

Think about the spelling. Is there anything special to remember?



Step 4

Picture the word with your eyes shut.



Step 5

Look at the word and **write** it.



Step 6

Cover the word. **Picture** it and **write** it again. **Check** its spelling. Did you get it right?



Problem Parts

Everybody has words that are hard to spell. When you find such a word, it is a good time to use the Problem Parts strategy.

One of the words you will learn is *mitten*. The word *mitten* has a sound in the middle, but this sound is spelled with not just one *t* but with two. That is tricky! Here are steps to follow in the Problem Parts strategy.



Step 1

Ask yourself which part of the word is giving you a problem.



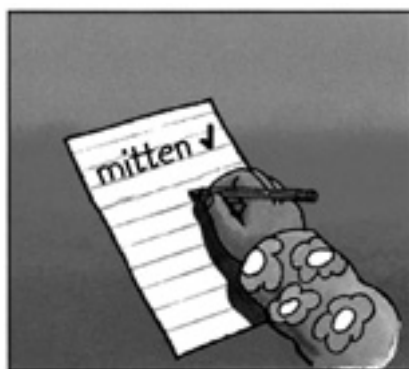
Step 2

Write the word and underline the problem part.



Step 3

Picture the word. Focus on the problem part. You might want to picture the problem part in large letters to help you remember.



Now picture the word and see the problem part before you spell it.

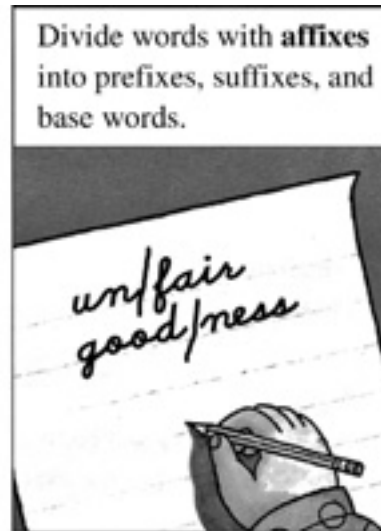
Divide and Conquer

Long words can be hard to spell. If you divide them into smaller parts, you can conquer them. Here is how to use the Divide and Conquer strategy.

Compound Words

Words with Affixes

Words with Many Syllables



Step 1

Say the word slowly and listen for each part or syllable.

Step 2

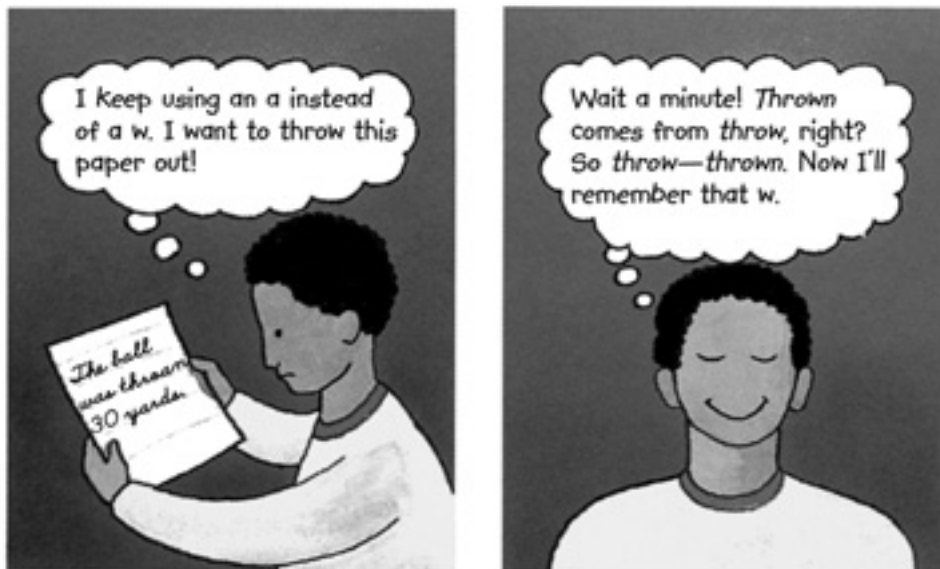
Use these pictures to help you divide each kind of long word.

Step 3

Study the word one part or one syllable at a time.

Meaning Helpers

Even a short word like *thrown* can be hard to spell—until you discover where it comes from. This is where the Meaning Helper strategy can be used.



Try to find shorter words with similar meanings that can help you spell the longer words. Here are some examples:

Longer Word	Meaning Helper	Clue
every	ever	ever + y
health	heal	heal + th

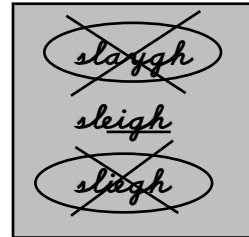
You don't hear the second *e* when you say *every*, but you do hear it when you say *ever*. *Ever* is a meaning helper for *every* because a sound clue in *ever* helps you spell *every*.

Memory Tricks

Some words may have a part that gives you problems. You can use the Memory Tricks strategy to help you with tricky word parts. Study this example.

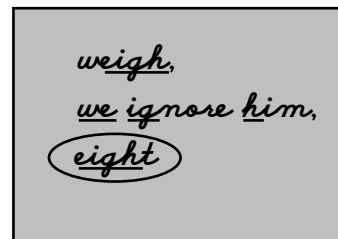
Step 1

Ask yourself: Which part of the word gives me trouble?
Then mark the letters that are problems for you.



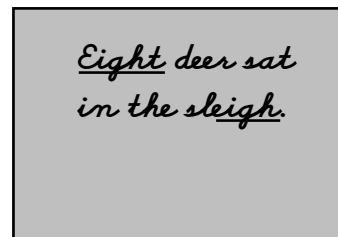
Step 2

Find memory helpers—words or phrases you already can spell—that have the same letters.



Step 3

Create a memory trick by linking your word with a memory helper that helps you remember it.



If your memory trick can be made into a picture, think about that picture as you say the trick to yourself. This can be an extra helper. And silly helpers are just as good as serious helpers!

Pronouncing for Spelling

We spell some words wrong because we say them wrong. Say a word very carefully to hear all of its sounds. This is called the Pronouncing for Spelling strategy.



Step 1

Say the word slowly and carefully. Listen to the sound of each letter.



Step 2

Say the word again as you write it.

You can also change the way you secretly say a tricky sound. To remember the **o-u-r** and the **a-g-e** in **courage**, you might secretly pronounce the word like this: **c-our-age**. That means you would say the sound made by **c**, then the word **our** and then the word **age**. It won't make sense to anyone else, but you will know that you are using the Pronouncing for Spelling strategy.