

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with the text centered in the white space.

How to support your child with their spellings

November 2018

Why is learning spellings so important?

- ▶ If you were to ask children to name their most hated subject, a lot of them would say spelling. Many children struggle with spelling words and the repetition of writing the words over and over doesn't seem to help. This leads many children to become frustrated and to giving up.

“Can’t we just use spell checkers?”

- ▶ The importance of spelling has been questioned in recent years, as word processing programs are equipped with spell checkers, and some educational reformists have suggested that focusing on spelling holds back the creative processes of writing and that students will naturally develop spelling skills through reading. Reading Specialist Susan Jones, M.Ed., has researched how spelling improves reading and writing fluency and how it improves vocabulary and comprehension.

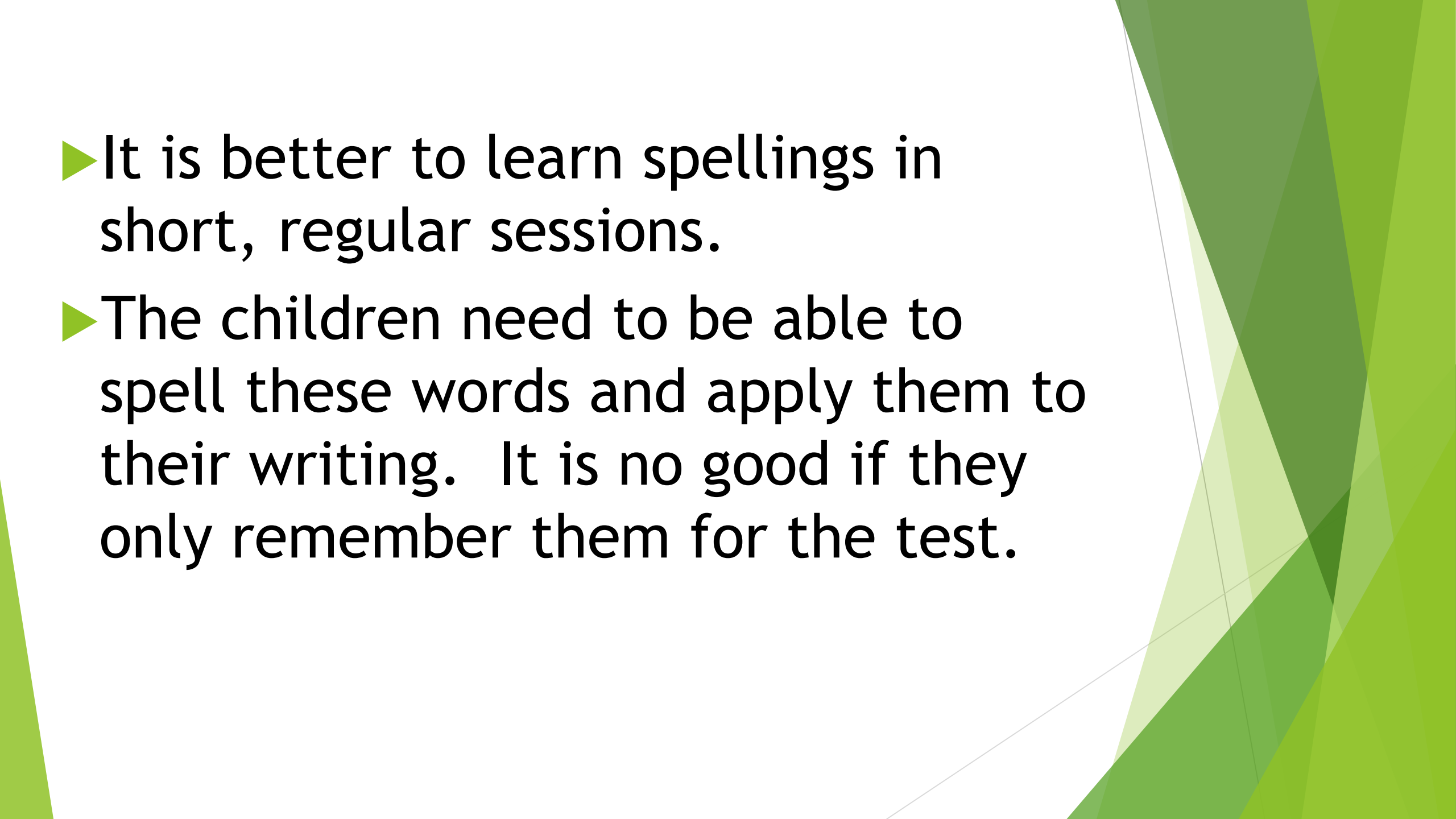
- ▶ According to research by the Linguistics Department at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

The Importance of Spelling
by Susan Jones, M. Ed. 2/2009

- ▶ It's a myth. It is fluent readers who can figure out this highly predictable text - and the path to fluent reading includes a firm foundation in the sounds represented by letters and their spelling.

Spelling Helps Reading

- ▶ Learning to spell helps to cement the connection between the letters and their sounds, and learning high-frequency “sight words” to mastery level improves both reading and writing.

- 
- ▶ It is better to learn spellings in short, regular sessions.
 - ▶ The children need to be able to spell these words and apply them to their writing. It is no good if they only remember them for the test.

Strategies which you could try:

S U S

Study the word.



Underline the difficult part.

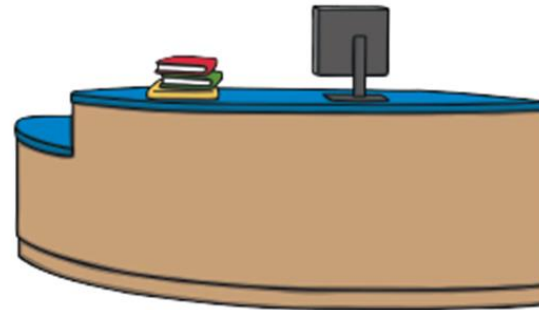
Say the word carefully.



Writing the Word

On someone's back.

On your desk.



With your eyes.



Speed Writing

How often can you write the word correctly in one minute?



Mnemonics

Making up a 'story' to help spell a word.

s a d

Sally ate dumplings.



Syllables/Chunks

Breaking the words
into **parts**.

Clapping the sounds.

jogging **jog** ing

flying **fly** ing

returned **re** turn **ed**



Look For Small Words Inside the Word

about a, out, bout

teacher tea, each, her, ache



Words That Look the Same

Back is like **pack** and **sack**.



Use of Colour

Use a different colour for
each letter.



Different Sizes of Letters

Use different sizes of letters
to help remember the letters
in the word.

apple ApPLE

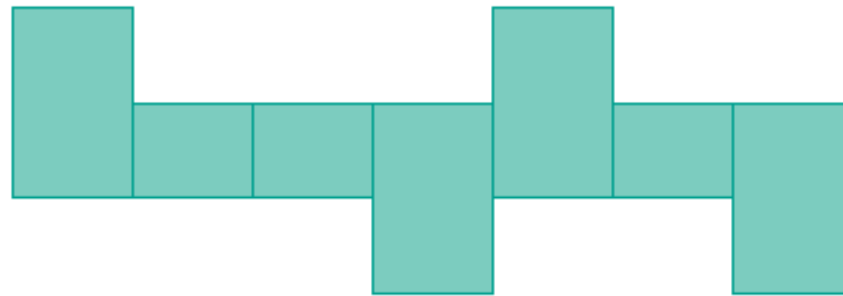
painting PaINTiNg



Shape of Words

Draw the shape of the word.

display



Making Words With Letters

a h k l t y p o

Put a selection of letters
in an arc.

See how many words you
can make from the letters.

H U M L W

Visualising

Look at your word.
'Throw' it at the wall.
Can you still 'see' it?
Spell it aloud.





Look

Say



Cover

Write



Check

Using Sticky Notes

Place sticky notes in suitable places around the room at eye level.



Three Times

Write the word three times
and in **different** colours.

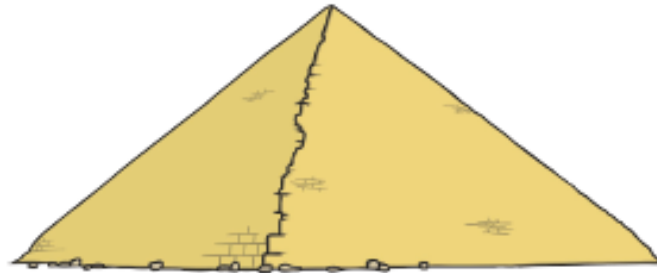
cursive

cursive

cursive

Pyramid Writing

Write your word in the
shape of a pyramid.



d

do

dog

Consonant Circles

Write the word then circle all the consonants.

b e l i e v e

Blue Vowels

a e i o u

Write the word then go over each vowel in blue.

b e l i e v e

Words Without Vowels

Write each word with a line instead of each vowel.
Go back later and fill in the missing vowels.

b _ **l** _ _ **v** _

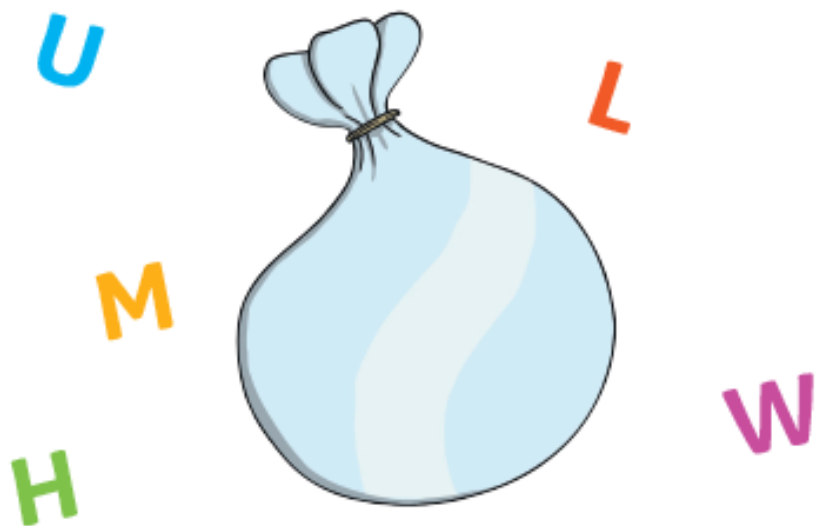
Muddled Letters

Pupils rearrange the letters of words making sure to always start with the original letter. Get other pupils to correct them.

Yseertyad
yesterday

Lucky Dip

Pupils take it in turns to take out letters from a bag displaying them in front of them. Carry on until someone can spell one of their words.



Year 1 and 2 Common Exception Words

Year 1

the they one
a be once
do he ask
to me friend
today she school
of we put
said no push
says go pull
are so full
were by house
was my our
is here
his there
has where
I love
you come
your some

Year 2

door gold plant clothes
floor hold path busy
poor told bath people
because every hour water
find great move again
kind break prove half
mind steak improve money
behind pretty sure Mr
child beautiful sugar Mrs
children after eye parents
wild fast could Christmas
climb last should everybody
most past would even
only father who
both class whole
old grass any
cold pass many

Year 1 also
look at:
Numbers
Days of the
week
Months of
the year

Year 3 and 4 Common Exception Words

Aa	breath	continue	exercise	guard	Kk	naughty	position	recent	Tt
accident	build	Dd	experience	guide	Knowledge	notice	possess	regular	therefore
accidentally	busy	decide	extreme	Hh	Ll	Oo	possession	reign	though
actual	business	describe	Ff	heard	learn	occasion	possible	remember	thought
actually	Cc	different	famous	heart	length	occasionally	potatoes	Ss	through
address	calendar	difficult	favourite	height	library	often	pressure	sentence	Vv
although	caught	disappear	February	history	Mm	opposite	probably	separate	various
answer	centre	Ee	forward	Ii	material	ordinary	promise	special	Ww
appear	century	early	forwards	imagine	medicine	Pp	purpose	straight	weight
arrive	certain	earth	fruit	increase	mention	particular	Qq	strange	woman
Bb	circle	eight	Gg	important	minute	peculiar	quarter	strength	women
believe	complete	eighth	grammar	interest	Nn	perhaps	question	suppose	
bicycle	consider	enough	group	island	natural	popular	Rr	surprise	



Common Exception Words

accommodate
accompany
according
aggressive
amateur
ancient
apparent
appreciate
attached
available
average
awkward
bargain
bruise
category
cemetery
committee
communicate
community
competition
conscience
conscious
controversy
convenience
correspond

criticise
curiosity
definite
desperate
develop
dictionary
disastrous
embarrass
environment
equipment
equipped
especially
exaggerate
excellent
existence
explanation
familiar
foreign
forty
frequently
government
guarantee
harass
hindrance
identity

Common Exception Words

immediate
individual
interfere
interrupt
language
leisure
lightning
marvellous
mischievous
muscle
necessary
neighbour
nuisance
occupy
occur
opportunity
parliament
persuade
physical
privilege
profession
programme
pronunciation
queue
recognise

recommend
relevant
restaurant
rhyme
rhythm
sacrifice
secretary
shoulder
signature
sincere
sincerely
soldier
stomach
suggest
symbol
system
temperature
thorough
twelfth
variety
vegetable
vehicle
yacht

