Building Spelling Skills

Spelling—Grades 5 and 6

This thirty-unit book contains reproducible spelling lists and activities for the direct teaching of 540 spelling words.

Each unit contains:
- a list of 18 spelling words
- three sentences for dictation
- four activity pages for practicing the spelling list words

Words on the spelling lists were selected from:
- a list of the 600 most commonly used words in English
- words frequently misspelled by fifth and sixth graders
- words with common phonetic elements
- words changed by adding prefixes and suffixes and by forming compound words and contractions

Suggestions for spelling practice and spelling strategies are provided.

Forms are included for:
- record keeping
- weekly testing
- creating teacher- or student-selected spelling lists

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EMC 727
# Table of Contents

- **Introduction** ........................................................................................................ 3
- **Spelling Unit Components** .................................................................................. 5
- **More Ideas for Spelling Practice** .......................................................................... 7
- **Student Spelling Dictionaries** .............................................................................. 8
- **Spelling Strategies** ............................................................................................... 10
- **Spelling Lists** ....................................................................................................... 11
- **Sentences for Dictation** ....................................................................................... 21
- **Activities for Spelling List 1** ................................................................................ 24
  - /u/; short vowels; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 2** ................................................................................ 28
  - /a/; open syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 3** ................................................................................ 32
  - /e/ and /u/; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 4** ................................................................................ 36
  - /o/; antonyms; rhyming words; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 5** ................................................................................ 40
  - contractions; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 6** ................................................................................ 44
  - /i/; add endings; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 7** ................................................................................ 48
  - /u/ (look) and /u/ (too); synonyms; rhyming words; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 8** ................................................................................ 52
  - diphthongs /oi/ and /ou/; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 9** ................................................................................ 56
  - compound words; antonyms; long vowels; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 10** ............................................................................. 60
  - /o/, /o/, /a/; synonyms; edit paragraph
- **Activities for Spelling List 11** ............................................................................. 64
  - endings; edit paragraph
- **Activities for Spelling List 12** ............................................................................. 68
  - plural words; irregular plural forms; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 13** ............................................................................. 72
  - /r/; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 14** ............................................................................. 76
  - /a/, /ar/, /or/; rhyming words; syllables; edit words and sentences
- **Activities for Spelling List 15** ............................................................................. 80
  - schwa sound; syllables; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 16 ........................................................................................................ 84
  consonant digraphs; plural nouns; rhyming words; edit words, sentences
Activities for Spelling List 17 ........................................................................................................ 88
  /g/ and /c/; syllables; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 18 ........................................................................................................ 92
  final /l/; syllables; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 19 ........................................................................................................ 96
  /ie/ and /ei/; homophones; add endings; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 20 ....................................................................................................... 100
  suffixes–ness, ly, er, or, ar, ant; base words; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 21 ....................................................................................................... 104
  review long vowels and /oo/ words; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 22 ....................................................................................................... 108
  suffixes–ful, ment, less; syllables; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 23 ....................................................................................................... 112
  /sh/; syllables; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 24 ....................................................................................................... 116
  silent letters; antonyms; synonyms; review long and short vowels and schwa; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 25 ....................................................................................................... 120
  prefixes–re, dis, mis, il; antonyms; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 26 ....................................................................................................... 124
  /f/; synonyms; antonyms; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 27 ....................................................................................................... 128
  prefixes–im, in, pre, un; antonyms; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 28 ....................................................................................................... 132
  root words with a prefix and/or suffix; edit paragraph
Activities for Spelling List 29 ....................................................................................................... 136
  /tion/; syllables; edit words and sentences
Activities for Spelling List 30 ....................................................................................................... 140
  multi-syllable words; syllables; edit sentences
Blank Forms .................................................................................................................................... 144
Answer Key .................................................................................................................................... 151
Master Word List ....................................................................................................................... Inside Back Cover
Direct Teaching of Spelling
Regardless of the reading philosophy or program used in a school, all students benefit by direct teaching of spelling. This instruction may be a block of time set aside strictly for spelling instruction or an integrated part of a whole language program.

Students need to be taught:
- how to spell words that are created using English phonemes, as well as common non-phonetic words
- learning strategies to help them spell difficult words
- that correct spelling increases their ability to communicate their ideas and feelings to others.

Using This Book
The thirty spelling units contain these components:
- a reproducible list of 18 spelling words
- three sentences for dictation
- four reproducible activity pages for practicing the spelling list words.

A reproducible testing sheet is included on page 146. It contains lines for the 18 spelling words, two special words you may have assigned, three dictation sentences, and three lines that can be used to give review words of your choice from preceding lists.

These components may be placed in a special spelling folder with the student’s record sheet (see page 145) attached and used as a working portfolio.

Detailed information on each component is given on pages 5 and 6.
The spelling lists can be used for whole-class, small group, or individual instruction. However the lessons are used, start where the students are. Some sixth graders may be ready to skip over the beginning spelling units. (Spelling Grades 3–4 [EMC 726] may be more appropriate for some of your students.)

**Following Student Progress**
The table of contents contains the skills covered in these spelling lessons. Class and individual record forms (pages 144 and 145) are provided to help you track student progress.

**Create Your Own Activities for Spelling Lists**
Use the blank forms (pages 147–149) to create spelling lists, word sorts, and crossword puzzles with words from units of study, special holiday words, or words containing a specific phonetic element or skill needing further practice. These forms may also be used to create student-selected spelling lists.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Read and spell</th>
<th>Copy and spell</th>
<th>Spell and check</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. rough</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2. grudge</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. stunt</td>
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<td>4. sudden</td>
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<td>5. thumb</td>
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<td>6. once</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. another</td>
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<td>8. does</td>
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<td>9. trouble</td>
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<td>10. cousin</td>
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<td>11. began</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12. city</td>
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<td>13. oxygen</td>
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<td>14. copy</td>
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<td>15. very</td>
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<td>16. until</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. umpire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. which</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19.  (bonus word)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20.  (bonus word)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fill in the blanks with words from Spelling List 1.

1. The diver used an ___________ tank ___________ he reached the surface of the water.

2. My ___________ had a ___________ against the ___________ who called him out.

3. Which ___________ did you hurt trying to do that ___________?

4. They are moving to ___________ ___________ next week.

5. All of a ___________ it ___________ to rain and I got ___________ wet.

6. If you ___________ his homework you’ll get in ___________.

Write sentences with these words.

________________________

________________________

________________________

________________________