

Strategies for Learning Your Spellings:

“Process Makes Perfect”

- In order to learn our spellings, our brains need to ‘process’ them. That means our brains need to engage actively with them, by working on them and making connections.
- Different people learn spellings in different ways. Sometimes it takes a while to work out which ways are best for you.
- If you don’t try to learn them all at once, but focus on two or three at a time, your brain will retain your spellings more efficiently.
 - If you use several different strategies for each spelling, your brain will make more connections with it and you will remember it more quickly & efficiently.



Strategy 1:

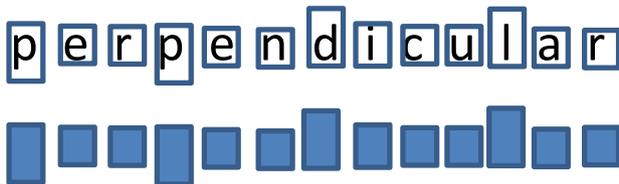
Connect with the spelling with other words you know with the same rule e.g. with the same suffix / prefix / split digraph / letter string / double consonant etc (also known as ‘word families’)

Strategy 2:

Look, say, cover, write, check (several times per word!) – some people do that in a different order

Strategy 3:

Analyse the word shape using box shapes (good for visual learners) e.g.



Strategy 4:

Break the word into syllables (use different colours for each syllable for visual learners)

e.g. per – pen – di – cu - lar

Strategy 5:

Break the word into phonemes (sounds), annotating with sound buttons – also called segmenting

Strategy 6:

Copy out the word correctly many times (good for ‘word smart’ people with very good handwriting!)

Strategy 7:

The 'remembering eye position': write the word in large writing on a piece of paper and hold it up just above the corner of your left eye. Keep looking at the word to help your mind 'take a photograph' of it. When you want to remember how to spell the word, say it to yourself and look slightly up to the left.

Strategy 8:

Look at the word you are learning and make a list of related words using word endings:

e.g. Surprise

- Surprising
- Surprised
- Unsurprising
- Surprisingly
- Unsurprisingly
- Unsurprised

Strategy 9:

Work out a mnemonic

e.g. Because – big elephants can always understand small elephants

Said – silly alligators in dresses

Strategy 10:

Find and highlight words 'hiding within words'

e.g. HERE is hiding in there

HE is hiding in their

PEN is hiding in perpendicular

RAT is hiding inside separate

Strategy 11:

'Say it silly' e.g. peee-o-ple for people