



Memory aids

You'll probably be learning spellings as you read and write. Develop a strategy for remembering spellings rather than attempting to learn each new word as it comes up. Some people have one strategy that works best for them; others like to try more than one. Here are some good tips:

Look, say, cover, write, check

- Look at the word you want to learn; highlight any parts that seem difficult; look at its shape.
- Say the word to yourself, sounding out all the letters.
- Cover the word.
- Write down the word without looking at the original.
- Check to see if you have spelled the word right; if it's wrong, try again.
- Repeat the above as many times as necessary in the next few days.

Word structure

Learn common prefixes (eg **dis-**, **un-**, **re-**, **pre-**) and suffixes (eg **-able**, **-ful**, **-ness**) and use them to break down words into parts to make them easier to learn:

uncomfortable

un	comfort	able
----	---------	------

Syllables

Break words up into syllables so that you're dealing with the sounds of chunks of words:

com-par-i-son vol-un-teer med-i-cine

Words within words

Sometimes you'll find words within words - it can help with the whole word if you isolate these. For example:

present deodorant teacher

Mnemonics

Mnemonics are learning devices that aid memory. They are useful in helping to remember difficult spellings. For example:

necessary - one collar (c) and two socks (s)

rhythm - rhythm helps your two hips move