

How to... Excel at spelling



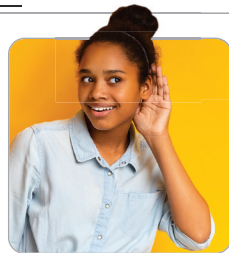
Holly King-Mand

Holly King-Mand is one of the nation's favourite English teachers, and thousands of young people joined her free online lessons during lockdown. She loves books, libraries, creative writing and interesting vocabulary. You can find lots more advice at hollysclassroom.com

1 The basics

Spelling words correctly usually relies on how we hear a word and how we transfer what we hear into letters on the page.

Sometimes what we hear isn't always spelt accordingly, so it's wise to learn unusual spelling patterns and rules.



2 Breaking the rules

Some spellings are an exception to the rules. The rule: "I before E except after C" frequently doesn't

work. Exceptions include leisure, eight and forfeit. The only way to know the exceptions is to learn them all individually as you go along.



3 Practise makes perfect

Practising difficult spellings can help you to remember them. The more exposure you have to them, the more likely they are to stick in your mind. There are different ways to practise. You could read the letters out loud, then cover them up and try to remember them correctly. Why not write words on sticky notes and place them around your house? Asking a friend or an adult to test you will help. Practise writing spellings in sentences so that you have experience of using them in your work. If you are practising for a spelling test, try to look over the spellings every day in the days before it.



4 Ask for help

If you find spelling a word really difficult, ask for help. It is almost impossible to teach yourself something you don't know without the



Millennium

Occasionally

Queue

Some words are just harder to spell.

help of someone who does know. Teachers and parents will want to help you get spellings right. If you are learning how to spell a word, make sure you learn what it means, too.

5 Dyslexia

Dyslexia can make reading and spelling difficult for some children and adults. People with dyslexia can sometimes see letters flipped back-to-front, or have difficulty getting letters in the correct order into the right part of their brain. There are lots of ways to help, including using coloured overlays and different fonts (the style or shape of printed letters). Those with dyslexia often find they excel in other areas, for example, problem solving. Some even call it their superpower.



6 Spelling tests

Spelling tests can be great fun. Spelling bees are very popular in the US, and you may remember my online spellathons throughout

lockdown. Take the pressure off getting a perfect score and have some fun trying to spell difficult words correctly. You might surprise yourself.

7 The secret to success

Brace yourself for the secret to spelling success... Read! Reading a wide range of material every day will help you to learn spelling patterns, rules and exceptions. If you are enjoying yourself, you might not even realise you are learning.



Head to theweekjunior.co.uk/activityhub for more crafts and recipes.



SCAN ME