

Seven Steps to Spelling Independence

READ

The more you read, the more you see words and this helps your mind to remember how they look when you want to write them.

You'll find interesting words and phrases in books that you may wish to incorporate into your own writing.

LISTEN

When we speak clearly, we can sometimes hear how to write words – or at least hear how we might begin to attempt them. Remember though that English is not a 'sound / symbol' language.

BE WORD WISE

Look at words – **really** look at them.

Do they have any smaller words within them?

Can you find a base word? (**nationality**)

Does it have any prefixes or suffixes? (**unnecessary**)

How about Greek or Latin roots – is it based on one of those? (**geometry** – 'geo' the earth and 'metron' a measure)

Does it rhyme with any words you already know?

Look for the parts that could trick you?

WRITE OFTEN

The more you write, the more chances you have to use words.

Spelling isn't terribly important in the first draft so get your ideas down first and make an attempt at the spelling – then go back and self check before moving on.

SELF CHECK

Always re-read your writing as soon as practicable after finishing.

Identify any 'suspect spelling' by circling the words – try them again on a rough piece of paper and ask yourself, 'Does it look right?'

If you're still unsure, consult a dictionary. (You may like to discuss it with someone but always have a go yourself first!)

If it's a word you need or want to use again, add it to your personal word book and learn it by LSCWC.

LEARNING HOW TO SPELL NEW WORDS

LOOK at the word carefully – find the base word or words within the whole, any affixes or roots which may help you to remember it. Look for the tricky parts.

SAY the word clearly. Listen to the way it sounds. Hear the number of syllables and clap them out. Does it sound the way it looks? Does it rhyme with any word you know?

COVER the word and imagine it in your mind. See your hand writing the word down.

WRITE the word as neatly as possible. Write it smoothly, in syllables, not letter by letter.

CHECK your attempt against the correct spelling. If it is not yet in the standard form, find where the problem lies and try again using LSCWC.

USE MEMORY TRIGGERS – when the word is really hard to learn, work out a memory trigger / trick to assist – 'here' is in '**there**' and they are both place words.