

Categorize your spelling words according to patterns. Color-code the patterns. For example:

ai      ay      a\_e

rain      say      cake

paid      tray      made

For words that do not follow a pattern or are "red words", put them in another column and write them in a different color.

Write your words vertically and horizontally while saying the letters aloud. Use a different color for each letter.

s t r e e t

t

r

e

e

t

Write your words in pyramid writing while saying the letters aloud.

r

ra

rai

rain

raind

raindr

raindro

raindrop

Use graph paper to write your words. Say the letters aloud as you write them. One letter per box. Tall letters or tail letters take up 2 boxes. Small letters take up one box. Then outline the visual configuration with a colorful marker or colored pencil.

Look at each word one at a time. One second per letter. (4 letters, 4 seconds exposure) Take the word away and air write the letters with your pointer finger as you say them aloud. Then close your eyes and visualize the letters as you air write and say them aloud. Be very careful when air writing with your pointer finger. Small, precise movements, please. Have a parent ask you what letters you see and in what order.

Use a flashlight to write/spell the word. Dim the lights in the room and point the light at a blank wall (one without pictures and "things"). Say the letters aloud as your spell the word.

For tricky words... Decide what part of the word is tricky. Do something to make you remember that letter(s). Options:  
Write it bigger.  
Write it darker.  
Write it in a special color.  
Draw a picture for the tricky letters.  
Make a sentence to help you remember.

their parallel

tunnel color in the  
n's to look like a dark  
tunnel  
maid I can be a maid.  
friend I will be your  
friend until the end.


Have a parent give you a pre-test a few nights before the test. As you are taking the pre-test, follow the steps for "How to Spell a Word".

Try visualizing and air writing the word BEFORE you pick up your pencil. For words that you misspell, practice using all of the strategies. You can also try writing the word in sand, shaving cream, with magnetic tiles, singing the letters, or add movements for each

For words that are unfamiliar to you, use them in good, "meaty" sentences to help you understand the meaning(s). Remember to check for:

- \_\_\_ Capitals
- \_\_\_ Overall Neatness
- \_\_\_ Punctuation
- \_\_\_ Spelling

letter (like a cheerleader). Then take another pretest the next day.

How to Spell a Word	
1. Listen.	
2. Say it.	
3. Feel it.	
4. See it.	 
5. Scoop it.	
6. Fingerspell each sound <u>or</u> see each letter in the scoop.	
7. What says ___? • Think of your options. • Try it all ways. • What looks right?	
8. Check your work.	