

# Supporting Your Child With Their Spelling



Each half term your child will bring a list of words home to learn. These will follow a spelling pattern or contain a key phonic sound. This leaflet provides you with a range of activities which will help your child remember how to spell words.

The activities are designed to help spelling patterns go into your child's long term memory. The key to spelling is overlearning and this leaflet will provide you with a range of activities which will make spelling engaging and enjoyable for your child. The activities included will meet the needs of any learner. However, you will find some activities suit your child more than others. If your child learns the wrong spelling it will be detrimental to their progress. Therefore, it is essential that spelling home learning is supervised.

### **Word Detective**

Use dictionaries and reading books to hunt for words which have the same spelling pattern as the words your child is learning. Keep an on-going list of the words they find.

Children love a challenge—so set them one, e.g. "How many words can you find which end in -ly?"

### **Words within Words**

Breaking a word into smaller more manageable chunks can help when remembering spellings. Encourage your child to look for smaller words within the words they are learning:

e.g. Their Hear Every Where Friends Balloon

### **Silly Sentences**

Using the target words find other words with the same spelling pattern and make up silly sentences to help your child remember them. You could dictate this sentence and they then write it down.

e.g. Target Word-rain It was a pain when the train went down the drain.

### **Multi-Sensory**

Make spelling fun using a multi-sensory approach.

For example:

Make the letters out of playdoh

Use chalks to write the words on the patio

Trace the letters in the bath water

Squirt the letters using a water gun

Use finger paints to write the words on large paper

### **Spelling Puzzles**

Use the spelling list as the basis for a spelling puzzle. For example put the words in a word search, or use them to play a game of hangman. Word puzzle books are a good way to encourage your child to develop an interest in words.

### **Mnemonics Rhymes**

Mnemonics rhymes, songs and chants can be a useful way of ensuring words are remembered. Here are some examples:

BECAUSE—Big Elephants Can't Always Use Small Exits

RHYTHM—Rhythm Has Your Two Hips Moving

Invent your own mnemonics together for those words that your child struggles with the most.

### **Look, Cover, Write, Check (See Appendix 3)**

1. Adult-Write the word in the first column.
2. Child-Look at it carefully and say the word to yourself.
3. Cover the word up and picture it in your mind.
4. In the next column write the word.
5. Check the spelling against the first column.
6. Repeat the process every day.

### **Left hand, Right hand**

Practise writing your child's spellings together at the same time. The child writes with their preferred hand, you write the words with your opposite hand. Do this as a timed exercise. E.g. How many correct words can you write in 30 seconds?

### **Hunt the Word**

Write the words to be learnt on separate pieces of paper and hide them around the house. Give clues to help your child find the words and then spell them.

### **Word Cloud (See Appendix 2a and 2b)**

Create a word cloud or mind map around a word. Write the spelling pattern or sound in the middle of the page and have words coming off of the central sound. For example, ai in the middle with train, training, trainer coming off on one line and then rain on a different line.

### **Child as the teacher**

Allow your child to teach you the spellings. For example, write the words on cards. Play simple card games e.g.

They pick a card for you to spell, they check if you are correct, then you can swap over.

Play snap to increase familiarity with the word.

Pick up a card for your child, if they spell the word correctly they win that card, repeat with the child asking you.

### **Play Games on the Computer**

There are a variety of interactive games to play with your child to help their spelling. Here are a few

examples:

<http://resources.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/interactive/literacy.html#7>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

## Appendix 1

### Focusing and Extending

Most children will be working at the level of spelling exemplified by the half termly spelling lists. If your child is finding this list very challenging please focus upon a few words or sounds. If your child masters the words and sounds more rapidly and can use them in their everyday writing there are ways of extending their learning.

For example:

If *play* is written on the list and your child can already spell this confidently your child could explore words such as *played, playful or playing* using the word cloud activity.

If your child is learning the a-e split diagraph, the wordlist may say *made, came, same*. Your child could learn longer words with the same sound, such as, *shameful or stated* using the word detective activity.

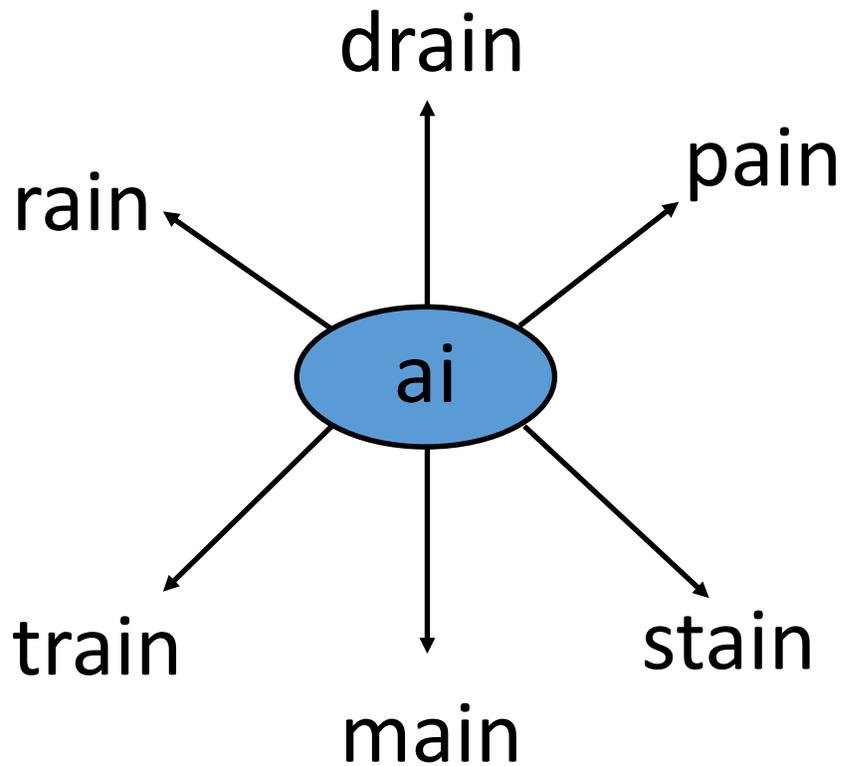
If your child is focusing upon common exception words such as *familiar* or *environment*, can they add suffixes accurately e.g. *familiarity, environmentalist*? You could use the left hand -right hand strategy.

Remember, it is always a good idea to practise words learnt previously!

## Appendix 2a

### Word Clouds-Example

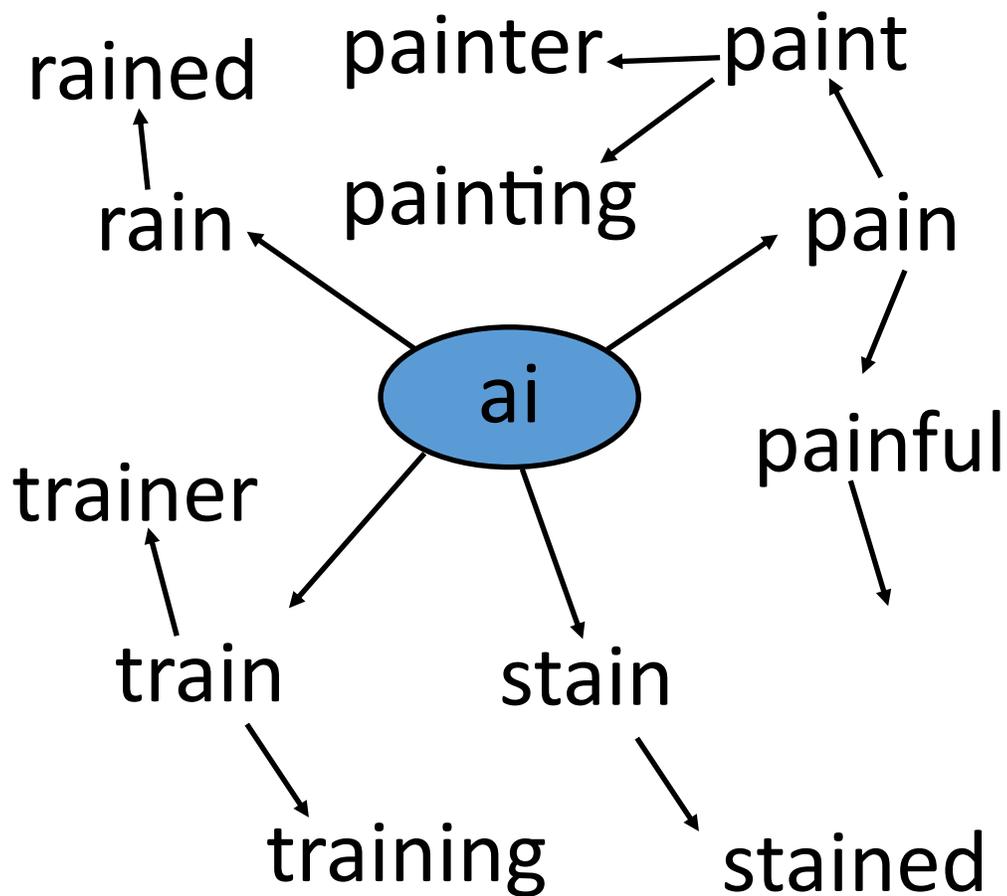
The following image shows you an example of how your child could draw a word cloud to learn a spelling rule or phonic sound if they choose to use this method.



## Appendix 2b

### Word Clouds-Example

If you child has already mastered the words on the list, the following image shows you an example of how your child could draw a word cloud to extend their spelling.



## Appendix 3

### Look, cover, write, check-Example

The following image shows you an example for how you could lay out the look, cover, write, check sheet if you choose to use this method to help your child learn their spellings.

Word from list (written by the parent or carer)	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
race					
ice					
cell					
city					
fancy					