

Spelling Strategies

What Do Good Spellers Do?

How Can You Be a Better Speller?

(Adapted from Expanding Expectations: Spelling)

- **Stretching out Words / Using Phonics**

Ask yourself, "What sounds do I hear when I say this word very slowly?" Upper grade students use this strategy mostly with words that have more than one syllable, especially compound words or words with known prefixes and suffixes.

- **Applying Knowledge of Word / Letter Patterns**

Ask yourself, "What other words do I know that can help me spell this word?" For example, if you know how to spell paw, you would also spell straw or dawn.

- **Applying Knowledge of the Background of Words**

Ask yourself, "What words or word parts are similar in other words that will help me to spell this word?" For example, if you know how to spell revolt, it would help you in spelling related words such as revolting, revolution, and revolutionary.

- **Using "Have-a-Go" (Using Visual Information)**

Write the word and ask yourself, "Does this word look right?" If it doesn't, try it again.

- **Applying Generalizations**

Ask yourself, "How does what I have learned help me spell new words?" For example, you can learn how to use ing or learn that /shun/ can be spelled cian, tion, or sion.

- **Using a Memory Aid**

Ask yourself, "How can I remember how this word is spelled?" For example, hear - I can hear with my ear, or friend - She is my friend to the end.