

## Creating a Spelling Notebook

To set up your student's Spelling Notebook, divide a spiral notebook into the following sections:

- **A - Z:** Two to three pages (26 sections) for each letter of the alphabet. Each time you notice a misspelled word in a student's written work, write the word on a list for the student. If the word is again misspelled in written work, the student must add it to his/her Spelling Notebook. Remember to add misspelled words that the spell-checker finds in work written using a word processor.
- **Homonyms:** Homonyms are the source of many spelling errors. (two, and too; its and it's; and there, they're, and their).
- **Spelling Rules:** If a word is continually misspelled have the student copy the spelling rule into the spelling notebook. If the word is an exception to the rule have them copy the rule with the exception.

English spelling can be very difficult. In languages such as Spanish, Italian, German, and Finnish, words are spelled as they are pronounced. English words often break phonetic rules. Even if a student learns all the spelling rules there are always exceptions to the rules. Looking up each word is also difficult. "How can I look it when I don't know how to spell it?" student's complain. It may be helpful to have a dictionary that allows you to look up the word by sound such as [Random House Webster's Pocket Bad Speller's Dictionary](#). or [Morrison's Sound-It-Out Speller](#). In these dictionaries, words are listed as they sound (allowances are made for common mispronunciations) and correct spelling is given.

If students turn in work over and over with the same words misspelled, you may need to become more firm. Businesses and corporations are faced with employees who cannot spell, and use different methods for correcting these problems. One effective example, although it's a bit extreme, is used by the Orlando Police Department. Police officers in training are required to write lengthy reports (back and front of a page in ink) that are turned in to their sergeants for review. The sergeant reviews the report with a red pen, circling any misspelled words. One error results in the officer rewriting the entire report (back and front). The trainee officers quickly learn to carry a pocket dictionary and carefully proofread reports. We're not suggesting that you use this approach; you don't want to discourage writing. But you can modify this approach by allowing students to use erasable ink. Hand back papers with spelling mistakes and ask for corrections. Encourage students to proofread aloud, always with pencil or pen in hand, and to proofread backwards.

For more information on this topic read "Steps to Become a Better Speller," "Spelling Rules," and "Commonly Misspelled Word List" in [Writers INC](#). On the next page is our list of Commonly Misspelled Words.

### Internet Sources



#### [Spelling Help for Bad Spellers](http://nv.essortment.com/spellinghelp_yyd.htm)

A number of things you can do to improve spelling.  
[http://nv.essortment.com/spellinghelp\\_yyd.htm](http://nv.essortment.com/spellinghelp_yyd.htm)



#### [Spelling Help and Learning New Words](http://www.kidswriting.about.com/cs/spellingvocab/)

From About.com. Links to help with English words: implied meanings; symbolism; etymology (history); spelling; definitions; homonyms, homophones, homographs; onomatopoeia; palindromes; pangrams; spelling lesson plans; easily confused words; online word games; word trivia. <http://www.kidswriting.about.com/cs/spellingvocab/>

# Commonly Misspelled Words

absence	comparative	formerly	occurred	reference
accidentally	compelled	forty	occurrence	referring
accommodate	conceivable	fourth	omitted	repetition
accumulate	conferred	frantically	opinion	restaurant
achievement	conscience	generally	opportunity	rhyme
acquaintance	conscientious	government	optimistic	rhythm
acquire	conscious	grammar	paid	ridiculous
acquitted	control	grandeur	parallel	sacrifice
advice	controversial	grievous	paralysis	sacrilegious
advise	controversy	height	paralyze	salary
all right	criticize	heroes	particular	schedule
amateur	deferred	hindrance	pastime	seize
among	definitely defini- tion	hoping	performance	sense
analysis	describe	humorous	permissible	separate
analyze	description	hypocrisy	perseverance	separation
annual	desperate	hypocrite	personal	sergeant
apartment	dictionary	immediately	personnel	severely
apparatus	dining	incidentally	perspiration	shining
apparent	disappearance	incredible	physical	similar
appearance	disappoint	independence	picnicking	sincerely
arctic	disastrous	inevitable	possession	sophomore
arguing	discipline	intellectual	possibility	specifically
argument	dissatisfied	intelligence	possible	specimen
arithmetic	dormitory	interesting	practically	statue
ascend	effect	irresistible knowl- edge	precede	studying
athletic	eighth	laboratory	precedence	succeed
attendance	eligible	laid	preference	succession
balance	eliminate	led	preferred	surprise
battalion	embarrass	lightning	prejudice	technique
beginning	eminent	loneliness	preparation	temperamental
belief	encouragement	lose	prevalent	tendency
believe	encouraging	losing	principal	tragedy
beneficial	environment	maintenance	principle	transferring
benefited	equipped	maneuver	privilege	tries
boundaries	especially	manufacture	probably	truly
Britain	exaggerate	marriage	procedure	tyranny
business	excellence	mathematics	proceed profes- sion	unanimous
calendar	exhilarate	maybe	professor	undoubtedly
candidate	existence	mere	prominent	unnecessary
category	existent	miniature	pronunciation	until
cemetery	experience	mischievous	pursue	usually
changeable	explanation	mysterious	quantity	village
changing	familiar	necessary	quizzes	villain
choose	fascinate	Negroes	recede	weather
chose	February	ninety	receive	weird
coming	fiery	noticeable	receiving	whether
commission	foreign	occasionally	recommend	woman