

A dog howled, ~~braeking~~ the  
comma → *breaking*

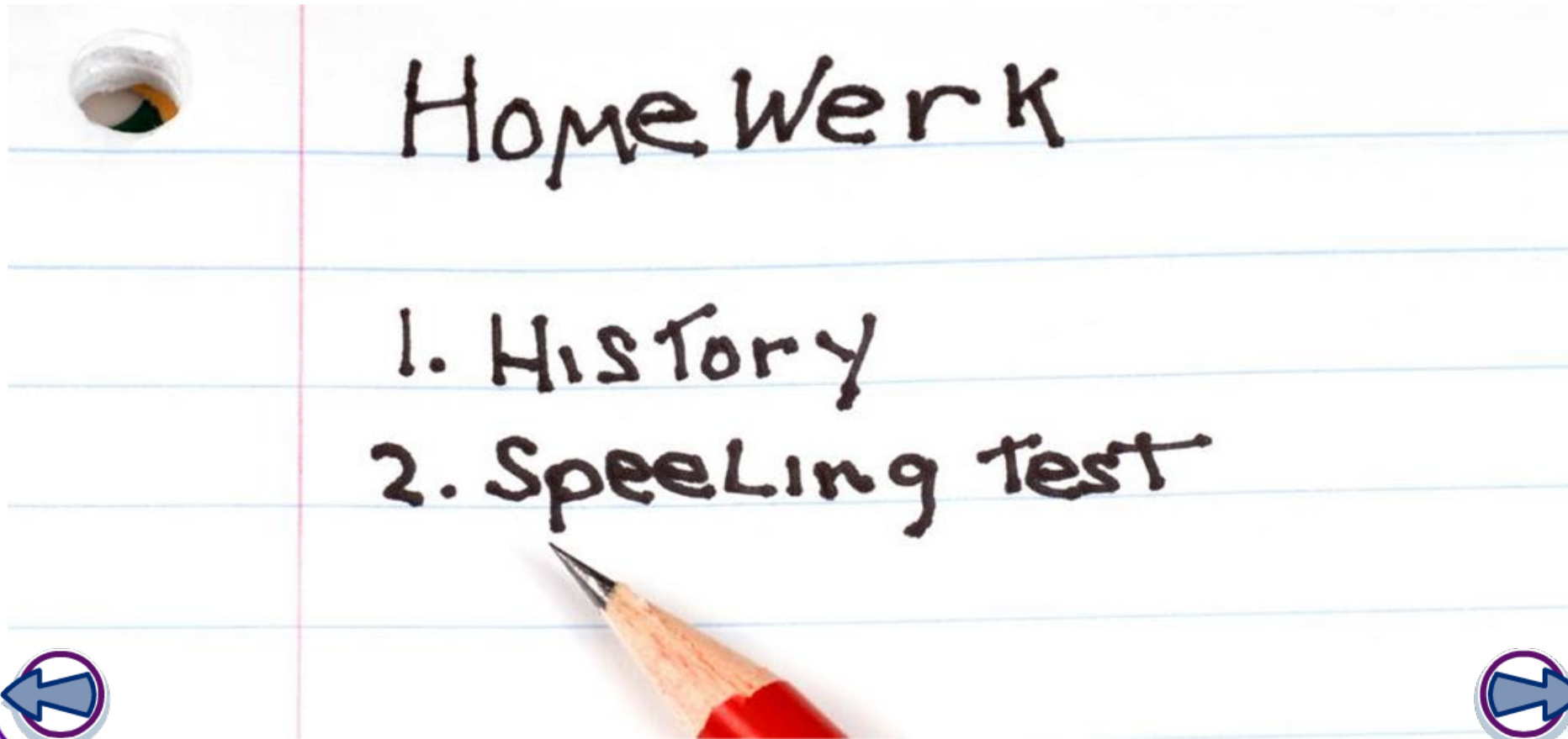
stillness. Someone was behind me...  
← *period* *ellipsis*

# Spelling Strategies

## Unit One



- How good is your spelling?
- Do you often misspell the same words?
- Do you know any strategies for improving your spelling?



Some common spelling mistakes include:

- putting **vowels** in the wrong order, e.g. 'freind'
- forgetting a vowel, e.g. 'defnite'
- confusion over whether or not to use double **consonants**, e.g. 'necessary'
- problems with **homophones**, e.g. **there/their**
- forgetting **silent letters**, e.g. 'nome'
- misspelling **plurals**, e.g. 'matchs'.



**Have you ever made any of these mistakes?**



# Test your spelling!

Use this quiz to identify which common spelling mistakes you make. Select the correct spelling of each commonly misspelled word. Press **start** to begin.

**start**



Here is a list of strategies that are useful to help you remember the spellings of long or tricky words.

1. sounding out the word
2. breaking the word apart
3. using mnemonics
4. study, cover, write, check
5. creating catchphrases
6. finding words within words
7. creating mental pictures
8. looking for letter patterns

In this unit we will look at strategies 1–5.

# Strategy 1 – sounding out the word

Splitting a word into its different **syllables** and sounding each syllable out can help you to spell long words.

For example: **re-mem-ber**

**bi-cy-cle**



Some words, particularly those with **unstressed** or **silent letters**, can be sounded out very deliberately.

**What are the unstressed letters in these words?**

**Wed-nes-day**

**def-i-nite**

**in-ter-est-ed**

Deliberately mispronouncing these words (by saying the unstressed syllables) can help you to remember their spellings!

**Think of five other words suitable for sounding out.**

Press the play button to listen to five words.  
Can you spell them?

**K**night

**K**nife

**P**lumber

**R**asp**b**erry

**D**eb**t**

What are the  
silent letters in  
these words?



Words with silent letters can be really difficult to spell.  
Try slowly sounding out each of these words, deliberately  
mispronouncing them by saying the silent letters.



Some vowels are difficult to hear clearly because they are spoken quickly or quietly.

For example:

**generous**

**respiratory**

**miserable**

**Listen to these words that all have unstressed vowels then write them down.**

**Did you spell them all correctly?**

**definitely**

**family**

**Wednesday**

**stationery**

**Which of the vowels were difficult to hear?**



Can you identify which of the words in these sentences are missing vowels, and which vowels they are missing?

1. I definitely want to major in mathematics and not busness at college.

I **definitely** want to major in **mathematics** and not **business** at college.



2. Our famly compny has a party evry year.

Our **family company** has a party **every** year.

3. The carpt factry genrally closes on Saturdays.

The **carpet factory generally** closes on Saturdays.

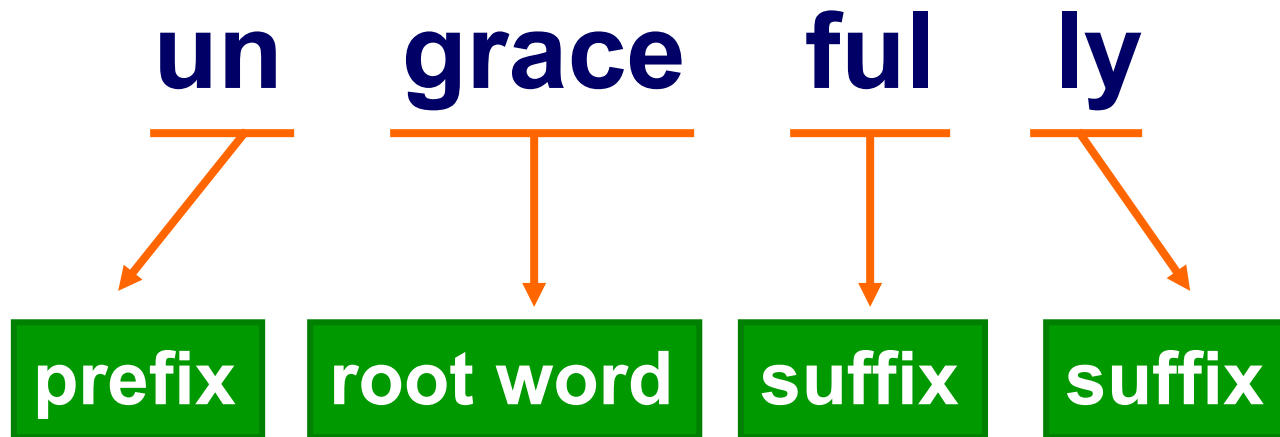


# Strategy 2 – breaking the word apart

Breaking down a long word down into **affixes** can help you to remember how it is spelled.

If you can spell each individual part of the word, you'll be able to put the parts together to spell the whole word correctly.

For example:



Can you think of any other long words that can be broken down into affixes?

# Breaking words apart



Can you identify the **prefixes**, **roots** and **suffixes** in the following words?

**unfavorable**



**un-favor-able**

**unemployment**



**un-employ-ment**

**misrepresented**



**mis-represent-ed**

**disagreement**



**dis-agree-ment**

**replaying**



**re-play-ing**

**unwanted**



**un-want-ed**



Watch the animation to learn about a simple spelling strategy. Then practice the strategy with five words you have particular trouble spelling! Press **start** to begin.

**start**



# Strategy 4 – using mnemonics

## Do you know what mnemonics are?

Mnemonics are rhymes or phrases that help you to remember the letters in a word.

## Do you know any mnemonics for these tricky words?

**rhythm** → **rhythm helps your two hips move**

**geography** → **granny eats old gray rats and paints houses yellow**

Make up mnemonics for the following tricky words:

**weird**

**business**

**receive**



# Strategy 5 – creating catchphrases

Does anyone have a technique for remembering how to spell the tricky word 'separate'?

For this tricky word you could use a catchy phrase.

'Separate is a rat of a word to spell.'

Does anyone have a technique for remembering how to spell the tricky word 'conscience'?



For this tricky word you could use a catch phrase like this:

Have a conscience and spend some study time on science.

Make up catchphrases for these words:

soldier

simile

column

# Spelling test



# Finding spelling mistakes



**Now write out the text with all the correct spellings.**