

Grade 7 Playlist: Spelling Correctly

Aligns with CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.7.2.B:

- Spell correctly.

Welcome

Spelling is one of the most important parts of knowing and using a language, but sometimes people don't pay as much attention to spelling as they should. It may seem like a simple thing, but writing the letters in a word in the correct order can make the difference between a clear, precise sentence and a sentence that is confusing or difficult to understand. All readers and writers should be able to recognize misspelled words and know the spelling rules that can be applied to commonly misspelled words. This will help them better understand what they are reading or writing, as well as how to prevent mistakes when writing.

Objectives

In this playlist, students will learn how to:

- recognize rules for spelling correctly.
- identify commonly misspelled words.

Exploring the Standard

Correct spelling is important for many reasons. For instance, it helps a writer express ideas clearly.

Correct spelling is also a sign of competency. If an essay is riddled with spelling errors, the author may come across as careless or inexperienced to the reader. Electronic tools like spelling-checker features are helpful for avoiding errors, but they are not perfect. The safest way to guard against misspellings is to become familiar with the rules of correct spelling.

Watch!

Watch this video to learn and practice some basic rules for spelling words correctly:

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j2qk6ZloAhI>

A Closer Look: Common Spelling Rules

When writers are editing a piece of writing, an electronic spell-check tool can be a great way to complete an initial review. Writers should not stop there, however. Spell-check tools sometimes overlook errors within the text. In some cases, they might even introduce new mistakes. This is why it is best for writers to complete a separate review with their own eyes.

Of course, there are many, many words in the English language, so memorizing the correct spelling of each is nearly impossible. Thankfully, there are rules of spelling that can be used to make the process much easier. In many words, the letters follow a pattern, or an order in which they are written. There are exceptions for most spelling rules, but for the most part, the rules are a sound way to keep track of a word's proper spelling.



Examples

Take a look at the following examples of general spelling rules:

- ***i* before *e* except after *c*; *cei***

In most cases, the vowels *ie* appear in that order, as in *view*, *achieve*, and *grieve*. However, the vowels *ei* also come together in many words. This pair is usually found after the letter *c*, as in *perceive* and *deceive*.

— Commonly misspelled words that feature *ei*: *receive*, *deceit*, *receipt*, *ceiling*, *conceit*

- ***i* before *e* except with the sound /ē/**

The vowels *ei* also come together to make the long *e* sound, /ē/, which is the same sound as the letter *a*.

— Commonly misspelled words that feature *ei*: *neighbor*, *weigh*, *sleigh*, *eight*, *freight*

- ***q* rarely written alone; usually *qu***

The letter *q* almost never appears by itself. Instead, it is usually paired with *u*, and the letter pair makes the sound /kw/. Some writers make the mistake of writing *q* on its own or pairing it with the letter *w*.

— Commonly misspelled words that feature *qu*: *frequently*, *liquidation*, *qualified*, *quotation*, *bouquet*, *adequate*, *consequently*

- **Words that end with a long *e* sound are often spelled with a *y* at the end.**

Sometimes it helps to sound out a word to figure out how to spell it. For example, lots of words end with a long *e* sound, but many of them are actually spelled with a *y*.

— Commonly misspelled words that feature a long *e* sound at the end but are spelled with a *y*: *wealthy*, *university*, *fortunately*, *ordinary*, *tragedy*, *supposedly*, *sincerity*, *secretary*, *obviously*, *scenery*, *economy*, *democracy*

Practice!

Play this game to practice spelling difficult words correctly:

- <http://www.homespellingwords.com/8th-grade/spelling-games/fill-in-the-blank-game-with-list-1>

Now, take a look at the following examples of spelling rules for forming plurals:

- **In general, plural words require an *s* at the end.**

Most singular nouns can be made plural by simply adding an *s* to the end of the word.

