



SPELLING

Do you want to improve your spelling?

Here are some things you can start to do:

If you want to improve your spelling you have to do **a lot of writing**. If you need to write for work or some other purpose, that's good. If not, start to write a little bit for yourself every day or so – a sort of diary or journal. You need to feel comfortable about 'having a go' at the spelling first. Just make it up if you are not sure. Even if nobody corrects it, it is a good thing to do.

- When you write a word you are not sure of, look it up, or ask someone, then try these tips to help you **practice** and **learn**:
 - Look at the word carefully. Try to photograph it in your mind. (Make sure the spelling is correct!)
 - Focus on the difficult bit. Why did you get it wrong? How can you remember the correct spelling?
 - Write it out several times
 - Spell it to yourself as you write each letter.
 - Cover and try to write it from memory.
 - 10 minutes later, try again
 - An hour later try again
 - Next day, try again
 - and again, until it's in your long term memory.

- Keep these words you are learning in a Personal Dictionary. That is, a small notebook with an alphabetical index down the side, like an address book. Enter all your difficult words there so you can find them easily. (Much easier than looking them up in a dictionary.)



- Start to become curious about the spelling of the words you see all round you in signs and advertising. (However, be careful with advertisements. They often use made-up words like 'lite' instead of 'light'.)

I wonder if any other words are spelt with 'sc' like *science*?

.That's funny - *magic* is spelt with a 'g'.
I would have thought it was a 'j'.

If you want a more structured way to improve your spelling, you could try:

- **A course**

Call the **Reading Writing Hotline** and talk to one of the helpful teachers about doing a course. There may be one near you or you could do a course online.

- **A book**

If you want a book you can work through by yourself this one is written for adults:

The Spelling Guide

Available from Diamond Valley Learning Centre

03 9435 9060

- **A useful website**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic-group/spelling>