

Developing Independence in Learning Tricky Spellings

Choose one of your tricky spellings. Then...

Step 1: Segmenting (hearing all of the phonemes/sounds in your word)

Use a phoneme frame to segment the word into...

- **Phonemes:** if it is a one syllable word
e.g. drop = d - r - o - p
- **Syllables:** if it is multi-syllabic
e.g. animal = an - i - mal

Step 2: Repeat Writing

How many times can you correctly write the word in one minute?

Each time you write the word, focus on the tricky part, on spelling it correctly and on your handwriting.

After one minute, look carefully at your words: which word, in your opinion, is correctly spelt and in your BEST handwriting? Circle it, and tell someone why you've chosen it!

Step 3: You Choose!

Now, depending on the word that you've chosen, select a strategy, or strategies, below which you think would be particularly helpful for you to learn how to spell it:

- **LSCSC:** look, say, cover, spell, check
 - **Shape:** draw the shape of the word, clearly showing ASCENDERS and DESCENDERS. This is really useful words which have silent consonants e.g. when, light, climb, knee, yacht, receipt
 - **Pyramid writing:** write your word down the page, adding one more letter each time
 - **Writing the word into a sentence:** this is particularly useful for words which are HOMOPHONES, because it gives you the opportunity to show that you know the meaning
 - **Create a mnemonic:** sometimes it is really helpful to create a mnemonic to help you remember a spelling
e.g. because = big elephants can't always use small exits
e.g. said = Sally Ann in dancing
- Getting creative:** write the word and the tricky part in a bright colour, or colours, perhaps with an image to go with it to help you to remember its spelling!