
Teaching, not testing, spelling with Spelling Journals

Webinar handout

by Olena Gyrych

Here are some fun spelling activities you can use with your students in class:

1. Use multisensory activities: model words with clay, Cuisenaire rods or even cooked spaghetti. Have a competition to see who will make words fastest.
2. Finding words inside words. For example, “Never get **separated** from your parachute,” helps you remember to spell ‘**separate**’.
3. Racing unscrambling with cards. Create a lot of small cards with the letters of the alphabet on. Make sure you have duplicates and triplicates of some letters! In small groups, the teacher says a word and the students race to make the words with their letters.
4. Back draw. Each student draws the word, letter by letter onto the back of the person in front of them. If the student in front of them knows the letter, they nod their head. If they are unsure, they tap their shoulder so the student can rewrite the letter on their back. This continues until the word is complete. Then, the next student draws the word onto the back of the person in front of them. When the word reaches the person at the front of the line, the student stands up and writes it on the board.
5. Tic-Tac-Toe. Each word is missing one, two or three letters depending on students’ level. One student from each team is called up and must fill in the missing letter(s) and say the word aloud. The team with three in a row wins.
6. Hot potato ball-game for spelling.
7. Word search <https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com>
8. Word Ladder invented by Lewis Carroll.

A suggested list of links to include in the spelling journal:

<https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/>

<https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/vocabulary/vocabulary-games/sushi-spell>

<https://www.digitaldialects.com/English.htm>

<https://www.gamestolearnenglish.com/spelling-bee/>

<https://mrnussbaum.com/spellerz-customizable-online-spelling-and-typing-game>

<https://quizlet.com/en-gb>

* all of them can be used inside and outside the class.

Watch a recording of Olena's webinar here: <https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/news-events/world-teachers-day-2023/world-teachers-day-2023-thursday-5-october>