

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION . . . Celebrate Basic Spelling Skills	7
Skills Checklist for Spelling	8
SKILLS EXERCISES	9
Trouble-Makers . . . (Commonly Misspelt Words)	10
Words That Puzzle . . . (Commonly Misspelt Words)	11
Seeing Double . . . (Words with Double Letters)	12
A Devious Duo . . . (Spelling Rule: I and E)	13
Rule Breakers . . . (Exceptions to Spelling Rules)	14
The Outrageous O . . . (Words with 'O')	15
The Silent Treatment . . . (Silent Letters)	16
'F' in Disguise . . . (Words with GH and PH)	17
To Begin With . . . (Prefixes)	18
At the Root of It . . . (Roots)	19
Spelling 'Ant'-Ics . . . (Special Endings)	20
Edible Endings . . . (Special Endings)	21
A Mess in the End . . . (Special Endings)	22
Watch Your Tail! . . . (Special Endings)	23
Tricky Endings . . . (Special Endings)	24
More Tricky Endings . . . (Special Endings)	25
Trouble in the Middle . . . (Vowel Combinations)	26
Look-Alikes & Sound-Alikes . . . (Words That Look or Sound Similar)	27
More Likely Alike . . . (Words That Look or Sound Similar)	28
Borrowed Words . . . (Words of Foreign Origin)	29
Wild, Weird, & Wacky Words . . . (Unusual Words)	30

Words That Confuse . . . (Confusing Words)	31
How to Turn a Flea into a Leaf . . . (Rearranging Letters)	32
Small Problems . . . (Troublesome Small Words)	33
These Are a Mouthful . . . (Big Words)	34
Names to Know . . . (Proper Nouns)	35
Aardvarks & Emus . . . (Animal Names)	36
Words on the Job . . . (Words from Professions)	37
Words on the Move . . . (Active Words)	38
Feast on These . . . (Food Words)	39
Characteristically Speaking . . . (Words for Characterisation)	40
A Letter of Quality . . . (Words with Q)	41
From Sacred to Sassafras . . . (Words with S)	42
The Trouble with W . . . (Words with W)	43
X-Ceptional Words . . . (Words with X)	44
Y Not? . . . (Words with Y)	45
Laughable Words . . . (Funny Words)	46
Emphatically Speaking! . . . (Correcting Misspelt Words)	47
Help Needed! . . . (Correcting Misspelt Words)	48
Erroneous Headlines . . . (Correcting Misspelt Words)	49
 APPENDIX	 51
300+ Commonly Misspelt Words	52
Words That Confuse	54
Spelling Rules	56
Spelling Skills Test	57
Skills Test Answer Key	59
Answers	60

CELEBRATE BASIC SPELLING SKILLS

Basic does not mean boring! There certainly is nothing dull about . . .

- . . . tracking down imposter letters that masquerade as other sounds
- . . . finding out where molasses, mosquitos, and zombies came from
- . . . having success spelling foods, animals, cities, jobs, and people's quirks
- . . . showing off by spelling mouthful words like *arteriosclerosis* and *phosphorescence*
- . . . deciding if you're seeing double when you read 3 double letters in *Tennessee*
- . . . getting control over that devious duo that messes up so many words: I and E
- . . . tackling troublesome words and getting the better of them
- . . . learning when to let letters be silent and when to let them speak
- . . . cleaning up outrageously misspelt headlines, titles, and letters

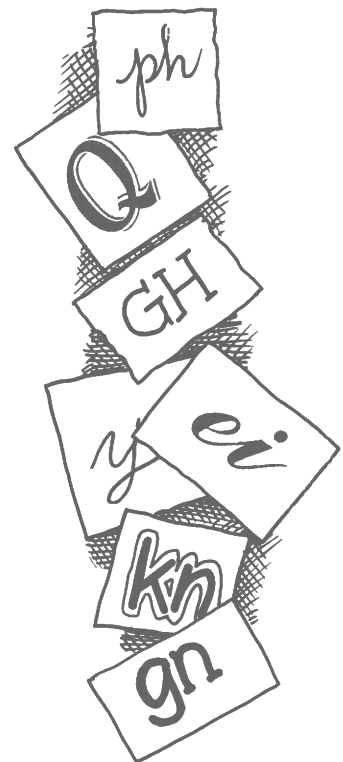
The idea of celebrating the basics is just what it sounds like—enjoying and improving the basic skills of spelling that increase success with reading and writing. The pages that follow are full of exercises for students that will help to review and strengthen specific skills in the content area of language arts. This is not just another 'fill-in-the-blanks' way to learn. The high-interest exercises will put students to work focusing on and applying the most important skills of spelling while enjoying fun and challenging activities with words of all kinds.

The pages in this book can be used in many ways:

- for individual students to sharpen or practise a skill
- with a small group needing to relearn or strengthen a skill
- as an instructional tool for teaching a skill to any size group
- by students working on their own
- by students working under the direction of a teacher or parent

Each page may be used to introduce a new skill, to reinforce a skill, or to assess a student's performance of a skill. And, there's more than just the great student activity pages! You'll also find a hearty appendix of resources helpful for students and teachers—including a ready-to-use test for assessing these spelling skills.

As students take on the challenges of these adventures with words, they will grow in their mastery of spelling and will enjoy learning to the fullest. And as you watch them check off the basic spelling skills they've sharpened, you can celebrate with them!




TROUBLE-MAKERS

These are some of the most commonly misspelt words in the English language—some of those words that are always causing trouble for spellers. Two spellers have each written the same twenty-five words below. Each word is spelt correctly on one list and misspelt on the other. Examine both lists. Cross out the MISSPELLINGS. Notice how they're misspelt. These are errors spellers frequently make in these particular words. Don't let these trouble-makers trip **you** up any more!

MEDLAND MIDDLE SCH.
v.
ASHFORD MIDDLE SCH.


MY WORDS ARE SPELLED CORRECTLY, AND YOURS ARE NOT!



1. business
2. defense
3. receive
4. citizen
5. chocolate
6. February
7. lisenca
8. potato
9. fortunate
10. enuf
11. ocur
12. Wensday
13. cheif
14. exercize
15. summersalt
16. separate
17. cinammon
18. privilege
19. dinasour
20. restaurant
21. answer
22. abcense
23. benefit
24. advertize
25. suprise

ANNUAL SPELL-OFF

AU CONTRAIRE! I'M RIGHT AND YOU'RE WRONG!



1. buisness
2. defence
3. recieve
4. citazen
5. chocalate
6. Febuary
7. license
8. potatoe
9. fortunite
10. enough
11. occur
12. Wednesday
13. chief
14. exercise
15. somersault
16. seperate
17. cinnamon
18. privalege
19. dinosaur
20. resturant
21. anser
22. absence
23. benifit
24. advertise
25. surprise

Who has the most words spelt correctly? _____

Name _____

300+ COMMONLY MISSPELT WORDS

absence	breakfast	desert	height
accident	breath (n.)	diamond	here
account	breathe (v.)	difference	history
accurate	brief	doctor	hoarse
accuse	built	does	hour
ache	bureau	done	hypothesis
achieve	burglar	don't	icicle
architect	business	early	ignorance
acre	busy	easy	immature
address	buy	education	immediately
adolescent	cafeteria	efficiency	improvement
advertise	canal	embarrass	incident
again	cannot	empty	independence
aisle	canoe	enough	infection
allowance	can't	every	influence
already	capacity	exhaust	initial
always	carburettor	explain	innocent
amateur	carton	extraordinary	interrupt
ambulance	cashier	fatigue	interview
among	caught	February	irregular
ancient	certain	forget	island
angel	character	forty	instead
anniversary	chief	fountain	jealous
anonymous	choose	fourth	jeopardy
answer	chorus	fragile	journal
anxious	climb	frequent	journey
any	cocoa	friend	juice
August	collar	frighten	just
baking	colour	gauge	justice
balloon	column	genius	kitchen
beauty	coming	ghost	knead
beautiful	committee	gnaw	knew
because	cough	gorgeous	knife
been	could	graduate	knives
beginning	country	grammar	knock
believe	courage	grief	know
benefit	courtesy	guarantee	laboratory
bicycle	damage	guess	laid
biscuit	dear	half	language
blizzard	deceive	having	lawyer
blue	defence	hear	league
brake	deficient	heaven	legislature
break	delicious	heard	library

WORDS THAT CONFUSE

- accept** (receive) — **except** (exclude)
- ad hoc** (temporary) — **ad lib** (unrehearsed remark)
- advice** (recommendation) — **advise** (give advice)
- affect** (to influence) — **effect** (result)
- all together** (all in a group) — **altogether** (completely)
- allude** (refer to) — **elude** (to escape)
- allusion** (an indirect reference) — **illusion** (a false impression)
- anxious** (uneasy) — **eager** (enthusiastic)
- astrology** (telling the future by the stars) — **astronomy** (the study of planets and stars)
- avenge** (to get justice) — **revenge** (retaliation to get even)
- censor** (someone who prohibits something) — **censure** (to criticise)
- cite** (to refer to) — **quote** (to repeat precisely)
- clench** (to grip tightly) — **clinch** (to fasten together)
- complacent** (showing satisfaction) — **compliant** (submissive)
- confidant** (someone you tell secrets to) — **confident** (certain, sure)
- connote** (to suggest another meaning) — **denote** (to express clearly)
- credulous** (gullible, will believe anything) — **credible** (believable)
- diagnosis** (identifying the problem) — **prognosis** (predicting what to expect)
- diffuse** (to spread out) — **defuse** (to lower or end an explosive situation)
- elicit** (to obtain information) — **illicit** (illegal)
- elegy** (a funeral song or poem) — **eulogy** (words of praise spoken at a funeral)
- equinox** (time that day & night are same length) — **solstice** (longest & shortest days of the year)
- epic** (a long narrative poem about a hero) — **saga** (a story with many scenes)
- exception** (removed from a usual expectation) — **exemption** (to excuse from obligation)
- explicit** (clearly stated) — **implicit** (suggested but not stated clearly)
- flaunt** (show off) — **flout** (openly disregard)
- immigrant** (one who has gone to a new country) — **migrant** (one who moves from place to place)
- imminent** (near at hand) — **eminent** (prominent, high in ability)
- imply** (suggest) — **infer** (draw conclusions based on information)
- incandescent** (intensely bright and clear) — **iridescent** (shimmering with rainbow colour)
- legato** (music with smooth sound) — **staccato** (disjointed, choppy music)
- libel** (to publish damaging information) — **slander** (to say false things about someone)