

Literacy Skills

Spelling Rules

You CAN improve your spelling.

As you will be awarded marks on your final exams for the accuracy of your spelling then it is worth spending time trying to improve it. If you have been told that your spelling is poor, do not despair; be positive and adopt some of the methods shown here.

Methods to use

METHOD 1 - Rather than trying to memorise a long list of 'difficult' words, make your own list of words you want to remember.

METHOD 2 - Write down words you mis-spell. To learn each one look at it carefully, say it out aloud, cover it up, and then write it down without looking at your original. Check and repeat if necessary.

METHOD 3 - Learn groups of words with the same combination of letters.

METHOD 4 - Learn how words are built up e.g. DIS + APPOINT + MENT = DISAPPOINTMENT

Some spelling rules to learn

	OUR EXAMPLES	YOUR EXAMPLES
RULE 1 - 'i' before 'e' except immediately after 'c' or when sounded as 'a'	RECEIVE NEIGHBOUR	
RULE 2 - for words ending in more than one consonant do not double the final consonant	WALK - WALKED PROMPT - PROMPTED	
RULE 3 - for words ending in soft 'ce' or 'ge' keep the 'e' before 'able' and 'ous'	ADVANTAGEOUS NOTICEABLE	
RULE 4 - for verbs ending in 'ie' change the ending to 'y' before adding 'ing'	DIE - DYING LIE - LYING	
RULE 5 - drop the final 'e' before a suffix beginning with a vowel	RACE - RACING WEAVE - WEAVING	
RULE 6 - keep the final 'e' before a suffix beginning with a consonant	FIERCE - FIERCELY PEACE - PEACEFUL	

N.B. Unfortunately each rule has a **few** exceptions.