

## WHY ENGLISH IS HARD TO LEARN

We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*,  
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.  
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*,  
Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*;  
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.  
The plural of *man* is always *men*,  
But the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,  
And I give you a *book*, would a pair be a *beek*?  
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,  
Why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*,  
Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*,  
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.  
Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;  
But imagine the feminine . . . *she*, *shis*, and *shim*!

- ANONYMOUS

Please download  
the 'Kahoot' app  
from your phone's  
app store. It  
should be free!



# THE TEACHING OF ENGLISH AT BJS - SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD WITH SPELLINGS



Please enter the game pin and give yourself  
a name ... an alias perhaps?!

**Game  
PIN:  
0660282**



# Aims and Objectives

- To share how spelling is taught in school and how different approaches are used to support children's learning.
- To provide you with some ideas as to how you can support your child's spelling at home.



# Why is correct spelling important?



# What makes spelling in English so challenging?

26 letters of the alphabet

44 sounds or 'phonemes'

19 – vowel sounds

25 – consonant sounds

Sounds can be represented by more than one letter, e.g. sh–o–p

One sound can be represented in a variety of different ways, e.g. shop, chef, sugar, tissue

• One spelling can represent a variety of sounds e.g. moon, book.



- How many words can you find that use the 'ough' letter string?
- How many different sounds does 'ough' make ?



# What makes spelling in English so challenging?

I take it you already know  
Of **tough** and **bough** and **cough** and **dough**?  
Others may stumble but not you  
On **hiccough**, **thorough**, **Slough** and **through**.  
Well done! And now you wish perhaps,  
To learn of less familiar traps?  
Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
That looks like beard and sounds like bird.  
And dead, it's said like bed, not bead  
for goodness' sake don't call it 'deed'!  
Watch out for meat and great and threat  
(they rhyme with suite and straight and debt).



# What makes a good speller?

“Children who find spellings difficult usually have little to no strategies up their sleeve when they get stuck on a word.

To help them become better spellers they need to acquire a range of different approaches to help them.”

*Pie Corbett*

# What makes a good speller?

- Good visual memory
- Recognise rhyme and rhythm
- Distinguish sounds around them
- Oral blending and segmenting
- Observe order of events
- Recognise parts of a whole
- Recognise syllables
- Rules / patterns / strategies
- Awareness of exceptions / tricky words
- Alphabet – phonemes (sounds) and graphemes
- Write fluently
- Prefixes / suffixes
- Positive attitude
- Perseverance



To support children, we teach them to apply:

- Phonics
- Words within words
- Grammatical knowledge
- Memory and experience
- Existing knowledge
- Synonyms



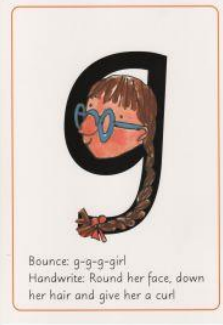
# Spelling at school

## Phonics

- Reception to Year 2.
- Letter and sound correspondences
- Segmenting words (splitting them into the smallest sounds – phonemes) to spell
- Irregular / high frequency words e.g. *the*, *people*



a



- Read Write Inc. is a reading and writing programme
- Using pure sounds
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCBzNnSSxds>

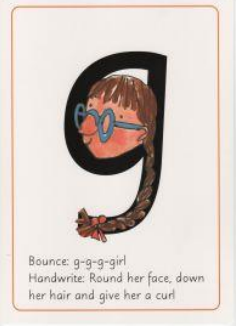
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## READING

- Learn 44 sounds using simple picture prompts.
- Learn to read words blending sounds.

a



# WRITING

- Learn to write the letter or letters which represent the 44 sounds.
- Learn to spell words; saying the phonemes by using 'Fred fingers'



## Complex Speed Sounds

### Consonant sounds

f	l	m	n	r	s	v	z	sh	th	ng
ff	ll	mm	nn	rr	ss	ve	zz	ti		nk
ph	le	mb	kn	wr	se		s	ci		
					c		se			
					ce					

b	c	d	g	h	j	p	qu	t	w	x	y	ch
bb	k	dd	gg		g	pp		tt	wh			tch
	ck				ge							
	ch				dge							
















### Vowel sounds

a	e	i	o	u	ay	ee	igh	ow
	ea				<u>a</u> -e	y	<u>i</u> -e	<u>o</u> -e
					ai	ea	ie	oa
						e	i	o
							y	

oo	oo	ar	or	air	ir	ou	oy	ire	ear	ure
<u>u</u> -e			oor	are	ur	ow	oi			
ue			ore		er					
ew			aw							
			au							

# Spelling at school

A collection of 18 educational cards for spelling practice, each featuring an illustration and a word in a segmented format. The cards are arranged in a grid-like pattern on a blue background. The words shown are: pram, drip, plug, bank, tag, a woman in a yellow headscarf, a girl drinking, a boy with a skateboard, swim, brush, frog, tree, leaf, a boy's face, and a hand. Some cards have empty boxes for writing the word.

 p r a m	 d r i p	 p l u g	 b a n k	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
 s w i m	 b r u s h	 f r o g	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	 [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]	

# Spelling at school

Years 3 – 6

- Building on understanding of phonics
- Prefixes and suffixes to modify words
- Letter strings e.g. /shun/ station, passion, magician



# Spelling at home

- Spend time helping – little and often is best
- Focus on the focus!!
- Play games – make it as fun and as enjoyable as possible
- Give lots of encouragement and celebrate successes!



# Spelling at home

- Help your children identify the part of the word they can spell and celebrate this as a success!
- Explore what part of the word they find tricky. Discuss why they find these letters harder (is it that they often write them in the wrong order, or that they miss out a letter, or add in extra letters?)
- Think of strategies together to help your children remember these specific, tricky letters e.g. highlight them, draw a picture around them, write those letters bigger...)


# Silly stories

- desperate
- coat
- people
- school
- rescue
- necessary
- shouted
- brave
- letter
- beware
- yacht
- vehicle
- disappoint
- choice

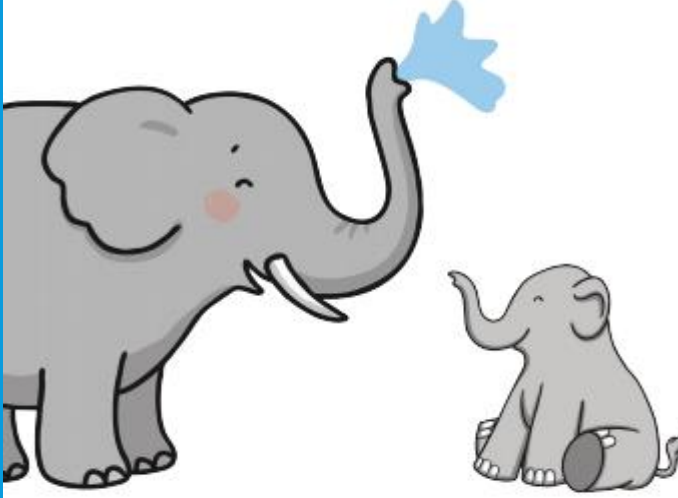
# mnemonics

- because
- said
- where
- were
- friend
- could
- there

**friend**  
fri the end of your friend



**because**  
big elephants can  
always understand small  
elephants



**said**  
silly ants in dresses



# Words within words

grandmother

something

everywhere

# Edit and improve

Ross wore a \_\_\_\_\_ top when  
he declared he was 'fine!'

blu            bloo

blew          blue

blou          bleu

