

# Essential Guide to Spelling

Tips for Learning Hard Words	2
Spelling Rules	6
Commonly Confused Words and Spellings	10
Commonly Misspelled Words	15

## Tips for Learning Hard Words

You can improve your spelling a lot by learning the rules and getting to know the patterns that come up regularly. However, knowing the principles of spelling can only get you so far. There are times when you just have to learn how to spell a particular word. So here are some tips for getting the tricky words right and getting them to stay in your mind.

### ① Mnemonics

A **mnemonic**, which is pronounced nim-**on**-nik, is a saying or rhyme that helps you remember something. Mnemonics can help you remember anything, not just spelling. You may already know mnemonics for other things, for example **Richard Of York Gives Battle In Vain**, which is often used as a way to remember the colours of the rainbow (because the first letters of each word correspond to the first letters of the colours red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet). Another well-known mnemonic is the verse beginning 'Thirty days has September', which helps you remember how many days are in each month.

Here are some types of mnemonics that can help with spelling.

### Initial-letter mnemonics

In some mnemonics, the word you want to remember is spelt out by the initial letters of all the words in a sentence or phrase.

<b>beautiful</b>	=	<b>B</b> ig <b>e</b> lephants <b>a</b> re <b>u</b> seful to <b>I</b> ndians for <b>u</b> nloading logs
<b>buoy</b>	=	<b>B</b> ig <b>u</b> nsinkable <b>o</b> cean <b>y</b> acht
<b>chaos</b>	=	<b>C</b> itizens <b>h</b> ave <b>a</b> bolished <b>o</b> ur <b>s</b> ystem
<b>gauge</b>	=	<b>G</b> reat <b>A</b> unt <b>U</b> na <b>g</b> rows <b>e</b> ggplants
<b>heir</b>	=	<b>H</b> appy <b>E</b> dward is rich
<b>rhythm</b>	=	<b>R</b> oger <b>h</b> ates <b>y</b> our <b>t</b> errible <b>h</b> eavy <b>m</b> etal

### Partial initial-letter mnemonics

In some mnemonics, a phrase just acts as a reminder of how to spell the tricky bits of a word, but does not spell out the whole word.

<b>accelerate</b>	=	<i>If it can <b>accelerate</b>, a car can easily lead every race</i>
<b>attach</b>	=	<i>Attach a coat <b>hook</b> to the wall</i>
<b>familiar</b>	=	<i>Someone who is <b>familiar</b> is a regular</i>
<b>jodhpurs</b>	=	<i>You wear <b>jodhpurs</b> when you ride a dappled horse</i>
<b>neurotic</b>	=	<i>The government is <b>neurotic</b> about the European Union</i>
<b>surgeon</b>	=	<i>Surgeons <b>graft ears</b> on</i>

### Partial mnemonics

Another type of mnemonic uses words or syllables that are contained within the difficult word to help you remember it.

<b>address</b>	=	<i><b>Add</b> your <b>address</b></i>
<b>beggar</b>	=	<i>There is a <b>beggar</b> in the <b>garden</b></i>
<b>cemetery</b>	=	<i>A <b>cemetery</b> is <b>very</b> scary</i>
<b>friend</b>	=	<i>My <b>friend</b> likes <b>fries</b></i>
<b>interrupt</b>	=	<i>It is <b>terribly</b> rude to <b>interrupt</b></i>
<b>optimistic</b>	=	<i><b>Tim</b> is <b>optimistic</b></i>

But the best mnemonics are often ones that you make up yourself. If you base these phrases around words and topics that mean something to you, you are more likely to remember them. For example, you might use the names of your friends, your pets, or your family members, or you might make up sentences that relate to your hobbies. Try to make up your own mnemonics for words you find hard to remember.