

ESL Spell

The 2008 Adult ESL Spelling Competition

STUDY TIPS AND PREPARATION HINTS

Tip #1

Say, listen and write

There are many words that you can spell correctly if you say the words slowly and listen to each sound in the word.

Tip #2

Make a word family

Words that rhyme and have the same spelling pattern belong to the same word family. If you learn to spell one of these words, you will be able to spell all of the words.

Tip #3

Divide and conquer

If you have to spell a big word, divide the word into parts. Look for common beginning parts, common end parts and little words in the big word.

Tip #4

Study the four major spelling rules

1. The Doubling Rule
2. The Y rule
3. The silent E rule
4. The Drop the E rule

When you learn these rules, you can use them to help you spell many new words.

Tip #5

Look for tricky parts

Remember to.....

- 1) read the word slowly
- 2) mark the tricky part
- 3) study the tricky part
- 4) write the word
- 5) check the spelling

These preparation hints can be found in *The Spelling Toolbox* by Linda Kita-Bradley. Maybe you and your coach can think of other effective ways.

BUT—this is just to get you started. Remember that you will not be able to write the words during the competition. You must be able to see them with your eyes closed! So please read the next page!

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STUDY TIPS AND PREPARATION HINTS, p.2

Tip #6

Spell the word from memory

- 1) Close your eyes
- 2) Picture the word in your mind
- 3) Try to picture the different little parts of the word
- 4) See the letters of each part in your mind
- 5) Try to say all the letters as you see them

That's it! You have just spelled the word from memory.

Tip #7

Which words are hard? Which are easy?

- 1) Put a check mark beside the easy words
- 2) Put a little asterisk (or star) next to the hard words.
Or use another system that works for you.
- 3) Study the hard words first
- 4) Then review the easy ones

Tip #8

You and your Coach

- 1) Your coach must make sure that you are not writing the words
- 2) Your coach must make sure that you are spelling from memory
- 3) If you make a mistake, you can look at the spelling list
- 4) Then try to spell the word again from memory
- 5) Do the hard words first
- 6) Ask your coach to mix up the hard words and the easy words
- 7) Ask you coach to mix up the order of the words on the list more and more until you are able to spell them easily and correctly, no matter what the order.

And remember to have fun! That's the most important thing. You can have more than one coach. You can have many coaches. Get your classmates to take turns to help you. Ask your teachers. Get your friends involved. Ask your family to help you.

And above all—

GOOD LUCK!