

Year 4 Spelling: How to help at home

1. Help with spelling homework

If your child is struggling with a spelling list they have been asked to learn, here are a few ideas to help:

- Remind your child to regularly check through their writing for spelling errors. They need to develop a feel for whether a word looks right. They could underline words they are not sure of and then check with a dictionary.
- Use over-pronunciation. So for Wednesday, encourage children to say Wed-nes-day as they write. There are lots of words which feature sounds that aren't always pronounced clearly (such as words ending in -ed), and over-emphasising these while spelling them out can help fix the spelling in your child's memory.
- Ask your child to write down the words that they need to remember how to spell. The physical act of writing the words by hand helps to anchor the spelling in children's memories and encourages them to think about the letters that represent the sounds in the word. Typing the words into a PC or tablet isn't as effective.
- Focus your child's attention on the tricky bits in a word by asking them to highlight them. For example, show them that said has 'ai' in the middle and ask them to write the word, and then highlight or underline this part to help them remember. Few resources are more motivating than a highlighter pen for primary-aged children!

2. Play spelling games

- Playing games can help children to learn about spelling in an enjoyable way. Watch grammar expert Charlotte Raby's video '*How can I help my child with grammar, punctuation and spelling?*' to see some fun and easy games: [Video playlist: How can I help my child with SPaG?](#)
- Online games such as [Word worm](#) can be motivating, and so can more traditional games like hangman.
- Making silly [sentences](#) can be great fun too. Challenge your child to write a silly sentence, including as many of the words on their spelling list as possible. For example, your child may have to learn 'room took hoop foot book'. They could make up a silly sentence such as '*The boy took his book across the room but got his foot caught in a hoop*'. Why not draw illustrations to go with the sentences?

3. Find the right resources

Learning to spell is a gradual process and mastering English's complex spelling system can take time. All children are different: some pick up spelling quickly, while others take longer. Whatever their level, there are lots of [free spelling activities](#) to support them.

Year 3 & 4 spelling word list

100 words children are expected to be able to spell by the end of Year 4 – click on the picture below or look for the sheet in your child's home folder:

