

Spelling

Phonics is the key to both reading and spelling, which go hand in hand – spelling (encoding) is the reverse of reading (decoding). However, spelling is more difficult than reading, so schools need to keep teaching spelling in Year 2 and beyond, after children have finished learning the phonics they need for fluent reading. The National Curriculum spelling requirements for Year 2 are a good place to start.

There are several techniques that can help children learn to spell, including:

- **Links to phonics**

It's important to help children link the spellings of words back to the phonics they already know – so they can tackle a tricky word like 'beautiful' by using phonics to identify the parts that are straightforward ('b/tiful') and the part that is tricky ('eau' is pronounced /yoo/ in this word). It then becomes easier to remember the tricky bit of the spelling, rather than treating the whole word as tricky. Bug Club Phonics teaches children the skill of breaking down 'tricky' or irregular words into the regular and irregular parts of the word, laying the foundations for this method.

- **Morphology**

Morphology means dividing a word up into meaningful parts, including prefixes and suffixes. So in the word 'beautiful', for example, there's a suffix (-ful) which shows the word is an adjective – this suffix is always spelled the same way. The rest of the word (beauti) is basically the root word, 'beauty', but we need to change the 'y' to an 'i' when we add the suffix.

- **Etymology**

Etymology is the study of word origins. Finding out where a word comes from is often interesting, and with experience it can also help children make connections between words, which can be helpful for remembering spellings. So for instance, 'beautiful' comes originally from French, and the modern French word 'beauté' is similar in spelling. The tricky parts for spelling in 'beauty' and 'beautiful' are the same.



Grammar and Spelling Bug is a rich online resource for the whole school that contains everything you need for teaching all of the spelling, grammar and punctuation requirements of the National Curriculum. Its spelling guidance includes advice and activity ideas for using all of the above methods and more, encouraging an investigative approach where children discover spelling rules for themselves via guided activities, helping them to better remember these spelling rules. The engaging online videos and games are designed to make learning to write fun whilst supporting teachers in their own knowledge.