

# 4 Powerful Spelling Strategies

Some kids are just naturally “good spellers.” And then there are those who need all the help they can get.

If spelling doesn’t come easily to your child—or if you want to get your child started on the right foot—these four powerful spelling strategies are for you!



## 1

### Phonetic Spelling Strategies

Phonics is the perfect place to start. When done correctly, phonics teaches a child how to listen for each sound in a word and then how to represent each sound with a letter or combination of letters.

The ability to hear the individual sounds in words is called *segmenting*. You can find out more in our [Segmenting](#) blog post.

## 2

### Rule-Based Spelling Strategies

Though hundreds of words can be spelled phonetically, there are often several possible spellings for the same sound—the sound of /j/ can be spelled J, G, or DGE, for example—and that’s when knowing some rules comes in handy.

Spelling rules are easy to demonstrate with the [Letter Tiles app](#) or the [physical tiles](#). Here are some more ideas for incorporating spelling rules into your teaching:

1. Silent E: When your student knows *all* the jobs of [silent E](#), spelling is much easier.
2. Open and Closed Syllables: Knowing these [two syllable types](#) will enable your student to accurately spell hundreds of words.
3. Making Words Plural: Unravel the mysteries of making words plural with [six scoops of ice cream](#).
4. Floss Rule: [This simple spelling rule](#) helps kids remember when to use a double consonant at the end of a word.
5. Avoid false spelling “rules”: “False rules” can lead to spelling confusion! This [well-known spelling rule](#) is actually false 60% of the time. The Kids’ Club Rule™ is a great example of a reliable spelling rule.

### 3

#### Visual Spelling Strategies

Sometimes phonics and spelling rules aren't enough. This is where visual spelling strategies come in. Does the word look right? Good spellers often try spelling a word several ways to see which way looks correct.

This is why we use word banks in the *All About Spelling* program. Each word bank focuses on one concept, such as the sound of /er/ spelled UR, and helps build the student's visual memory of words related to that particular concept.

After becoming familiar with UR words, the word *nurse* spelled *nerse* will look wrong, prompting your child to correct her own work.

### 4

#### Morphemic Spelling Strategies

*Morphemes* are the smallest units of meaning. Morphemes include roots and base words, prefixes, and suffixes, as in the word *invisible*.



An understanding of morphology helps kids spell words like *knowledge* and *action* even though the base words *know* and *act* change pronunciation. That's why *All About Spelling* teaches words with Greek and Latin roots, how to add **prefixes** and **suffixes** to base words, and how to form compound words and abbreviations.

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