

How to Handle Spelling Mistakes



When was the spelling mistake made?

During a spelling lesson

Outside of a spelling lesson

1 Ask your student to carefully read exactly what she has written down. Often, she will be able to see and correct her own error.

2 Determine the cause of the spelling mistake. For example, perhaps your child left out a sound or added an extra one, or perhaps she didn't apply a rule, made a visual error, or forgot to think through syllables or root words. Talk through the reasons the word is misspelled. Doing this will help the correct spelling make more sense to her than if you simply correct the mistake without explanation. She will also be better equipped to spell the word correctly in the future.

If you need to review a phonogram or a rule, now is the time to do it.

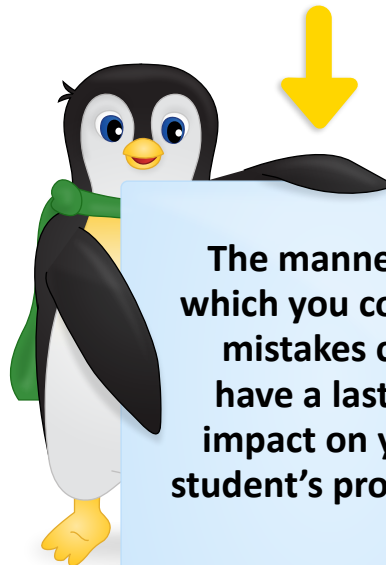
3 Have your student spell the word again. First have her spell the word with the letter tiles and then once again on paper.

4 Add the word to your child's spelling review box. Leave the word in the review box until your child can spell it quickly and easily. Regular review of challenging words allows ample opportunity for the correct spelling pattern to be ingrained in your student's mind.

1 If you have already covered the spelling concepts related to the misspelled word, don't rush to correct the word. Instead, write yourself a private note to review those concepts during your next spelling lesson.

2 This is *really* hard for some parents, but once you've written your note, ignore the spelling mistake! Don't mark up your child's paper with spelling corrections, and don't require her to correct it.

Remember:



The manner in which you correct mistakes can have a lasting impact on your student's progress.