

Prompts to spell unknown words



Say the word slowly. Listen to the sounds the letters make. Write the sounds in order.



Do you know any other words that sound almost the same?



Clap the syllables: listen carefully. Write the word, syllable by syllable. Make sure you have represented each sound with a letter or letters.



Say the word in parts, and write down each part.



Do you know another word that looks similar?



Look at the word. Ask yourself which part looks right?



Think about how the word looks. Try different letter patterns.



What other letters could you use to write that sound?



Think about the meaning. Does it give you any clues to the spelling pattern?



Begin with the base word.



Does the meaning of the word help you with the spelling?



Does the word remind you of any other words you know? Why or how?



Is there any other word that looks or sounds the same? Can you use this information to help you spell this word?



What do you know about words that might help?



Say the word slowly: listen carefully. Do you know a memory trick to help you?



Try using parts of other words to make parts of the new word.



Is the word on the word wall or class chart?



Can you locate the word in a dictionary?



Try entering the word on the computer and using the spell checker.