

20 ideas for learning your spellings

FLASH WRITING

In a darkened room, use a torch to write your spelling words in the air.



Ask your partner to "read" your words as you spell them. You get a point if your partner can read the word.

SPELLING BEE

Hold competitions to see who is the best at spelling. Children hear a word, repeat it, then spell it out loud.

You get a point for every correct word. Just be careful, if you use the wrong spelling, you are out!



SPELLING FLASHCARDS

Make a set of flashcards to practise your spelling words. When you look at the card for a word, read the word and then spell it out loud



If you were writing cards for someone else, how could you make sure they are clear and attractive?

SCRABBLE

Use Scrabble tiles (or letter tiles you have made) to spell-out your spelling words.

	A ₁	B ₃	C ₃	D ₂	
E ₁	F ₄	G ₂	H ₄	I ₁	J ₈
K ₅	L ₁	M ₃	N ₁	O ₁	P ₃
Q ₁₀	R ₁	S ₁	T ₁	U ₁	V ₄
	W ₄	X ₈	Y ₄	Z ₁₀	

For a little extra maths practice, add-up your scores to find the most valuable word on your list.

WORDS WITHOUT VOWELS

Write your spelling words on a list, but replace all the vowels with a dash.

Cn y rd ths?

n rbc th thr lng vwl r ncldd n
wrtn wrds bt th thr shrt vwl r
nrmll mttdd lthgh th cn b ndctd
b mrks plcd bv nd blw ltrr.

Since the Arabic alphabet only contains consonants, short vowels are added in the form of diacritical marks on top of or below the letters in order to clarify pronunciation. The vocalization marks 'fatha', 'damma', and 'kasra' became more common when transcribing the Holy Qur'an in order to avoid ambiguity and misinterpretation. Arabic could also be written without diacritical marks.

- The 'fatha': short vowel /a/ (da as in dad)
- The 'damma': short vowel /u/ (du as in dude)
- The 'kasra': short vowel /e/ (de as in deduct)

Challenge:

If you write the words out of order, you could make it a puzzle for someone else to solve.

NEWSY WORDS

Write a newspaper story using all your spelling words.



Can you make sure that you include all the key features of a newspaper report while you do it?

OTHER HANDED

Are you left or right handed?

Have you ever tried to write your name with your "non-writing" hand?



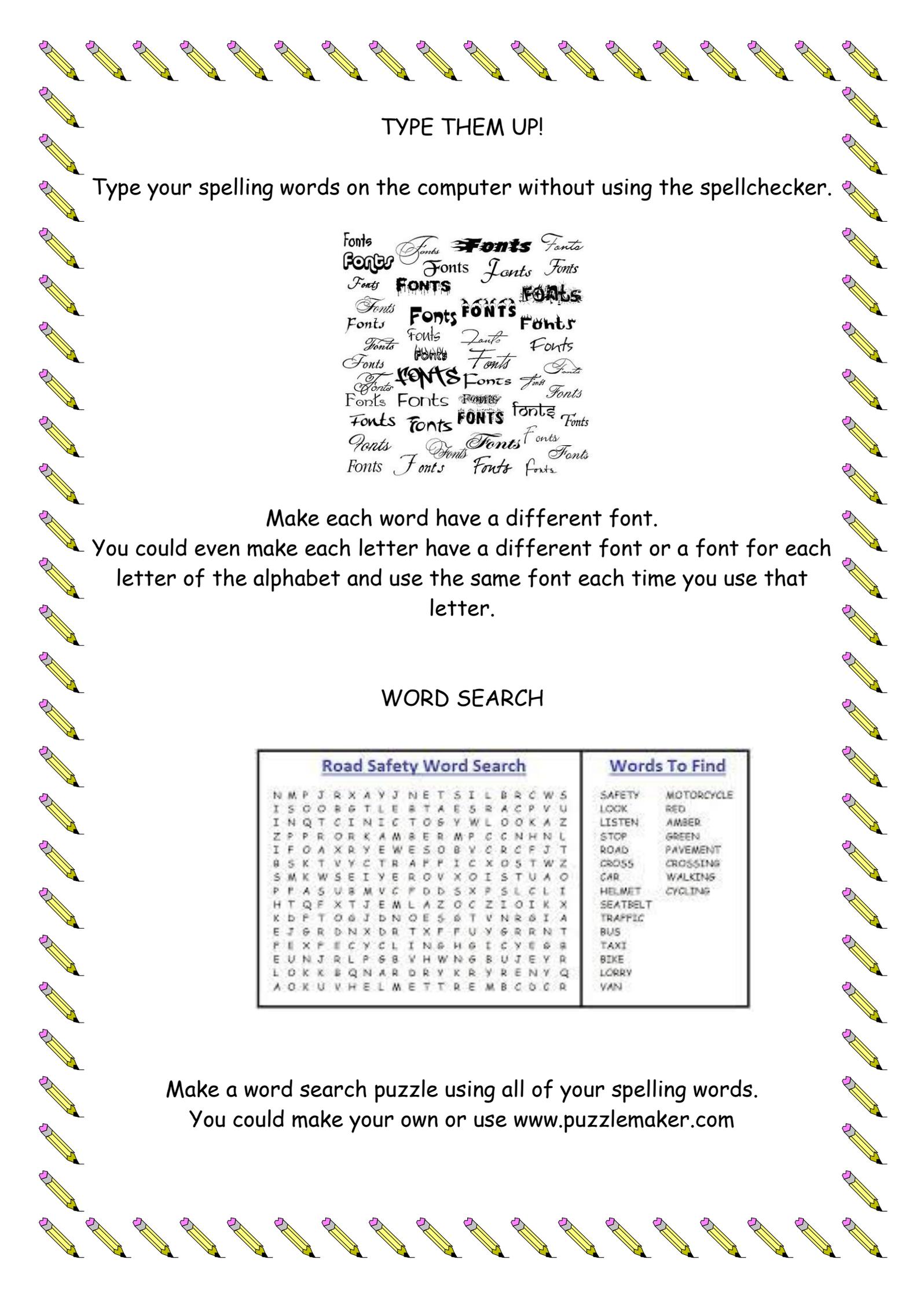
How about trying your spelling list that way?

ROLL A WORD

Roll a small ball backwards and forwards between you and your partner. Take it in turns to say each letter of the word you are learning to spell.

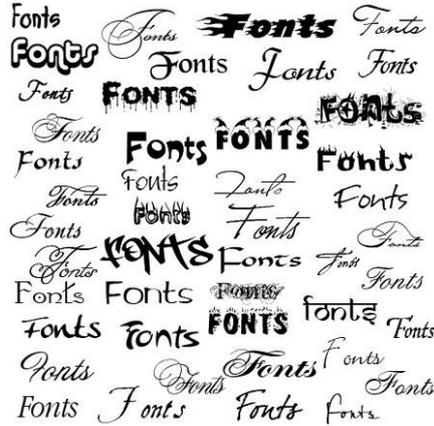


You get a point each if you complete the word with no mistakes. Then move on to spell the next word.



TYPE THEM UP!

Type your spelling words on the computer without using the spellchecker.



Make each word have a different font.

You could even make each letter have a different font or a font for each letter of the alphabet and use the same font each time you use that letter.

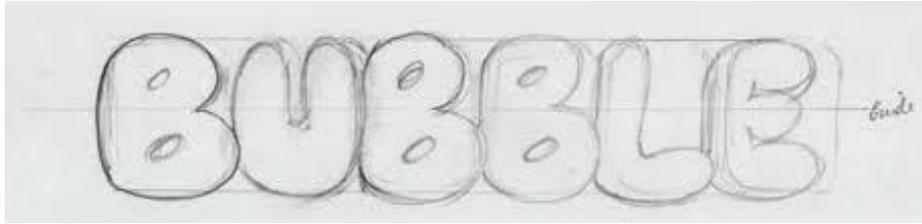
WORD SEARCH

Road Safety Word Search	Words To Find	
NMPJRXAYJNETSILBCWVS	SAFETY	MOTORCYCLE
ISOOBGTLEBTAESRACPVU	LOOK	RED
INQTCINICTOSYWLLOOKAZ	LISTEN	AMBER
ZPPRORAKAMBERMPCGNHNL	STOP	GREEN
IFOAXRYEWEESOBYCRCFJT	ROAD	PAVEMENT
BSKTVYCTRAPPICXOSTWZ	CROSS	CROSSING
SMKWSEIYEROVXOISTUAO	CAR	WALKING
PPASUBMVCFDDSXPSLCLT	HELMET	CYCLING
HTQFXTJEMLAZOCZIOIKX	SEATBELT	
KDFTTOGJDNONESOTVNR&IA	TRAFFIC	
EJGRDNXDRTXFPUY&RRNT	BUS	
FEXPECYCLINGH&TCY&R	TAXI	
EUNJRLP&BVHWN&BUJEYR	BIKE	
L&K&BQ&NARDRYKRYRENYQ	LORRY	
AOKUVHELMETTREMB&C&R	VAN	

Make a word search puzzle using all of your spelling words.
You could make your own or use www.puzzlemaker.com

BLOCK LETTERS

Draw a rectangle and split it up so that there is a block for each letter of your word.



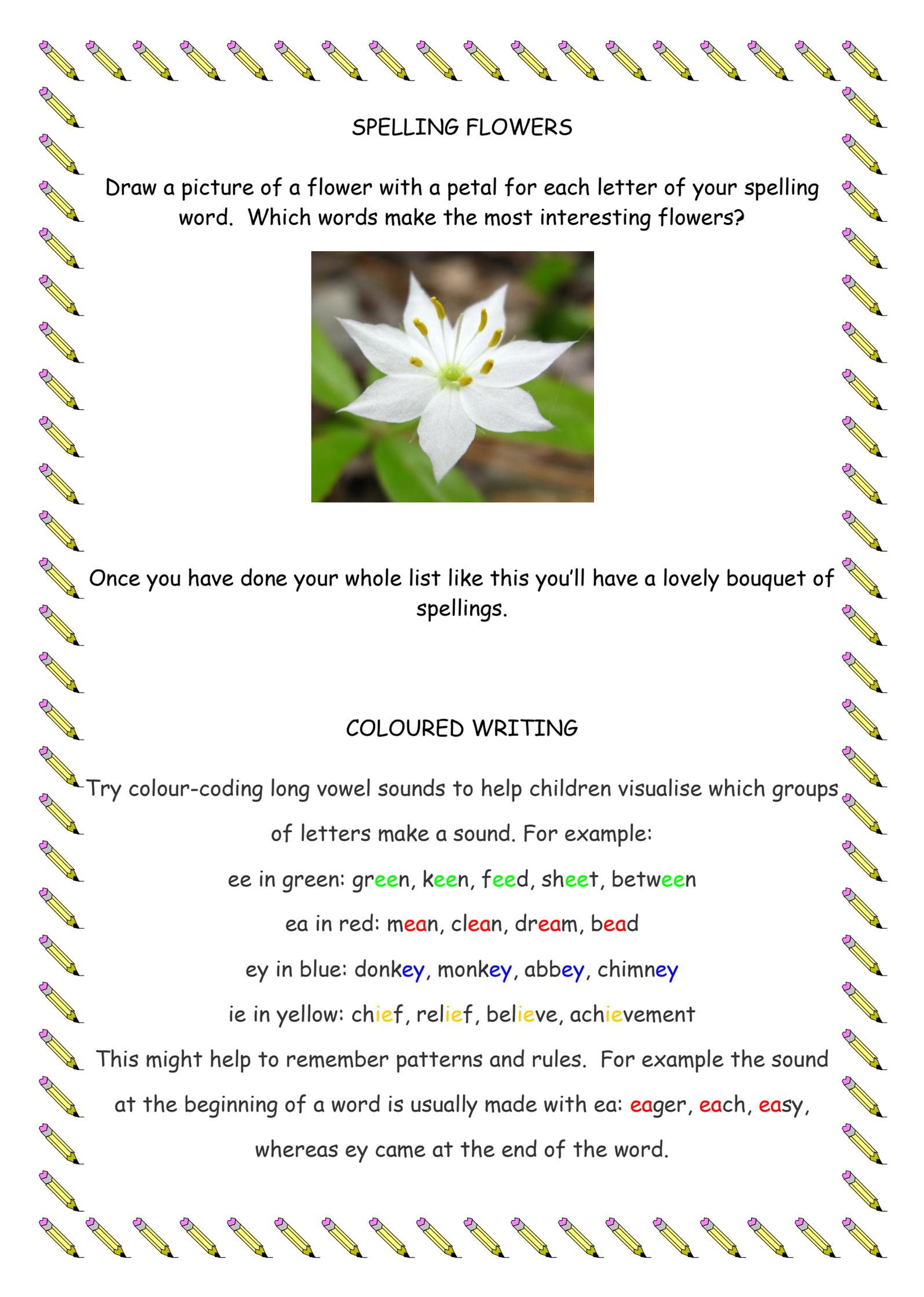
Then you can use bubble writing, shade in the gaps for letters or create fancy styles for your word. The more effort you put in the easier it will be to remember the correct spelling.

TRACE AROUND

Write your word in the middle of a small page.



Use different colours to trace as tightly as you can around the shape of the word. Keep working outwards until you can spell the word with no problem.



SPELLING FLOWERS

Draw a picture of a flower with a petal for each letter of your spelling word. Which words make the most interesting flowers?



Once you have done your whole list like this you'll have a lovely bouquet of spellings.

COLOURED WRITING

Try colour-coding long vowel sounds to help children visualise which groups of letters make a sound. For example:

ee in green: green, keen, feed, sheet, between

ea in red: mean, clean, dream, bead

ey in blue: donkey, monkey, abbey, chimney

ie in yellow: chief, relief, believe, achievement

This might help to remember patterns and rules. For example the sound at the beginning of a word is usually made with ea: eager, each, easy, whereas ey came at the end of the word.



SENTENCE WRITING

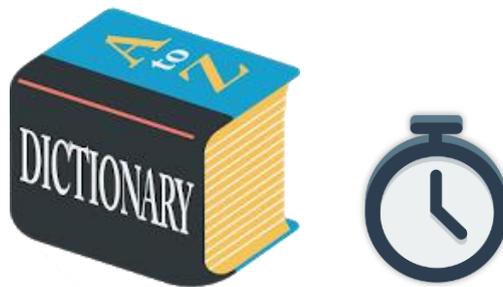
Write each word in a sentence. Underline the spelling words.

I didn't know whether to stay or go.

Challenge: How many of your spelling words can you get in one sentence?

DICTIONARY RACE

Can you find your the words in a dictionary?



Time yourself. How long does it take?

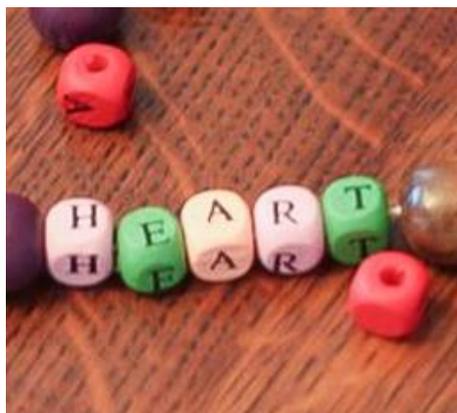
WORDS WITHIN WORDS

Find all the little words in several of your spelling words.

For example - father:
fat, at, the, he, her, eat, ate,
far, heat.



MAKE THE WORDS WITH BEADS



BATH CRAYONS

Write the words in the bath



SPAGHETTI WORDS



Place the spaghetti in the shape of the letters in the word.