

Name: _____

Year 8 Homework Booklet 1

Book B



Instructions

Each week your teacher will allocate a task for you to complete. Write all your answers in the exercise book you have been given. Do not write in this booklet.

Ways to improve your spelling

All of us have words we don't know how to spell. Use the methods below to help you become a better speller.

1. Look. Say. Cover. Write. Check.

Look at a word. Say it (to yourself if you are not alone). Cover it up. Write it. Check if you were right. If you weren't, repeat the process.

2. Don't copy words letter by letter.

Try to remember the whole word, write it down and then check if you were correct. It not only helps your spelling, it is quicker.

3. Focus on the difficult parts of words.

Some parts of words are easy and so we need to concentrate on the difficult parts. For example, if you wanted to spell the word 'ghost', everyone knows it starts with a 'g' and they get the 'ost' right. What they have to remember is the 'h'.

4. Break long words up.

Many long words are actually quite easy to spell if you break them up into syllables. For example, 'technological' looks really difficult it is much easier if you think of 'tech' + 'no' + 'lo' + 'gi' + 'cal'.

5. Make rhymes to remember parts of words with.

For example, if you have trouble remembering whether the 'i' or the 'e' comes first in 'friend', remember the rhyme: He was a friend to the end. Another example: I like 2C success.

6. Use joined-up writing.

Research has shown that joining your letters improves your spelling. There are three reasons for this. Firstly, having to actually join the letters makes you think about the order of the letters. Secondly, it is easier to remember the shape of joined-up words. Thirdly, we remember the actual movement of the pen on the page.

7. Check words you aren't sure about.

Use a dictionary, a spelling checker or ask someone else. It is better to check than get it wrong.

8. Say a word as it is spelled, not as it is normally pronounced.

If you say a word differently you will be more likely to remember the unusual letters. For example, saying the word 'debt' pronouncing the 'b' will help you remember it has a silent letter.

Copy out the passage below filling in the blanks using the following words: letter; letter; improve; parts; cover; words; remember; into; writing.

You can _____ your spelling. When you come across a word you don't know use: Look. Say. _____ . Write. Check. Look for words within _____ to make things easier. Focus on the tricky _____ of words. Make up a sentence to help you _____ parts of words. Use joined-up _____. Break long words _____ syllables. Don't copy _____ by letter. Say a word with a silent _____ how it is spelled.

Spelling lists

Each week you need to learn one of the lists below. After you have learnt them, have someone at home test you. Then you need to write each word in a sentence. Look up the meanings of words you don't know.

Your teacher will check your sentences, test your spelling or do both. You need to be prepared.

It is best to learn the words at the beginning of the week and then check half way through that you can still remember them.

A

article
beggar
column
diamond
February
improvise
meanwhile
nervous
receive
separate

B

actually
balloon
calendar
despair
furthermore
interesting
jealous
library
soldier
stomach

C

attitude
bicycle
developed
except
familiar
industrial
murmur
offered
reference
straight

D

business
caught
creation
description
experience
extremely
grateful
shoulder
surely
whistle

E

chorus
whisper
illegal
mischief
nursery
pattern
question
Wednesday
weather
whether

F

actually
design
fracture
habitat
licence
penalty
straight
wrinkle
believe
careful

Spelling Rules

Can you remember which letters are vowels? They are 'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u' and sometimes 'y'. Consonants are all the other letters of the alphabet: 'b', 'c', 'd', etc.

A very useful spelling rule is that if there is only one consonant between two vowels say the first vowel's name, not it's sound.

Let's look at an example. You all know what 'h', 'a', 't' spells. You wear a hat on your head. But look what happens when you add an 'e' to the end. You get 'hate'. The 'a' has changed its sound.

h + a + t = hat → I wear a hat.
 vowel vowel
 ↓ ↓
 hăt + ě = hate → I hate cabbage.
 ↑
 consonant

Let's look at another example.

h + o + p = hop → I like to hop and skip.
 vowel vowel
 ↓ ↓
 hōp + ě = hope → I hope to win the lottery.
 ↑
 consonant

Double consonants

However, if there are two consonants between the vowels, the first vowel stays the same.

vowel vowel
 ↓ ↓
 hoppĕd → I hopped because my left foot hurt.
 ↑
 consonant
 consonant

The 'o' doesn't change. But look what happens if there is only one consonant.

hopĕd → I hoped my sick mother would get better.
 ↑
 consonant

This rule doesn't just work for 'e'. Other vowels have the same effect when there is only one consonant. Look at the two words below.

vowel
 vowel ↓
 ↓ ↓
 hoppĭng → I was hopping because I hurt my foot.
 ↑
 consonant
 consonant

hopĭng → I am hoping my mum will get better.
 ↑
 consonant

Task

For each word below write a sentence that shows its meaning and draw a small picture to go with it. (Make sure you spell the words correctly.)

1. slope
2. batted
3. sitting
4. rag
5. rage

Spelling lists

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G	H	I
basic	accident	activity
basically	cookery	brilliant
collage	horrible	cloak
college	like	clock
comical	likable	crowd
complete	mystery	ground
cruel	ocean	idiot
engine	parent	million
insure	silent	onion
positive	terrible	shadow

Word Puzzles

Using the letter grids below, how many words can you find? The letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, though plurals are. Try to find at least twenty words.

Each grid also contains one nine letter word. Can you find it?

1.

J	O	O
C	E	R
T	R	P

2.

G	A	C
U	E	O
N	E	R

3.

N	E	O
R	A	E
V	U	M

Common Homophones

Instructions: Read the explanation and the examples. For each task read the sentences and write the answers as whole sentences in your exercise books.

There/Their/They're

there – a place; it has the word 'here' in it; you could replace it with 'here'

their – belonging to them; it has the word 'heir' in it

they're – they are; you could replace it with 'they are'

Examples

1. Put that down there.
2. I went in their car.
3. They're a really good team.

Task one

Write out each sentence inserting either 'there', 'their' or 'they're'.

1. Go and sit over _____.
2. I love _____ cat.
3. _____ is a beautiful flower.
4. _____ a lovely group of students.
5. _____ house is huge.

To/Two/Too

to – a preposition or part of a verb; the most common usage

two – a number; one plus one

too – 1. excessive degree 2. 'as well'

Examples

1. Go to the shop.
2. I want to talk to you.
3. Give me two pounds.
4. I was too clever for them.
5. I want one too.

Task two

Write out each sentence correctly.

1. It is _____ o'clock.
2. He will go _____.
3. She is going _____ kick the ball.
4. He is _____ tall.
5. Get a cup of coffee _____.
6. You have bought _____ many cakes.

Where/We're/Wear/Were

where – a place; it has the word 'here' in it; usually a question

we're – we are

wear – 1. something you do with clothes 2. erode

were – plural of 'was'; part of a verb

Examples

1. Where have you been?
2. We're the best students in the world.
3. I am going to wear a tie.
4. The water will wear away the rock eventually.
5. We were leaving the party when it happened.

Task three

Write out the sentences below.

1. You are not going to _____ that dress.
2. _____ do you think you two are going?
3. _____ going to a party.
4. If I _____ you I wouldn't go.
5. You _____ me out with your nagging.

Task four

Choose the homophones that you have most trouble remembering and make up a sentence or rhyme to help you with them. For example:

there → He helped **her here** and there. (The words 'her' and 'here' are in the words 'there'.)

Cycling safely

There is a risk you will hurt yourself every time you throw your leg over a bike. However, there are a few simple things you can do to reduce the chances of you being seriously injured.

Firstly, wear a helmet. I know some people think it looks uncool, but walking around with your head caved in or being pushed around in a wheelchair won't do much to help your sex life. Riding along with your helmet hanging from your handle bars is about as clever as texting someone while crossing the road. If you're worried about messing up your lovely locks you need to get a new hair style.

You don't need to wear a helmet because you can't ride very well. You need to wear one because of idiot drivers and ignorant pedestrians. If a car clips you or you end up bouncing off some fool's bonnet, a helmet can substantially shorten your stay in hospital.

The second thing you need is lights. Not only is it the law to use lights at night, only someone with the brains of a barnacle wants to remain invisible on a road or footpath. Whether you use the new anti-aircraft-searchlight-brightness models or supermarket ten pound jobs, you increase your chance of avoiding serious damage if you can be seen.

During the day it can be a good idea to wear a flashing light, particularly if you think the sun might be in motorists' eyes. If they see something blinking they will look into the glare a bit more carefully and maybe, just possibly, slow down to a safe speed for the driving conditions, before you get bulldozed into a hedge or a lamp post.

It should go without saying that you must obey traffic laws. I know you watch cyclists shooting through red lights and riding the wrong way up one way streets, but I know you can also see those same cyclists bleeding all over accident and emergency. Drivers don't concentrate hard enough to take account of people doing the unexpected.

Wearing sensible clothing is an easy way to reduce the damage if you do come off. You don't have to dress in lycra, but covering some of your skin isn't too hard. You might look gorgeous in a bikini but grazes and gravel rash won't enhance your poolside posing. Avoid flip flops and sandals and opt for trainers or something else with a bit of substance.

Listening to music while pedalling along may sound attractive. However, if you can't hear what's behind you how do you know it's there? Being aware that a tractor with a trailer has been sitting behind you for the past two miles just might make you consider pulling over for a second to let him past, while listening to a coach approach at rapid speed will prepare you for being hit by the burst of air as it passes.

Talking on your phone while riding is like cutting yourself and jumping into a shark pool: you might escape without injury, but your luck won't last for ever. Not only are you not concentrating on riding, but your braking distance is at least doubled, if you can avoid going over the handle bars or skidding wildly, because you can only use one hand.

Take a bit of notice of the conditions you are cycling in. If it is raining slow down because braking takes longer. If you are on a shared path at three thirty be aware that people pushing prams are often accompanied by unpredictable two foot high randomly moving objects that can cause a lot of damage to your bike if you hit one and that school kids are incapable of walking in a straight line for more than five steps in a row.

Finally, remember it is not uncommon for someone who got his licence off the back of a cornflake packet to be talking on the phone, listening to music and smoking a cigarette while continually checking the sat nav, and so not be looking out for you. Be alert because most drivers aren't.

1. In your own words, list four things you can do to keep yourself safer when cycling.
2. What things might a driver be doing rather than concentrating on the road?

Photography Tips

Read each section and answer the questions in your exercise book.

1. It's wonderful to look at a picture of a special occasion, an emotional moment or a beautiful scene. Sometimes photos can make us laugh, cry or cringe. At other times they can make us yawn, fidget or look out the window. Let's face it, if you've never faked interest in a friend's photo, you probably don't have many mates.

Which word, beginning with 'y', suggests pictures can be boring?

2. So how can you make sure people are smiling, not sleeping, when you present them with a picture? Follow the advice below and you'll be well on your way.

The writer uses the pronoun 'you' to involve the reader. This is a _____ person pronoun.

3. Firstly, take loads and loads of pictures. Ten years ago most pictures were captured on film. The camera cost money. The film cost money. Developing cost money. So pressing the shutter button made you poorer. Now, the camera costs money, but not much. Re-chargeable batteries cost money, but you don't have to replace them often. Pressing the shutter button actually costs nothing. So get snapping.

The writer suggests digital photography is expensive. True/False

4. Secondly, and this follows on from the first tip, throw away most of the pictures you take. That's right, just delete them. If they are slightly out of focus or in any other way deficient, just get rid of them. If you've got two pictures of the same thing, delete one. If you've taken a hundred pictures in an hour, delete ninety of them.

Which word, used three times, suggests 'possibility'?

5. Thirdly, learn how to use the controls on your camera. Play with menu items. Twist the dial. Try all the settings. Do the unthinkable: read the manual. You can improve the quality of your pictures dramatically if you use the right settings.

This paragraph contains a number of imperatives. The reader is told to do various things. Write down the first imperative in the paragraph.

6. Fourthly, use optical zoom as much as you can to get closer to your subjects. Optical zoom relies on lenses in your camera to make things bigger. Imagine a magnifying glass between the thing you are photographing and the sensor which captures the image. Digital zoom, on the other hand, is just software that operates after the picture has been captured. Avoid digital zoom

like you would dog mess on the pavement. Digital zoom just makes your pictures grainy.

Digital zoom is better than optical zoom. True/False

7. Fifthly, acquire and learn how to use a good photo editing package. A short time learning how to use it can bring real benefits. Adjusting colours or light levels, cropping to include only the essential details, removing red-eye, adding text and borders -- all these are available in even the cheapest programs, including several of the free ones.

Finally, you can take better pictures if you use a little of your most valuable asset, your brain. Think about what would make a good picture, try lots of ideas and evaluate what you have done. If you do, you'll just get better and better.

The writer uses the word 'better' three times in the last paragraph. This technique is called

_____.