

Spelling Bee Games

Say It, Hide It, Spell It!

How to play?

Students can use these activities during free time in class to prepare for the Spelling Bee. There are two versions of each activity: one for students to practice alone, and one they can do in pairs or groups.

Level: Elementary

Age: Children (Primary)

Time needed: 10 minutes

Aim: Practice Spelling Bee skills while review vocabulary related to a specific topic or lesson

Skills: Spelling, Vocabulary, Listening

Materials needed: Worksheets, pen or pencil

Warm-up Tips

Before playing, choose five challenging words and throw a small ball to one of your students. Ask them to spell one of the words you chose and throw the ball back to you when finished. Repeat three to five times before explaining game rules to your students.

Individual Practice

- Give a copy of the worksheet to each student.
- Choose 20 challenging words and write them on the board.
- Ask students to look at the words and choose the ones they want to practice. Give them time to copy the words into the left column. After they have copied their chosen words, erase them from the board.
- Students say each word aloud. Then they touch each letter with a pen or pencil and say every letter clearly.
- Then ask students to fold the worksheet and hide the left column.
- Ask students to write the words in the right column.
- Give students time to look at the words again and check their spelling. If their spelling is correct, try a more difficult word. If their spelling is incorrect,

ask students to try again. Explain to students that they can use the tracker above the chart to score themselves.

Collaborative Variant

Divide students into pairs and follow a similar approach. Instead of writing the words on the board, give students more freedom to choose the words they want to use to challenge their classmate. Then Student A reads each word to Student B and gives them time to spell the word. Student A keeps track of the spelling in the right column. If the spelling is correct, they can switch turns. If the spelling is incorrect, Student A can spell the word and then ask Student B to try again. Encourage students to use the Progress Tracker to keep track of their own performance.

Teaching Tips

If you want to use the Collaborative Variant of this game, think ahead how you will pair students for optimal outcomes. Monitor students closely to make sure that the level of challenge is adequate. Make sure they don't purposely give their weaker classmates very difficult words to spell, or suggest too easy words for their friends so they can score high.