

Strategies for Writing

We See Dark Light

To improve my spelling.

Write the word.

- When you can't think of how to spell a word, or someone has pointed out a word that you spelled incorrectly, or the spell check shows that a word is spelled incorrectly, try writing it several ways to see what "looks right."
- When you write it again, try to think of the sounds of the letters or how the word looked when you read it. Try to use the same cues you used to figure out how to read the word to help you figure out how to spell the word.

Spellcheck.

- If you are using a computer, run the spellcheck.
- Look at each of their choices and try and figure out which is spelled the way you want it spelled. If necessary, write down the choices to see which "looks right."

Dictionary.

- If you don't have a computer or if the spellcheck doesn't help, then look the word up in the dictionary.
- It may be hard to look up a word if you don't know how to spell it. Write the word different ways and look up each spelling until you find the word.
- If you can't remember which spelling goes with two words that sound alike (e.g., *pail* vs. *pale*), then look both of them up in the dictionary and check which definition fits the word that you want to use.
- Once you find the word, look at the spelling, the syllables, the root word, and the definition as ways to help you remember.

List words that are hard for you.

- Make a list of words that you need to write a lot, but can't remember how to spell.
- Highlight the letters that are hard for you to remember. For example, if you have difficulty remembering the spelling of *separate* because you usually write it as *seperate*, then underline or color-code the first **a** to help you remember it.

- Keep this list in a handy place so that you can refer to the spelling of these words whenever you need them.