

## **Method 6 – Look at the Structure / Derivation of Words**

Root words e.g. sign  
Suffixes / prefixes e.g. signal, signature

Derivation of words – where does the word come from?

e.g. Television: tele means over a distance  
visio means sight (Latin)

## **Method 7 – Finding Words Within Words**

e.g. Capacity cap a city

## **Method 8 – Rules**

There are many books available identifying the common spelling rules. However, every rule has exceptions.

## **Method 9 – Personal Spelling Dictionary**

Keep an alphabetical notebook that lists any words you find difficult to spell or need to use frequently. This may be particularly useful for new course vocabulary.

## **Method 10 – Use a Dictionary**

Dictionaries are useful for when you are making minor spelling errors but often, if you can't spell the beginning of the word, finding it in a dictionary may take some time.

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The Learning Support Guide to:

# Spelling Tips

There is not one correct way of learning spellings but many different methods. You need to find the method(s) which best suit you. Inside are listed some ideas which may work to help you remember different words.

Spelling is primarily a visual / motor activity and, to spell correctly, you will usually need a visual image of the word, plus practice at writing the word to reinforce your motor memory. Relying on sounding out words is not always the best strategy, as many words in the English language are not written as they sound.

When trying to remember a word, you need to look with interest and intention of remembering it. Merely copying words doesn't always help you to learn!

Your motor memory is very powerful and it is very difficult to 'unlearn' a word you have been miswriting because your hand may continue to write the word incorrectly because it 'feels right'.

