

## Test out your spelling skills on these words!

Before you test your skills make sure that you can read all the words on the list and that you know what they mean.

To help you learn to spell words on the list that you don't know use **LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK**.

**LOOK** at each word you don't know, one at a time. Carefully copy the word from the list onto a blank piece of paper. Look at the word and try to get a picture of what the word looks like in your mind.

**COVER** the word.

**WRITE** the word while it is still covered.

**CHECK** your attempt against your correctly copied word. Have a close look at which letters you got right and wrong.

Repeat this process as many times as you need until you feel confident about testing yourself on the whole list.

To test yourself, fold along the dotted line to cover the list, then do a quick **LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK** to record each word.

Give yourself a stamp, tick or sticker in the result space for each correct word.



The white words are for Year 3 and 4 students

The yellow words are for Year 5 and 6 students

Write the word in this column

Result

pageant

impromptu

abstract

charcoal

sheriff

croissant

algae

ravine

embarrass

weird

diurnal

madrigal

chintz

genteel

itinerary

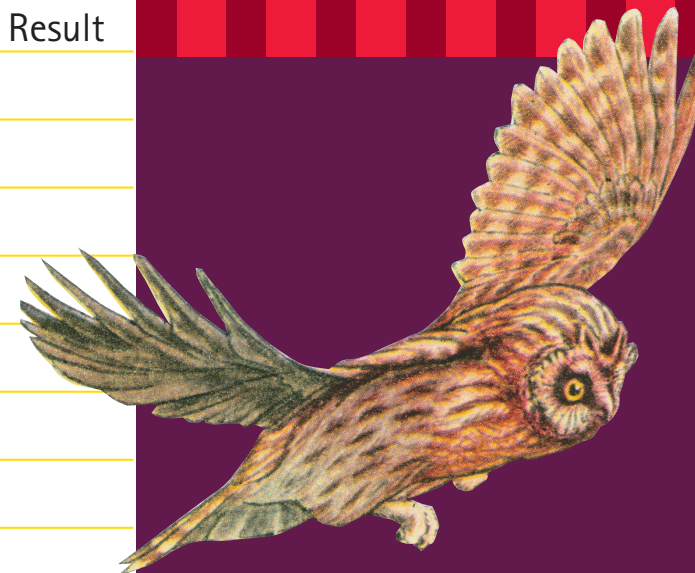
separate

graffiti

portfolio

aquarium

hygienic



## Top Spelling Tips



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**Westpac**

## Westpac – proudly supporting local communities

Throughout our 193 year history, Westpac has been a proud supporter of local communities investing in initiatives to help create better futures for all Australians.

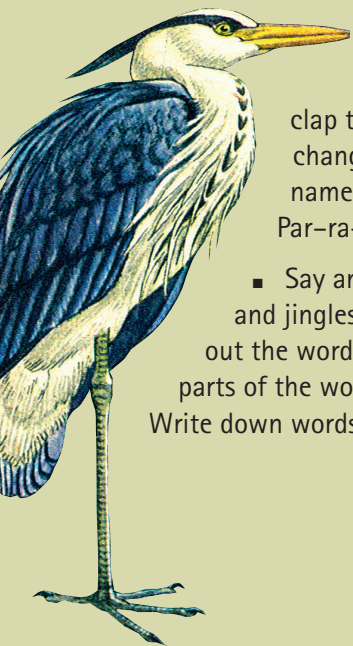
We are proud to be part of the 2010 NSW Premier's Spelling Bee in partnership with the NSW Department of Education and Training to assist in supporting students, teachers and school communities across NSW.

[westpac.com.au](http://westpac.com.au)

## For Parents and Carers

You can play an important role in supporting your child's spelling development. Encourage your child to look and listen carefully to words and talk about how words sound, how words look, how words can change and where words come from.

### How words sound



- Focus on the sounds in words by playing clapping games, e.g.

clap the number of times a word changes in your name, your child's name, the suburb you live in, e.g. Par-ra-mat-ta.

- Say and sing rhyming songs, poems and jingles. Talk about and try to pick out the words that rhyme. Talk about the parts of the words that sound the same. Write down words that have the same sounds.

### How words look

- Inside one word, find another e.g. 'it' is inside little, 'at' is inside that.
- Not all words can be sounded out, so help your child to make up a memory jogger for words that can be tricky, e.g. friend = fri the end of your friend; separate = there is a rat in separate.

### How words change

- Look at words that change when talking about the future or the past – for example 'swim' becomes swimming as in "We are going swimming".

### Where words come from

- Explore the origins of words. Knowing where parts of words come from will help your child's spelling, e.g. tele is the Greek word for distant or far off, as used in telephone, television.

\*Having an English dictionary at home can help you find out more about where words come from.

### Use Pause, Prompt, Praise to help work out how to spell new words:

- Pause** When your child encounters a new word, allow them time to independently try and work out how to spell it.
- Prompt** him/her with questions about how the word looks/sounds/or where the word might come from. Encourage your child to try to write the word.
- Praise** Always provide praise and encouragement for your child's efforts.



## Have fun with words

Next time you read a book or an online text, note interesting or creative words, phrases and sentences and enter them in a **Word Treasury**. Take the time to reread them and use them in your own writing.

Take advantage of digital technology and send **text messages and emails**. Start your own blog or wiki. Email your opinion of a current event and ask friends for responses. Send messages to friends about things that are important to you.

Write **word lists** of people, events, places, and times (e.g. footy teams or players, jobs that need to be done, birthdays to remember).

Play **word games** to increase your spelling knowledge, skill and confidence. Find word games online, make up your own word games and puzzles eg. Crosswords, find-a-words. Play them with your friends.

If you Google word games there are 1000s of games you can play, e.g. [www.wordplays.com](http://www.wordplays.com) Do the same for word puzzles.

Choose a common word (e.g. hot or good). Write as many **synonyms** (words that mean the same) or **antonyms** (words that are opposites) as you can for that word.

Buy or borrow **commercial word games**, e.g. Scrabble, Boggle that will help you practise your spelling and increase your vocabulary knowledge.

Find and enjoy **nonsense rhymes**, riddles, raps and limericks. Write your own!

### Who can help you spell a word or find out its meaning?

Is it Mum or Dad, an older brother or sister, a teacher, or a friend? Ask one of them for the right spelling and if they can tell you something interesting about the word.

