

Spelling Strategies

1. Read material that you can trust to be spelled correctly.

Why? Humans tend to mimic behavior (or material) that they are routinely exposed to. To become a better speller, read content that you can trust to have accurate spelling. Content does not need to be anything close to classic literature in order to be spelled correctly. Read what you love, but above all, read something.

2. Speaking of reading, read over your work before you submit it.

Why? If you've ever gotten into a fight with spell check or auto correct, you know that these tools are notorious for misunderstanding your intentions. Take some time to read over your work before submitting it. It's even better to read it out loud, so that your ears have a chance to catch any mistakes that your eyes miss.

3. Look up words that you're not sure about.

Pro Tip: Type the word into Google (or your search engine of choice) as you think it might be spelled. More often than not, if it is misspelled, it will come back to you with something like: "Did you mean _____?"

Common Offenders:

- Lose/Loose**
Lose: To misplace or the opposite of win
Loose: The opposite of tight, or not strict
- Lay/Lie**
Lay: To put something down horizontally on a surface
Lie: To assume a horizontal position on a surface
- Affect/Effect**
Affect: To produce a change in
Effect: A result or a consequence
- Suppose/Supposed**
Suppose: To consider something as a possibility, but not a commitment
Supposed: Expected
- Use/Used**
Use: To employ for a purpose
Used: happened regularly in the past
- Accept/Except**
Accept: To agree or consent to
Except: Excluding
- Weather/Whether**
Weather: What nature has going on up in the atmosphere
Whether: Introduces the first of two alternatives
- Than/Then**
Than: Used to compare
Then: refers to a place in time
- Too/Two/To**
Too: Also or in excess
Two: The number after one and before three
To: Essentially every other time you use the word, it will be this version
- Their/They're/There**
Their: Belonging to them
They're: They are
There: Essentially every other time you use the word, it will be this version
- Your/You're**
Your: Belongs to you
You're: You are
- Its/It's**
Its: Belongs to it, whatever 'it' is.
It's: It is