

Spelling Stomp

This is a fun classroom activity and can be played at home as well. There is a noise element with this game, which is probably why the kids like it so much!

The class spells the word (letter by letter) stamping one foot for each letter and alternating feet as they spell the word. When the spelling of the word is finished the class calls out the word with a clap of their hands.

So let's do the Spelling Stomp with the word 'about'

Students all say 'a' —students all stamp right foot
Students all say 'b' —students all stamp left foot
Students all say 'o' —students all stamp right foot
Students all say 'u' —students all stamp left foot
Students all say 't' —students all stamp right foot
Students all say 'about' — students all clap hands

Dictionary Race

This game not only develops spelling skills but also dictionary use, vocabulary and reading.

Children are given a list of words (usually five) and a junior (or intermediate) dictionary. The object of the game is to find each word in the dictionary as quickly as possible.

Child starts with a closed dictionary and is timed with a stopwatch while he/she searches for the word in the dictionary. The time taken is recorded. The child then reads aloud the first listed meaning for that word. Children enjoy the challenge of trying to beat their previous times.

In the classroom situation Dictionary Race can be played with teams. A team leader is appointed to search the dictionary and the other team members help with the spelling of the word and the location in the dictionary.

Provided the teacher has enough stop watches Dictionary Race can also be played in pairs. One partner times the other partner and records the time, listens to the meaning and makes sure the partner has found the correct word. After one partner has found five words the partners then swap roles.

Spell Rap

Children are given a word (or two words) to incorporate into a rap. The words must be spelled out in the rap.

So let's try a Spell Rap for 'cough'.

Not an easy word to spell
But I can do it very well
I can tell there's a C at the start
So hard to spell it breaks my heart
So we have a C, followed by an O
Chuck in a U and there's two to go
We have a G and an aitch on the end
I'm a champ and I won't pretend
I can spell this word - c o u g h —cough
That's how it's done; now I'm off!

(Your students will do much better than this!)

This can be set as a homework task and the students can have fun chanting their spell rap in class.

Lolly Letters

There might be health issues if we played this one too often but it is fun for special times such as end of term or end of the week.

Teacher has a big jar of wrapped lollies. Children are given a list of words to learn to spell by a set date. On the appointed day children are invited, one by one, to spell a word from the list of words. As the child starts to spell the word he/she takes a lolly from the lolly jar for each letter that is correct. As soon as the child misspells (without being able to self correct) all the lollies in his/her hand must be dropped back into the jar and are forfeited. If the child spells the word correctly he/she keeps the lollies.