Creative Ways to Study Spelling

In order for the right hemisphere of the brain to remember an image it helps to use color, size, or humor… try some of these ideas!

If there is a certain part of a spelling word that is giving you trouble, take a blank white piece of paper and write the word on it. Use a colored marker and write the part that you keep forgetting in really large letters.

For example, a student keeps forgetting the “o” and “t” in commotion: Commotion

Writing the letters on stairs will help visual-spatial learners see each letter of a word. They then can climb up the stairs, mentally, to spell the work backward and climb down the stairs to spell it forward.

Another technique is to type each spelling word on the computer using a different font for each word. Select a font that matches the mood or feeling of the word.

For example: aviatrix is a female pilot so it should be feminine and “airy”

aviatrix

For example: accelerate is to speed up so it should look like it was written quickly

accelerate

Coming up with a silly story may also help. For example, to spell friend one may say:

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| --- |
| “The FRIes from FRIday’s sure taste good at the day’s end!”  “You are right, FRIEND!” |

Rewrite the words by color-coding the word parts. Write all prefixes blue, root words red, and suffixes green. You will start to realize you don’t need to memorize words, just know your word parts!

commotion

Create mental pictures of spelling words by using a visualization approach.

Some words naturally make you think of a picture because of the shape of the letters, for example mountain can look like MouNtaiNs by capitalizing each “m” and “n”. This can also work with word parts. Try to make a word part LOOK like the meaning.