

PROCEDURE FOR INDEPENDENT WORD STUDY

Every week, prior to class on Tuesday morning, copy five words from your personal spelling list into the first column of a weekly word study sheet. Copy exactly as the words appear on your personal list so you *don't learn misspellings*. Please print, rather than using cursive, so the individual letters are separate and distinct. Show the word study sheet to me at the start of writing workshop on Tuesday morning. Then, on Tuesday or Wednesday for homework, study your five words by following each and every step of the procedure described below, in preparation for a partner test on Thursday. Each week it should take you about twenty minutes to complete the following steps with your five words:

1. Read the first word: look at it and say it.
2. Spell the word to yourself: touch each letter with your pencil and say the letter softly aloud to yourself. Identify the tricky part(s) of the word.
3. Close your eyes. See the word in your mind. Say each of the individual letters softly aloud to yourself.
4. Now, put your muscle memory to work. Carefully and slowly print the word in the next three columns, and say each of the individual letters to yourself as you write it. When you come to the tricky part of the word, say those letters louder and write them darker.
5. Take a break of four or five minutes to give your long-term memory time to process the look of the word, its letters, and their order. *Leave behind your spelling and do something else for those minutes:* read, do other homework, watch TV, listen to the radio.
6. Then come back, cover the correct spelling with your hand, and print the word in the “Spell” column.
7. Proofread: check the word you just wrote *letter for letter* against the original, back and forth, using the tip of your pencil.
8. If you spelled the word correctly, put a star in the final column and go on to the next word on the word study sheet. If you misspelled it, repeat the process above, steps 1–6, this time printing the word in the “Spell Again” column.
9. Repeat the procedure with each remaining word. Again, the study process for five words should take about twenty minutes.

Adapted from *Spelling Sourcebook I*, by Rebecca Sitton