

SPELLING

- English is a latin based language.
- We have the hardest job of any country learning English.
- It is made up of phonemes (sounds).

	No of phonemes (bundles of sounds)	Represented in writing
Spanish	23	28
Italian	25	33
German	34	39
French	32	250
English	44	1200

- Every time we spell, we have to manipulate 1200 choices to 1.

To be a good speller, you have to look at it as a problem solving process.

SO

When faced with 1200 choices, what problem solving strategy do I need to go through to come down to the 1 correct answer.

TO BE A GOOD SPELLER

There are 4 strategies:



1. PHONOLOGICAL

- How sounds in English corresponds to letters.
- Sounds in words
- The sounds groups letters together make in words e.g. 'ing'



2. VISUAL

- You have to know what a word looks like
- You have to look at the word and know it e.g. the

3. MORPHEMIC KNOWLEDGE

- You have to know a little bundle of rules to spell these e.g. generalisations like:
 - “I before e except after c”.
 - Drop the ‘y’ and add ‘ies’
- Basewords and adding the right prefix or suffix e.g. ‘mis’ means badly – misbehave, misname
- Compound words – 2 base words together to make a new word (eg wildlife)

4. ETYMOLOGICAL

- Knowing where the word comes from – its origins e.g. which ones are Greek, Roman, latin
- e.g. triathlon – ‘tri’ in greek means 3, so triangle.
- Why can’t triangle be spelt tryangle.

THERE IS AN ORDER TO TRY THE STRATEGIES

When you come to a word you can’t spell:

- Phonological (Can I sound it out?)
- Visual (But does it look right?)
- Morphemic (Do I know a rule I can apply?)
- Etymological (Do I know where the word might come from?)

USE THE 4 filters to get from 1200 phonemes to 1.