

# Programming for Spelling

Digraph  
Study Sheets  
Part 1

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## Introduction

These study sheets should be viewed as **one practice tool** in the teaching/learning process. These study sheets **do not** replace explicit teaching.

The exercises may be used in several ways:

- the teacher may work with the whole class through some exercises,
- students could work in pairs through an exercise,
- students may work on *some* of the exercises alone,
- some activities could be used for homework practice.

Using the study sheets in a variety of ways helps to maintain on-task behaviour, supports less competent students and promotes classroom discussion and general knowledge. Many activities are designed to be completed *orally* rather than in written form.

Please note the following points:

- It is *always* important to work with students through the activities.
- Many of the activities can be used for teacher guided practice.
- Not every exercise in each study sheet needs to be completed.
- More competent students may be directed to research and sentence writing activities, while other students may be doing well to finish some activities orally *and* with the help of an aide.
- The study sheet activities are organised around several tasks that are important in acquiring the ability to read, write and incorporate the words into a student's lexicon.

### Study Sheet Activities

Generally, there are four sets of component skills in each set of study sheets:

#### Part 1 Spelling

- phonics, e.g., identifying vowels and digraphs,
- phonemic awareness, e.g., rhyming
- proofreading,
- word extensions, spelling rules,
- morphology: identification of base words and suffixes.

#### Part 2 Language Usage

- word meaning, multiple meanings of words,
- word meaning within phrases and expressions,
- synonyms and antonyms,
- grammar, e.g., nouns, verbs, and adjectives.,
- visualising and verbalising exercises to facilitate the acquisition of word meanings for sentence writing.

#### Part 3 Writing in sentences

- writing new sentences
- finishing sentences

#### Part 4 Research

- oral discussion on matters of general knowledge
- written discussion

## The Bossy 'e' Family (medial vowel /a/)

### Teaching Notes

#### Homographs (vocabulary)

A homograph is a word that is spelled the same but has many different meanings.

**Note:** 'homo' means *'the same'*; 'graphs' means *'letters'*.  
Therefore, a **homograph** is a word that has the same letters (spelling, but different meanings, e.g., 'fair' (to have a light-coloured complexion) and 'fair' (a carnival).

'homo' means *'the same'*; 'phone' means *'sound'*.  
Therefore, a **homophone** is a word that has the same sound (but a different spelling), e.g., 'raise' and 'raze'.

#### cape

- a sleeveless item of clothing fastened around the neck and hanging loosely over the shoulders
- a piece of land jutting out into the sea

#### cane

- a long, hollow, woody stem (bamboo, sugar, rattan, etc.)
- a walking stick
  - a thin wooden rod, once used for punishing school children

#### made

- past tense of verb 'to make'
- made / maid (homophone)

#### mane

- the long hair growing on the back of the neck of animals (horse, lion, etc.)
- in humans: a long, bushy, often untended, head of hair
- mane / main (homophone)

#### pane

- one of the divisions in a window
- pane / pain (homophone)

#### tape

- a long narrow strip of linen or cotton, used for tying garments, etc.
- sticky tape, used for sealing parcels, etc.
  - a tape measure
  - a long ribbon of magnetic tape, used to record music

#### can

- a metal container (usually cylindrical) for storing or carrying goods
- to put things in this container
- to be able to, e.g., 'I can go.'

## The Bossy 'e' Family (medial vowel /i/)

### Teaching Notes

#### Vocabulary Extensions and Sayings and Expressions

##### side

##### Vocabulary Extension

sideboard	a piece of dining- room furniture with drawers and cupboards
sidecar	a small car attached to a motor cycle with one wheel of its own
side-dish	a small dish served with the main meal, e.g., a side salad
side effect	an unintended effect produced by something, e.g., a drug, or an action
sideshow	a minor entertainment at a bigger show, fair or circus, etc.
sideways	to or from the side
sidewinder	a small species of rattle snake
sideline	an additional part of a business, e.g., 'He sells gifts as a sideline in his pharmacy.' the line denoting the edge of play in a game, such as football
sidetrack	to distract from the main course
sidekick	an assistant or good friend

##### Sayings and Extensions

**Put to one side** means to leave for later.

**To take sides** means to support one person or argument.

**To get on the wrong side of** means to make someone dislike or be hostile to you.

**To get on the right side of** means to make someone feel kindly towards you.

**To let the side down** means to not perform as well as everyone else.

##### bide

to wait, e.g., 'I will bide my time and not rush into anything.'

##### bile

##### Vocabulary Extension

bilious	suffering from trouble with bile or liver sickly, nauseating, vomiting
biliary	of bile, e.g., the biliary canal (medical)

##### vile

vilify	to speak badly of
villain	a wicked person, a character in a play, etc. who takes on evil part
villainous	wicked, bad, being like a villain

##### hire

##### Vocabulary Extension

hire-car	a vehicle (usually with a driver) for hire
hire-purchase	a system where the buyer takes possession of an article and pays it off over a period of time
hireling	someone who works for payment

## The '-ar-' Family

Write 'yes' or 'no'. (comprehension)

1. A car has legs. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Carl is a girl's name. \_\_\_\_\_
3. We can jump over a bar. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Mars is a planet. \_\_\_\_\_
5. A cat can bark. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Animals are kept in a farm. \_\_\_\_\_

Put these extended words into the sentences. (comprehension)

barring

barred

darker

darkest

1. The sky is getting \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Mum \_\_\_\_\_ me from going to Bob's house.
3. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ of them all.
4. Dad is \_\_\_\_\_ the dog from the garden.

## Antonyms

Write the opposites on the lines. (vocabulary)

1. What is the opposite of dark? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the opposite of part? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the opposite of far? \_\_\_\_\_

## The '-ee-' Family

### Spelling Rules/Word Extensions/Word Building (See *How Do You Teach? Useful Spelling Rules*)

1. How many syllables in *feel*? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many vowels in *feel*? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What are the vowels in *feel*? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many letters after the vowels? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Is *feel* a one-one-one word? \_\_\_\_\_

Draw a line to match these verbs to their *irregular* past tense.

meet	felt
feed	sought
keep	met
feel	fed
seek	kept

### Grammar

A **noun** is the name of a 'thing' you can see or touch. (Sometimes a word can be a noun, verb or adjective.)

Circle the words that are nouns.

feel      keel      reed      seed      queer      jeer

A **verb** is a 'doing' word'.

Circle the words that are verbs.

veer      queen      beer      eel      jeep      seek

An **adjective** is a word that describes a noun.

Circle the words that are adjectives.

wee      peel      queer      meet      deep      reed