

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 1

WEEK 2

DATE: 15th January, 2024.

GRAMMAR: Spelling Difficulties

1. Incorrect spelling is a major problem which is bound to flaw students' assignments. This problem can be solved if a conscious effort is made on the part of such students to learn spelling of words as they develop their vocabulary.
2. Good spelling reveals your level of contact with the lexis of English. The more contact you have with words, the more conversant you will become with the spellings of the words.
3. Areas in spelling difficulties and the ways to tackle them are:
 - A. Some words sound alike but are spelt differently. Examples: queue - cure, way - weigh, west - waist, grate – great, bread – bred, etc.
 - B. Words with silent letters present spelling problem. Examples: psychology, mnemonics, rheumatism, plumber, mortgage, knight, etc.
 - C. Words with irregular plural formation also bring spelling problem. Examples:

SINGULAR	PLURAL
Stadium	Stadia
Criterion	Criteria
Medium	Media
Erratum	Errata
Radius	Radii
Memorandum	Memoranda
Focus	Foci etc.

- D. Words with 'ei' 'ie' combination are sometimes troublesome to spell being the exceptions to the normal rule.
- E. Differences between British and American English can cause spelling difficulties.
Examples:

AMERICAN SPELLING	BRITISH SPELLING
Color	Colour
Odor	Odour
Paralyze	Paralyse
Liter	Litre
Favor	Favour
Labor	Labour
Program	Programme, etc.

Note that it is British English we use in Nigeria. Therefore, British spellings are recommended. In spite of the difficulties in spelling English words, you are expected to spell them correctly as they are recorded and accepted by Standard English language dictionaries and used within educated circles.

4. SPELLING GUIDELINES

- A. Write “l” before “e” as in the following words: achieve, fierce, tier, chief, grieve, wield, field, grief, thief, brief, niece, retrieve, etc.

Exceptions to the rule:

- i. Write ‘e’ before ‘l’ in words beginning with ‘c’ as in ceiling, conceit, conceive, deceit, perceive, receive and receipt.
- ii. Write ‘e’ before ‘l’ when the ‘ei’ combination sounds like ‘a’ as in design, neighbor, reign, eight, weight, rein, and freight.

- B. Drop the final ‘e’ before adding a suffix beginning with a vowel (a, e, l, o, u) as in the word use – using, believe – believing, slope – sloping etc.

Exceptions to the rule: manage – manageable, courage – courageous, notice – noticeable.

- C. Keep the final ‘e’ before adding a suffix beginning with a consonant (other letters other than a, e, l, o, u) as in the words hope – hopeful, sincere – sincerely

Exceptions to the rule: true – truly, argue – argument.

- D. Change the final ‘y’ to ‘i’ before adding a suffix as in the following examples: happy – happiness, hurry – hurriedly, body bodies, beauty – beautiful.

Exceptions: bury – burying, annoy – annoyed etc.

- E. Double the final consonant when the word is a monosyllable or accented on the last syllable as in the words run running, refer – referring, sit – sitting, pet – petting etc.

But when the vowels are doubled, the last consonant is not doubled, e.g. beat - beating, read – reading, lead – leading etc.

HOME WORK

Copy and write out the correct spelling of the following words.

WRONGLY SPELT WORDS	CORRECTLY SPELT WORDS
Tommorrow	
Dissappear	
Deterioreit	
Argument	
Wensday	
Their	
Twelth	
Nieghbour	
Definitely	
Febuary	
Truly	
Intresting	

Pronunciation	
Knowledge	
Surprise	