## Language Arts

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Critical Thinking
A Spelling Rule Worth Learning

English spelling is often irregular. However, there is one spelling rule that covers a great many words and is almost 100 percent reliable. The rule has to do with whether a word’s stressed vowel is long or short. So, if you know how to pronounce a word, the rule will help you spell it correctly. All of the words in the list below follow the rule.

ban  boggle  hidden  pinning  tip
bane  bogus  hide  tap  tipping
bet  den  pin  tape
better  dentist  pine  tapping
bog  hid  pining

What is the rule? Can you think of other words not on the list that follow the rule? Can you think of any English words that do not follow the rule?
Scrambled Words

There is a sentence that uses all of the words below and no others and exactly four punctuation marks: three commas and a period.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>and</th>
<th>fish</th>
<th>milk</th>
<th>the</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ate</td>
<td>fish</td>
<td>of</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>between</td>
<td>fried</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>the</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bone</td>
<td>from</td>
<td>quickly</td>
<td>washing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bread</td>
<td>He</td>
<td>removed</td>
<td>with</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carton</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>slices</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>down</td>
<td>it</td>
<td>the</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Reconstruct the sentence.
How to Be Popular

“The way I became more popular was by showing people the real me! That’s all it took! I thought it was going to take more than that, but it didn’t.”

“All you really need to be ‘cool’ or ‘popular’ is friendliness or kindness. You don’t have to be a supermodel that thinks she/he has to be superior among other people. That’s not the way it has to be. Just be yourself, and people will admire that.”

“I believe that the judgment connecting to popularity is just a human flaw. I myself am very judgmental, even though I preach against how you shouldn’t do it. Come to terms that you’re not perfect first, before you condemn anyone else.”

The quotations above were posted on a web site called “How to Be Popular in High School.” Which do you agree with, if any?
Mnemonic Devices

Often in school, when you need to memorize things, a mnemonic device can help. A mnemonic device is something you make up to associate a word or concept with its meaning. For example, musicians use mnemonic devices to remember the names of the lines and spaces in the treble clef. From the bottom up, the spaces are F, A, C, and E; the lines are E, G, B, D, and F. The spaces spell the word “face” and the lines are an acronym for “Every good boy does fine.” A mnemonic device doesn’t have to make sense. Sometimes weird or foolish ones are the easiest to remember.

Make up a mnemonic device to help you remember something. If you can’t think of anything, make one up for the spaces (A, C, E, F) and lines (G, B, D, F, A) of the bass clef.
Alliteration is the repeating of beginning consonant sounds. Even very young children love tongue twisters that use alliteration. Here is an example:

Sue sells seashells by the seashore.

Alliteration can be a great help to memory. It is alliteration that helps us remember certain phrases. For example, “live and learn,” “sink or swim,” “the more the merrier,” and “green as grass” all use alliteration.

List five examples of alliteration below.

____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
Synecdoche is using part of something to represent the whole, or the whole of something to represent the part. For example, when Mark Antony says in Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar*, “Friends, Romans, Countrymen, lend me your ears,” he wants more than his audience’s ears; he wants their full attention.

Read the examples of synecdoche below. Then explain why each is an example of synecdoche.

1. The gentleman asked for the lady’s hand in marriage.
   ______________________________________________________

2. John showed off his new set of wheels.
   ______________________________________________________

3. My favorite movie is on the tube tonight.
   ______________________________________________________
Reviewing Pronouns

Remember that there are several different types of pronouns: personal, reflexive, intensive, indefinite, demonstrative, and interrogative.

Read each of the pronouns below. Write the type of each pronoun on the line provided.

1. himself ________________
2. which ________________
3. everyone ________________
4. these ________________
5. mine ________________
6. someone ________________
7. them ________________
8. that ________________
9. what ________________
10. another ________________
11. yours ________________
12. myself ________________
Inserting Quotation Marks

Read the following sentences. You will notice that the quotation marks have been omitted. Insert the quotation marks when needed.

1. Hannah, have you read Maya Angelou’s poem Phenomenal Woman? Mr. Harrison asked.

2. Your father said that he will drop you off at school on his way to work.

3. That building over there, he said, is the tallest building in the city.

4. Did you hear your grandmother say happy birthday?

5. I've always thought the word hullabaloo was funny.

6. Our history teacher told us that he wouldn’t give us homework this weekend.
Reviewing Punctuation

Read each of the following sentences, paying close attention to the punctuation. If the punctuation is correct, write C on the line. If it is incorrect, write I on the line and correct the punctuation errors.

___ 1. Isn’t your application due by 10:00 A.M. on Monday, May 1?

___ 2. Out of all twenty-one of you, only two submitted well written essays.

___ 3. Omar after you’re finished vacuuming please help me fold the laundry make the bed and take out the trash

___ 4. Please choose two of the following activities for winter carnival; ice skating, snow sculpture, sledding, ice hockey, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing.

___ 5. Benjamin Franklin—a statesman, a scientist, an inventor, and a philosopher—was one of our Founding Fathers.
Grades 9–12
LANGUAGE ARTS

Mythology
According to the Roman poet Ovid, the history of humans is separated into four ages. The earliest period was the Golden Age. Ovid lived in a period he called the Iron Age.

Match the name of an age with the description from Ovid. Write the letter of the correct answer in the space provided.

___ 1. The Iron Age a. People live in ease and abundance, in a sort of paradise.
___ 2. The Bronze Age b. People live as immature beings, and seasons appear.
___ 3. The Silver Age c. Hardship appears, and people are fashioned from ash wood.
___ 4. The Golden Age d. Toil and fighting are common.

Now write a paragraph describing the age you live in. What do you call your age? Why?
Daedalus was a great inventor and architect. He built the Labyrinth for King Minos. According to Apollodorus, a group of Athenians escaped the maze, and King Minos blamed Daedalus. Imprisoned in his own invention, Daedalus and his son, Icarus, built two pairs of wings using feathers and wax. Instead of having to find their way through the maze, the wings would carry them up and away from the island of Crete. Daedalus told his son not to fly too close to the sun or too close to the water. Ignoring this advice, Icarus soared with joy high in the sky. The wax on his wings melted, and he plunged to his death in the sea.

What does this story say about Icarus? Describe how Icarus might have felt as he rose toward the sun.
**Send Away!**

*mit, miss—roots meaning to send*

Match each word to its definition by writing the correct letter on each line.

1. dismiss
2. transmit
3. missile
4. submit
5. missive
6. permit

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>b.</td>
<td>c.</td>
<td>d.</td>
<td>e.</td>
<td>f.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to present for review</td>
<td>to allow; to authorize</td>
<td>a weapon that is thrown or projected</td>
<td>written communication; letter</td>
<td>to allow to leave</td>
<td>to send</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Circle the Suffix

Choose the correct suffix to complete each sentence. Circle the letter of the correct suffix.

1. When the crops did well, food was plenti_____ for the colonists.
   a. tude  b. ly  c. ful

2. The hikers gazed in wonder_____ at the waterfall.
   a. ful  b. ment  c. ing

3. The company held an annu_____ conference.
   a. al  b. ity  c. ness

4. When the restor_____ project is finished, the building will look exactly as it did in the middle of the nineteenth century.
   a. ation  b. ative  c. ment

5. The dinner will recogn_____ all of the volunteers who have worked with the organization this year.
   a. ize  b. ition  c. izable
**Shakespeare’s characters** occasionally insult each other in expressive and sometimes graphic words. To invent your own insult using Shakespeare’s language, combine one word from each of the three columns below, preceded by the word “Thou.” Try to determine what your insult might mean, and then do some research to find out the actual meaning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
<th>Column 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gleeking</td>
<td>fly-bitten</td>
<td>measles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>spleeny</td>
<td>idle-headed</td>
<td>skainsmate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>cockered</td>
<td>flap-mouthed</td>
<td>miscreant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>villainous</td>
<td>base-court</td>
<td>pigeon-egg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ruttish</td>
<td>sheep-biting</td>
<td>flax-wench</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beslubbering</td>
<td>dizzy-eyed</td>
<td>clotpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fawning</td>
<td>rude-growing</td>
<td>flap-dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>surly</td>
<td>onion-eyed</td>
<td>coxcomb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>infectious</td>
<td>boil-brained</td>
<td>apple-john</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mammering</td>
<td>elf-skinned</td>
<td>haggard</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
capricious (adj)—impulsive; unpredictable

The young prince was quite capricious; his friends never knew what his next adventure would be.

Circle a synonym for capricious:

prepared  whimsical  irresponsible

Circle an antonym for capricious:

daring  spontaneous  premeditated

Now use capricious in a sentence of your own.
innocuous (adj)—not harmful or injurious

A few spiders are poisonous, but most are **innocuous** and pose no danger.

Write one synonym for **innocuous**. __________________________

Complete the word web below.

![Word web](image)

Now use **innocuous** in a sentence of your own.
Grades 9–12
LANGUAGE ARTS

Vocabulary
Word Play
**Food Fun**

The following sentences all are missing two words. The two missing words in each sentence are the same, but they may not have the same meaning. At least one of the words in each pair has a definition related to food. Write the missing words on the lines below.

1. The boy did not ____________ the ____________ the vendor put on his hot dog.

2. When heavy winds ____________ the ship, the cruise passengers do not want to eat at the ____________.

3. Although she was not a ____________ character, her ____________ sauce made her rudeness bearable.

4. Although it was tempting to ____________ on the luscious desserts, the sight of a fly in the custard made the meal rise in her ____________.

5. The disturbing story in the ____________ of the week’s news articles made it difficult for him to ____________ his dinner.

6. I will ____________ the soup with hot pepper flakes, even if summer is not really the ____________ for a spicy dish.

7. A hungry traveler might ____________ a bird from a farmer, but it would not be easy to ____________ the catch without someone seeing the fire.

8. After he ____________ the eggs into soft peaks, he ____________ the dirty dishes into the sink.

9. Although he was in a bad ____________, the chef knew he had to take the time to ____________ the chocolate carefully or it would be dull and grainy.

10. Asking Tran to ____________ the vegetables was always a roll of the ____________; he had scarred his fingers with the knife many times.
Sales Pitch

Advertisers want their audience to buy a product. To lure customers, some ads make larger-than-life claims. Imagine that you are an advertising copywriter for the following products. Describe each product using outsize adjectives. For example, a tasty new cookie might be described as a stupendous snack experience. Be sure to use at least one exaggerated adjective in each description.

1. a new sport utility vehicle

2. a line of sunglasses

3. a line of sneakers

4. a new video game

5. a new soft drink