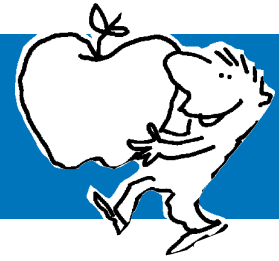

Here's an Instant Activity for October 21, 2002



STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling curriculum that:

1. provides a menu of skill-building activities that range in sophistication to teach critical concepts at a student's own level,
2. uses assessment to gather information to target word study to the specific words each student has not learned from among all previously introduced words in the program, as well as to identify skills not yet mastered,
3. equips teachers with guidelines for spelling expectations in everyday writing that increase as students develop as writers, making the classroom a rehearsal for real-world writing, and
4. proposes multiple opportunities to engage parents in the acquisition of spelling skills with their child.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—it complements the skill-building component in the SPELLING SOURCEBOOK Series, Second Edition, 2002.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

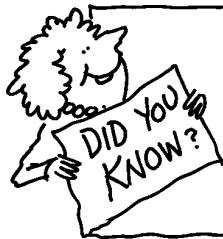
Approximately Grade 6



PURPOSE

Concept: Frequent spelling patterns for /s/ are *s*, *ss*, *sc*, *ce*, *ci*, and *cy*.
Skills: phonics, spelling word patterns, more words, sorting words

This Instant Activity grows from the high-use Core Words *interest*, *chance*, and *sight*, words 691, 692, and 694, respectively, on a frequency-of-use list of writing words. The purpose of the activity is not to specifically teach or reinforce the spelling of these Core Words, but to teach students skills and concepts that they can apply to many words. Note that the activity grows many more words—the more words with which students have experiences, the better they are able to think, read, and write.



A single *s* accounts for almost 75% of /s/ spellings (*son/interest/thermos*). The second most frequent spelling pattern is *c*—followed by *e*, *i*, or *y*. An *ss* and *sc* can spell /s/ and an *x* can spell /ks/.



SUGGESTED USE

This Instant Activity can be used to coincide with Activity 1A, Unit 4, page 29, in Level 6 of the Spelling Sourcebook Series, Second Edition.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Provide students with paper/pencil. Have students write: *interests, possible, muscle, insights, chance, decide, bicycle, explain*. Ask students to identify how the words are alike (all contain /s/). Write the words on the chalkboard, or have a student do so, for self-checking. Underline the letters that spell /s/ (s, ss, sc, ce, ci, cy, x). Note that x spells /ks/.

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Ask students to silently read the directions, look at the activity, and determine what is expected. Discuss the directions before students begin the exercise.



FOLLOW-UP

Have students work in pairs to proofread the words sorted on the Instant Activity. Ask students what spelling for /s/ was the most prominent. Conclude that a single *s* most often spells /s/, but *ss, sc, ce, ci,* and *cy* are also frequent spelling patterns for the sound. Help students recall that *x* can spell /ks/. Then use the words students collected for more activities, such as:

- sort the words by part of speech
- add prefixes to appropriate words to make more words
- add suffixes to appropriate words to make more words
- fold paper into sixteen boxes and use selected words for bingo
- identify words that contain more than one /s/ spelling pattern
- write synonyms for the words
- identify the homophones/homographs



FOR MORE

For more activities to teach all the essential skills and concepts, and to develop a total spelling and language-related program, use the Spelling Sourcebook for your grade level.

To learn about the newly revised Series:

Request our free, on-loan Overview Video by calling 888-WE-SPELL (888-937-7355). The video can also be ordered through our web site: www.sittonspelling.com.

Attend a seminar that explains and demonstrates lessons that reflect the Spelling Sourcebook methodology. For more information, visit www.sittonspelling.com. Click on the Training tab at the top of the page, then click on Seminar Schedule.

To order your SPELLING SOURCEBOOK:

Northwest Textbook Depository

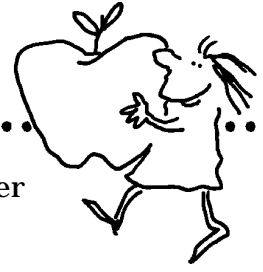
P.O. Box 5608

Portland, OR 97228

800-676-6630

503-639-2559 (fax)

Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name _____, Super Speller

Spelling Patterns for /s/ Words

Label each box with the letters that spell /s/. Then find more /s/ words. Sort them below.

interests insights	possible	muscle

chance	decide	bicycle