
Here's an Instant Activity for December 2, 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 1



PURPOSE

Concept: Some sounds are spelled more than one way.

Skills: homophones, phonics, word analysis, visual skills, sorting words, spelling word patterns, vocabulary development

This Instant Activity grows from the high-use Core Word *to*, word 5 on a frequency-of-use list of writing words. The purpose of the activity is not to specifically teach or reinforce the spelling of *to*, but to springboard from this word to explore multiple words and related language skills. Note that the activity grows many words—the more words with which students have experiences, the better they are able to think, read, and write.



SUGGESTED USE

This Instant Activity can be used to coincide with Activities 2A and 2B, Unit 2, page 8, in Level 1 of the Spelling Sourcebook Series, Second Edition.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Write the homophones *to* and *two* on the chalkboard. Discriminate meaning between the words by using them in context sentences (omit *too* for now). Have students brainstorm words that rhyme with the homophones. Write the words on the chalkboard as students suggest them (e.g., *zoo*, *blue*, *new*). Note that some sounds are spelled more than one way. Then sort the words by spelling pattern (e.g., *do*, *to*; *blew*, *crew*, *dew*, *few*, *flew*, *grew*, *knew*, *new*, *stew*; *argue*, *blue*, *clue*, *due*, *glue*, *true*; *boo*, *moo*, *shampoo*,

too, zoo). Discuss meanings of unfamiliar words. Discuss meanings and use of homophones (e.g., *blew/blue*).

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Read and discuss the directions to explain what is expected before students begin the exercise.



FOLLOW-UP

Have students work in pairs to proofread their Instant Activities.

For challenge, you may wish to ask selected students to make more word-shape boxes for their classmates to find and write words that fit. The Grid Blackline Master (page 210 in the Level 1 Spelling Sourcebook) or graph paper can be used for this exercise.



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

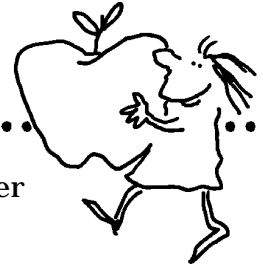
P.O. Box 5608

Portland, OR 97228

800-676-6630

503-639-2559 (fax)

Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name _____, Super Speller

Some Words Are Spelled More Than One Way

Write the rhyming words in the word shape boxes.

1. to, do The word shape for 'to' consists of a tall box on the left and a shorter box on the right. The word shape for 'do' consists of a tall box on the left and a shorter box on the right. Both have a dashed line across the middle.
2. new, grew The word shape for 'new' consists of three boxes of equal height. The word shape for 'grew' consists of a tall box on the left and three boxes of equal height to its right. Both have a dashed line across the middle.
3. blue, true The word shape for 'blue' consists of two tall boxes on the left and two shorter boxes on the right. The word shape for 'true' consists of a tall box on the left and three boxes of equal height to its right. Both have a dashed line across the middle.
4. zoo, too The word shape for 'zoo' consists of three boxes of equal height. The word shape for 'too' consists of a tall box on the left and two shorter boxes on the right. Both have a dashed line across the middle.

Which word goes in this word shape box? Write it.

5. stew, glue, few, blew The word shape box consists of a tall box on the left, a shorter box on the right, and a box of the same height as the shorter box on the far right. A dashed line is drawn across the middle.