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## Here's an Instant Activity for March 17, 2003



### STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

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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

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Approximately Grade 1



### PURPOSE

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**Concept:** One goal of the Spelling Sourcebook Series is to help students become careful proofreaders in their writing—to learn to appreciate a well-proofread paper and to perfect the proofreading skills that are tested on all standardized spelling tests. This begins in first grade. Students are taught strategies for proofreading, and then they apply what they know as they write every day.

**Skills:** visual skill building

As first graders gain competence in writing and spelling, the words they use most often are signaled on a reference list as words for which they can no longer “invent” a spelling, but must always spell accurately—no excuses! These words are called Priority Words.

Spelling Priority Words correctly consistently in everyday writing is a minimum competency for spelling in writing. Most first graders spell far more than their Priority Words accurately in their writing. The effort students make to spell their Priority Words correctly is the practice they need to spell any word correctly in writing, and the practice they need for developing the skills necessary for performance in subsequent grades on any standardized spelling test—all are proofreading and editing tests.

This Instant Activity provides a visual-skill building exercise for quick recognition of the words that will ultimately become their Priority Words by the end of first grade.



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## SUGGESTED USE

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This Instant Activity Word Search can be used to complement any of the Build Proofreading Skills sections in Level 1 of the Spelling Sourcebook Series, Second Edition. Look for this logo in the Sourcebook. The words for which students are searching are the fifteen highest-use words in the English language—the words writers use most frequently throughout their life.



Print the Priority Word list that is provided as part of this Instant Activity. Provide a copy to each student. Highlight words on the Priority Word list in order of frequency of use over time to signal those words that are Priority Words and must be spelled correctly *all the time* in writing. By the end of the year, all words are highlighted and should automatically be spelled correctly by students—no excuses!

Words in frequency order are: *the* (1), *of* (2), *and* (3), *a* (4), *to* (5), *in* (6), *is* (7), *you* (8), *that* (9), *it* (10), *he* (11), *for* (12), *was* (13), *on* (14), *are* (15).



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## TEACHING DIRECTIONS

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Print the Instant Activity Word Search and distribute a copy to each student. Read and discuss the directions to explain what is expected before students begin the exercise. Note: Words to be circled are written left to right only.



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## FOLLOW-UP

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Have students work in pairs to proofread their Instant Activities.

For challenge, you may wish to ask selected students to make word search games for their classmates to complete. The Grid Blackline Master (page 210 in the Level 1 Sourcebook) or graph paper can be used for this exercise.



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## FOR MORE

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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](http://www.sittonspelling.com).

Attend a seminar that explains and demonstrates lessons that reflect the Spelling Sourcebook methodology. For more information, visit [www.sittonspelling.com](http://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

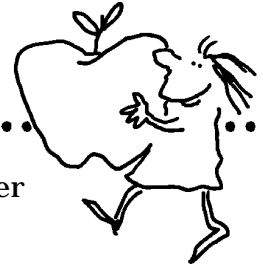
P.O. Box 5608

Portland, OR 97228

800-676-6630

503-639-2559 (fax)

# Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name \_\_\_\_\_, Super Speller

## Level One Priority Words

Words With Frequencies in Writing 1-15

a

and

are

for

he

in

is

it

of

on

that

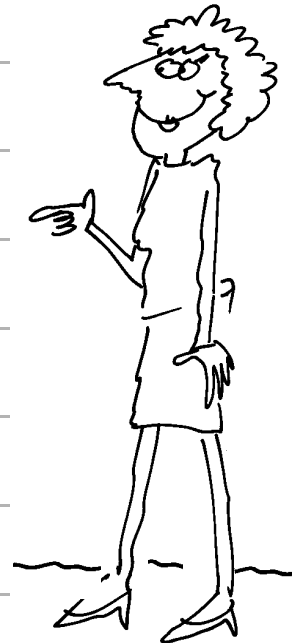
the

to

was

you

THESE ARE THE  
"NO EXCUSE"  
WORDS!  
WE USE THEM  
TO PRACTICE  
PROOFREADING  
IN WRITING.



My Priority Words are the words marked.

# Build Skills and Word Experiences



Name \_\_\_\_\_, Super Speller

## Word Search for High-Use Words

Circle these words in the Word Search.

a	and	are	for	he
in	is	it	of	on
that	the	to	was	you

ilzaiofjislphekinldfareloflhthatkdyinz

xforssdqitlopdyouiareolz tandhdrwasq

qjwthetriutomthatskaftoyouewarefis

onqwthezofytwasxeandlforpltogitvhq

heoiinpmyouwtwasrhxanduitonongheb