

Here's an Instant Activity for November 1, 2004



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 develop item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Approximately Grade 3



PURPOSE

Concept: The development of visual skills contributes to effective spelling and proofreading.

Skills: word analysis, visual skills, more words

This Instant Activity develops emerging wordsmiths' ability to see each sequential letter in a word, and to discriminate the shape of each letter to aid the formation of a picture of the word in the mind's eye. This skill aids the development of spelling and proofreading. All standardized tests are editing tests, so the development of visual skills establishes the foundation for able performance on these tests.



SUGGESTED USE

Use this Instant Activity with the Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards *long* (#91), *just* (#97), *great* (#146), *both* (#180), *those* (#182), and *almost* (#216).



The Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards include Core Words 1–335, each with an appropriate grade-three activity on the back to extend word experiences and build communication skills across the curriculum.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Post the word cards in the chalk tray. On a chalkboard grid, draw letter boxes for *long*, the *l* and *g* using two vertical boxes. Ask students which word fits the shape. Conclude that *long* fits the shape, the others do not. Ask a student to write the letters for *long* in the boxes. Repeat the activity with *just*.

Next, print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask students to complete the activity at home or at school.



FOLLOW-UP

Have students create word shapes on graph paper for words they know. Ask them to number each word shape. On a separate sheet of paper they make an answer key. They list the number of each word shape with their answer word. Students exchange word shape papers. They fill in the letters with a word that matches the shape. Then student pairs check using the answer keys. Students score a point for each correct word. Because there are often several words that match each shape, luck plays a role in the score.



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. Further extend the concepts and skills in the Spelling Sourcebook Series with Level 3 of Word Skills in Rhythm and Rhyme, featuring General Spaghetti, the Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards, and Word-Wise Sourcebook Two for third and fourth grade.

To learn about the 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.

To learn how to use the Spelling Sourcebook Series:

1. 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.
2. Use the **NEW TUTOR ME** Training Video/CD-ROM for your grade level either on your own or in a small group. Rebecca Sitton guides you through a complete unit, tells you exactly what to do, and why. Set aside about two hours to acquire complete expertise, or learn about each part of a unit as you need it. Invite parents to discover how their child will be learning to spell with the Parent Introduction. Visit www.sittonspelling.com for more information.

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

Word Shapes

Write words that match the shape.

long

just

great

both

those

almost
