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# Here's an Instant Activity for April 18, 2005



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## 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—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.



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## LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

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Approximately Grade 4



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## PURPOSE

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Concept: Opportunities for authentic test-taking practice prepare students for taking standardized format tests.

Skills: proofreading, editing, following directions, using a telephone book



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## SUGGESTED USE

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This Instant Activity can be used to complement Level 4 of the Spelling Sourcebook Series. Often at the fourth grade level, students benefit from standardized test format practice. This practice is included in *every unit* in Levels 5–8 in “Proof It.” To make the activity authentic, the items for proofreading are not limited to only those words and skills included heretofore in the students' instruction in the Series. Further, the formats of the tests parallel standardized test formats to help students develop test-wise skills prior to their taking an actual standardized test.



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## TEACHING DIRECTIONS

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Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Ask students to silently read the directions to determine what they think is expected. Discuss the directions to confirm their meaning. Tell students the activity is timed—you will tell them when to start, when they have 30 seconds left, and when to stop (about five minutes).



A city telephone book contains alot of information besides phone numbers of people and Businesses in there calling area. Often you'll find street maps for the city. Usualy there's information about additional phone services, such as caller identification! This service let's you know who are calling before you answer the phone. A short name for this specail service is caller ID. In many phone books, area codes are listed for other cities. You'll always find a section in the front for important numbers, such as a center for information in case anyone eats someting thats poison. Explore your phone book for these and other things.



#### FOLLOW-UP

Correct the tests, or have students self-check. If the latter option is chosen, make a transparency from the blackline master for use on an overhead projector. Discuss each item. Model the thinking students may do to determine errors (e.g. Is *a lot* one word or two words—what do I remember about this? I remember...).

Ask students to explore their city phone book. Make a class list of information the phone book includes. Have students practice locating information in their phone book.



#### 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 Word-Wise Sourcebook Two for third and fourth grade.

To reinforce essential languages skills and concepts for lower performing learners in fourth grade, use Word Skills in Rhythm and Rhyme, Level 3, featuring General Spaghetti, and the Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards. Word Skills in Rhythm and Rhyme extends language learning with six chant-along rhymes introduced on CD-ROM and followed up with over 100 blackline master practice pages. Springboard from the Core Words to more words with the Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards. Level 3 includes the top 335 Core Words on a 3.5" x 6" card, with a grade-specific activity on back.

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](http://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](http://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

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it. Invite parents to discover how their child will be learning to spell with the Parent Introduction. Visit [www.sittonspelling.com](http://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

## Proof It



Proofread for spelling, capitalization, grammar, and punctuation errors. Circle twelve errors.

A city telephone book contains a lot of information besides phone numbers of people and businesses in their calling area. Often you'll find street maps for the city. Usually there's information about additional phone services, such as caller identification! This service lets you know who are calling before you answer the phone. A short name for this special service is caller ID. In many phone books, area codes are listed for other cities. You'll always find a section in the front for important numbers, such as a center for information in case anyone eats something that's poison. Explore your phone book for these and other things

