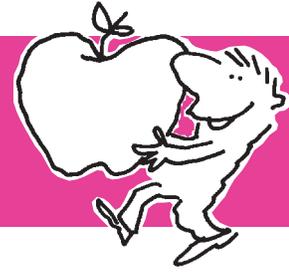


Here's an Instant Activity for April 17, 2006



STRATEGY FOR SPELLING SUCCESS

For most learners, spelling well doesn't just happen. It is the result of a conscientious spelling and word-skill 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.



LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY

Approximately Grade 3



PURPOSE

To provide practice with /s/ spelling patterns.

Skills: /s/ spelling patterns, phonics, visual skills, spelling



SUGGESTED USE

Use this Instant Activity with the Level 3 Sourcebook (2nd or 3rd Edition), Unit 30, Activity 1C, page 292.



TEACHING DIRECTIONS

Write *course*, *space*, *across*, and *plants* on the chalkboard. Ask students how the words are alike (end in /s/). Underline the ending letter (*se*, *ce*, *ss*, and *s*). Have students recall the other frequent spelling patterns for /s/ (*ci* and *cy*). Note that some sounds are spelled more than one way.

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 work in pairs to complete the activity at school.



FOLLOW-UP

Ask pairs of students to team up together to compare their grids and proofread their words. Then have students determine which pair was able to write the most intersecting words on their grid.

Later, have students play again. This time change the category, perhaps choosing a theme such as animals or names of cities, a different phonics element, irregular verbs, or words with suffixes.



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 Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills for your grade level (grades 1–8). Extend practice and word exploration with the optional student Practice Books for Learning Spelling and Word Skills (grades 1–6), appropriate for use with both the 2nd and 3rd Edition Sourcebooks. Each Practice Book contains correlated activities for selected lessons from every Sourcebook unit, a proofreading/editing exercise for each unit, and pages in the back for students to record their Spelling Words for study.

Further extend the Level 3 Sourcebook concepts and skills with Word-Wise Sourcebook Two for third and fourth grades, the Level 3 Core Word Activity Cards, and the Level 3 Word Skills in Rhythm and Rhyme CD-ROM/Activity Master Sourcebook.

To learn about the Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:

Request our free Overview Video (available in DVD and VHS formats) online at www.sittonspelling.com or by calling 888-WE-SPELL (888-937-7355).

Sign up to receive Rebecca Sitton's complimentary quarterly e-newsletter at www.sittonspelling.com.

To learn how to use the Sourcebook Series for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:

1. Attend a seminar that explains and demonstrates lessons that reflect the 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, telling 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. Use the TUTOR ME Parents as Partners module to introduce parents to the program and show them how their child will be learning to spell. Visit www.sittonspelling.com for more information.

To order your Sourcebook for Teaching Spelling and Word Skills:

Order online at www.sittonspelling.com or contact:

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