Here's an Instant Activity for April 15, 2013

**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 their child’s acquisition of spelling skills.

This Instant Activity helps teachers achieve item number 1 above—and item number 4, if the activity is assigned as homework.

Meeting state standards is a priority of Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®. Instant Activities further support skills and concepts reflected in state standards.

**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY**

Approximately Grade 6

**PURPOSE**

To provide practice with often-confused words

Skills: spelling, phonics, suffixes, often-confused words, word usage, vocabulary development

**SUGGESTED USE**

Use this Instant Activity with the Level 6 Sourcebook (2nd or 3rd Edition), Unit 35, Activity 1B, page 308.

**TEACHING DIRECTIONS**

Write these words on the board: **advising, quitter, choosing, united, seized, dairies, losing**. Ask students to write the words without the suffixes. Write the base words on the board for students to self-check.

Discuss the differences between **desert/dessert, advise/advice, quit/quiet/quite, choose/chose, unite/unit, seize/cease, dairy/diary, lose/loose**. Expand the lesson to more often-confused words. Then have students add suffixes to some of the words to provide practice and reinforce suffix rules.

Print the Instant Activity and distribute a copy to each student. Discuss the activity to ensure that students know what is expected. Then ask them to complete it at home or at school.
FOLLOW-UP

Review the answers to the Instant Activity. Discuss the meaning of unfamiliar words.

Answers: 1. recipe, dessert; 2. set, diner, dinner; 3. lightning, lightening; 4. loose, lose; 5. advise, advice; 6. choose, adapt; 7. disproved; 8. formally, formerly; 9. consensus, further; 10. ceased, seized.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about Sitton Spelling and Word Skills®, visit eps.schoolspecialty.com/Sitton.
Choose words from the box to best complete each sentence.

adapt/adopt • advice/advise • ceased/seized • census/consensus • choose/chose
desert/dessert • diner/dinner • disapproved/disproved • farther/further
formally/formerly • lightening/lightning • loose/lose • receipt/recipe • sit/set

1. My friend wants my ________________ for banana cream pie. She says it’s the best
   ________________ she’s ever had.
2. As soon as the waitress ________________ the plate down, the ________________ quickly
   ate his ________________ and departed.
3. Now that the thunder and ________________ are over, the sky is ________________ to
   the west.
4. My bracelet is ________________ and I’m afraid I’m going to ________________ it.
5. I ________________ you not to listen to his ________________.
6. There are so many adorable puppies here; it’s hard to ________________ one! Which one will
   ________________ most quickly to our house?
7. Following extensive research, the scientist ________________ the old theory.
8. As my friend began to ________________ introduce me to her teacher, we realized we had
   ________________ met.
9. The committee has reached a ________________ on the issue, so no ________________
   discussion is necessary.
10. Before the scuffle ________________, the opponent ________________ the ball and took off.

Choose the right word to complete the proverb, then explain what the proverb means:

Let your conscious/conscience be your guide.
A pitcher/picture paints a thousand words.
Wonders will never cease/seize.