

Spelling Bee Games

Trace It!

How to play?

Students can use these activities during free time in class to prepare for the Spelling Bee. There are two versions of each activity: one for students to practice alone, and one they can do in pairs or groups.

Level: Elementary

Age: Children (Primary)

Time needed: 10 minutes

Aim: Practice Spelling Bee skills while reviewing vocabulary related to a specific topic or lesson

Skills: Spelling, Vocabulary, Listening, Speaking

Materials needed: Worksheets

- After tracing all the words in the left column, ask students to fold the worksheet in half and try to spell and write the words correctly in the right column without looking at the original word.
- Then ask students to check the original word to see if they spelled it correctly. They can swap worksheets to do a cross-check.
- Each correct word wins a point. Encourage students to share their final score and discuss which words need further practice.

Collaborative Variant

Divide students into pairs and follow the same approach. Instead of writing the words on the board, ask pairs to choose the words and write them in the left column. Then ask pairs to swap worksheets to challenge their classmates. A different variant would be asking students to choose and write words in the left column and read them to their classmate. Student B should spell and write the given word in the right column.

Warm-up Tips

Before playing, ask students to stand up in pairs. Explain you will give them a challenging word and they have to write it with "invisible ink" (their finger) on their classmate's back. Remind students they have to spell the word aloud while "writing". Also, explain that they can correct their classmate if necessary but to do it respectfully. Have students take turns. Complete two rounds to give both students the opportunity to practice.

Individual Practice

- Give a copy of the chart to each student.
- Pick up the most challenging words and write them on the board.
- Ask students to choose the words they would like to practice. Give them time to write the words in the left column.
- Then ask students to trace the words with colored pencils. For lower levels, ask them to repeat the tracing two or three times with different colors. A variant of this step would be using tracing paper on top of the first column.
- Remind students to trace each letter slowly and say it aloud as they write it.

Teaching Tips

Tracing and spelling aloud is a helpful technique. Combining movement with focused tasks helps younger students, who cannot sit for longer periods of time. Adding textures is also great. For example, students can trace with paint on their fingers or trace spelling in a sand box.