

## Third Grade Spelling

### #1 Short Vowels

last  
class  
smell  
head  
friend  
left  
send  
mix  
milk  
thick  
thin  
stick

**Strategy:** A short vowel sound is *usually* spelled with one vowel followed by a consonant sound.

**Dictionary Skill:** ABC  
Order

Put words in ABC order by looking at the first letter of each word. Decide which of those letters comes first in the alphabet. If the first letters are the same, go to the first pair of letters that are different.

### #2 More Short Vowels

pond  
drop  
lot  
sock  
crop  
luck  
rub  
does  
drum  
hunt  
shut  
front

**Strategy:** A short vowel sound is *usually* spelled with one vowel followed by a consonant sound.

**#3 Vowel-Consonant-e  
Pattern**

save  
life  
wide  
mine  
grade  
smile  
smoke  
huge  
note  
cube  
come  
love

**Strategy:** When spelling a word with a long vowel sound, remember that a long vowel sound is *often* spelled with the vowel-consonant-e pattern.

**Dictionary Skill:**

**Parts of a Dictionary**

A dictionary lists words in ABC order. how could you find the word cube quickly? Turn to the front part of the dictionary, where you will find the words starting with c.

**#4 More Long Vowel  
Spellings**

paint  
clay  
neighbor  
eight  
paid  
lay  
weigh  
feel  
leave  
seem  
speak  
need

**Strategy:** To spell a word with the long a or the long e sound, remember these things:

- The long a sound can be spelled ai or ay.
- The long e sound can be spelled ea or ee.

## #5 Spelling the Long o Sound

coach  
float  
soap  
blow  
row  
own  
hold  
sold  
both  
most  
sew  
through

**Strategy:** To spell a word with the long o sound, remember that this sound can be spelled oa, ow or o.

### **Dictionary Skill: Guide Words**

**Entry words** are the main words in a dictionary. They are in ABC order. Two **guide words** at the top of each page help you find words quickly. They tell the first and last entry words on the page.

## #6 Three-Letter Clusters

scream  
screen  
spring  
spray  
spread  
strong  
straight  
stream  
street  
string  
throw  
three

**Strategy:** When you are spelling a word that has a consonant cluster, say the word aloud and listen for the different consonant sounds. Remember, some words begin with the consonant clusters scr, spr, str, and thr.

### **Dictionary Skill:**

#### Definitions

A dictionary entry has one or more definitions, or meanings, for the entry word. A sample sentence helps to make the meaning clear. (Show entry from a dictionary)

## #7 Spelling the Long i Sound

bright  
sight  
fight  
tight  
might  
wild  
child  
mind  
die  
pie  
lie  
tie

**Strategy:** When you hear the long i sound, think of the patterns ight, i or ie.

### **Dictionary Skill:** **Pronunciation Key**

A dictionary entry has a pronunciation that helps you say the entry word. The **pronunciation key** tells you what sounds the symbols in the pronunciation stand for. It gives a sample word for each sound.

## #8 The Vowel Sound in clown

clown  
crowd  
bow  
crown  
round  
sound  
loud  
ground  
count  
cloud  
mouth  
would

**Strategy:** When you hear the ou sound, as in clown and round, remember it is *often* spelled with the pattern ow or ou.

## #9 The Vowel Sound in

### lawn

lawn  
raw  
straw  
law  
cloth  
soft  
cost  
talk  
almost  
also  
wall  
walk

**Strategy:** The o sound can be spelled with these patterns:

- aw, as in lawn
- o as in cloth
- a before l, as in almost

## #10 Unexpected

### Consonant Patterns

knee  
knot  
knife  
knock  
know  
wrap  
wrong  
write  
scratch  
patch  
watch  
match

**Strategy:** Some word have unexpected consonant patterns.

A beginning n sound may be spelled kn. A beginning r sound may be spelled wr. A final ch sound may be spelled tch.

### **Dictionary Skill:** **Choosing the Correct** **Meaning**

If an entry word has more than one meaning, the meanings are numbered. A sample sentence may be given to make the meaning clear.

## #11 Vowel + r Sound

Dark  
star  
smart  
art  
March  
clear  
near  
ear  
storm  
fourth  
door  
north

**Strategy:** Remember these spelling patterns for the vowel

+ r sounds:

- arm as in dark
- ear, as in clear
- or, as in storm

### **Dictionary Skill: Guide Words**

Use guide words to help you find an entry word in a dictionary more quickly. Remember that entry words are in ABC order.

## #12 Vowel + r Sound

her  
were  
serve  
girl  
first  
bird  
third  
dirt  
turn  
hurt  
work  
word

**Strategy:** Remember these spelling patterns for the ur sounds:

- er, as in her
- ir, as in girl
- ur, as in turn
- or, as in work

## # 13 The Vowel Sound in coin

coin  
soil  
noise  
oil  
spoil  
point  
boil  
join  
foil  
boy  
toy  
joy

**Strategy:** The oi sound as in coin and boy, is spelled with the pattern oi or oy.

### **Dictionary Skill: Words That Look the Same**

Some words are spelled the same but have different meanings. The words are numbered and listed separately in a dictionary.

## #14 Spelling the j Sound

judge  
jump  
jeans  
jar  
June  
stage  
gym  
large  
page  
age  
orange  
giraffe

**Strategy:** The j sound can be spelled with the consonant j or with the consonant g followed by e, i or y.

**#15 Spelling the k and  
kw Sounds**

quick  
queen  
quart  
quit  
squeeze  
park  
skin  
picnic  
school  
week  
second  
crack

**Strategy:** The k sound can be spelled with the pattern k, ck or c. The kw sounds can be spelled with the qu pattern.

**Dictionary Skill: Part of Speech**

A dictionary entry shows if a word is a noun, a verb or another part of speech. Abbreviations are used.

**#16 Vowel + r Sounds  
in hair**

care  
scare  
bare  
share  
hair  
chair  
pair  
air  
fair  
bear  
pear  
where

**Strategy:** The ar sounds can be spelled with these patterns:

- are, as in care
- air, as in hair
- ear, as in bear

## #17 Homophones

hear  
here  
new  
knew  
its  
it's  
our  
hour  
there  
their  
they're

**Strategy: Homophones** are words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings. When you spell a homophone, think about the meaning of the word you want to write.

### **Dictionary Skill:**

#### **Homophones**

A dictionary entry uses the symbol ♦ to designate homophones.

## #18 Compound Words

airplane  
inside  
grandmother  
sometimes  
himself  
nothing  
birthday  
herself  
outside  
grandfather  
baseball  
something

### **Strategy: Compound Words**

Think about the spellings of the shorter words that make up the compound word.

## #19 Words That End

with  
ed or ing

saving  
cared  
smiled  
jocking  
chopped  
tapping  
rubbed  
dropped  
grinning  
wrapped  
patted  
fixing

**Strategy:** When a base word ends with e, drop the e before adding ed or ing. When a base word ends with one vowel and one consonant, the consonant is usually doubled before ed or ing is added.

### **Dictionary Skill: Base Words**

To find out how to spell a word that ends with ed or ing, look up its base word in a dictionary.

## #20 Changing Final y

to i

babies  
puppies  
stories  
ponies  
flies  
parties  
pennies  
cried  
carried  
dried  
hurried  
tried

**Strategy:** When a base word ends with a consonant and y, change the y to i before adding es or ed.

## #21 Prefixes re and

### un

rewrite  
remake  
retell  
reuse  
unfair  
unhappy  
unkind  
untie  
unlike  
unclear  
unhurt  
unwrap

**Strategy:** **Prefixes** are added to the beginning of a base word. It adds meaning to the base word.

- The prefix **re** means "again."
- The prefix **un** means "not" or "opposite of."
- 

**Dictionary Skill:**

### **Syllables**

A word part with one vowel sound. The dictionary uses dots ( • ) to separate the syllables of an entry word.

## #22 Suffixes ful, ly

### and er

useful  
careful  
hopeful  
thankful  
friendly  
slowly  
quickly  
sadly  
teacher  
helper  
farmer  
singer

**Strategy:** A **suffix** is a word part added to the end of a base word. It adds meaning to the base word.

- The suffix **ful** can mean "full of" or "having."
- The suffix **ly** can mean "in a way that is."
- The suffix **er** can mean "a person who."

## #23 VCCV Pattern

invite  
Monday  
enjoy  
until  
forget  
napkin  
window  
Sunday  
garden  
market  
basket  
order

### **Strategy:**

To spell a word with the VCCV pattern, divide the word between the two consonants. Look for the spelling patterns you have learned. Spell the word by syllables.

### **Dictionary Skill:**

#### **The Schwa Sound**

In words such as useful, the second syllable has a weak vowel sound called the schwa sound. The pronunciation key shows this sound as |e|. the |e| sound can be spelled with any vowel.

e   **a**bout, sil**e**nt,  
pencil, le**m**on

## #24 Double Consonants

rabbit  
sudden  
follow  
happen  
butter  
lesson  
dollar  
button  
pretty  
hello  
letter  
yellow

### **Strategy:**

A VCCV word may have a double consonant. Divide between the consonants to find the syllables. Look for spelling patterns you know. Spell the word by syllables.

#25 Spelling the s  
sound in city

place  
center  
nice  
once  
dance  
face  
certain  
space  
city  
circle  
circus  
pencil

**Strategy:** The s sound may be spelled c when the c is followed by i or e.

#26 Vowel Sounds in  
tooth and cook

tooth  
cook  
boot  
shook  
balloon  
spoon  
chew  
grew  
flew  
drew  
shoe  
blue

**Strategy:** When you hear the long oo sound, as in tooth or chew, remember that it may be spelled with the pattern oo or ew. The short oo sound, as in cook, may be spelled with the pattern oo.

**#27 The Vowel Sound in**  
**bought**

thought  
bought  
fought  
brought  
ought  
caught  
daughter  
taught  
laugh  
through  
enough  
cough

**Strategy:** When you hear the short o sound, as in bought or caught, remember that it can be spelled with the pattern ough or augh.

**Dictionary Skill:**

**Spelling Table**

If you do not know how to spell a sound, turn to the spelling table, which shows the different ways a sound can be spelled.

**#28 Words that end**  
**with**  
**er or le**

summer  
winter  
October  
color  
November  
ever  
later  
little  
travel  
apple  
able  
purple

**Strategy:** In words with more than one syllable:

- the final er sounds are often spelled er
- the final el sound can be spelled le

**Dictionary Skill:**

**Stressed Syllables**

The dictionary pronunciation shows which syllable is stressed in dark print followed by an accent mark (').

## #29 Words That Begin

with

a or be

again  
around  
away  
about  
alive  
ahead  
ago  
begin  
before  
because  
between  
behind

**Strategy:** In two-syllable words, the unstressed | | sound at the beginning of a word may be spelled with an a. The unstressed | | sounds may be spelled be.

## #30 Contractions

I'm  
he's  
aren't  
couldn't  
won't  
o'clock  
wouldn't  
weren't  
she's  
wasn't  
I'd  
shouldn't

**Strategy:** A **contraction** is a short way of saying or writing two or more words. An apostrophe takes the place of one or more letters.