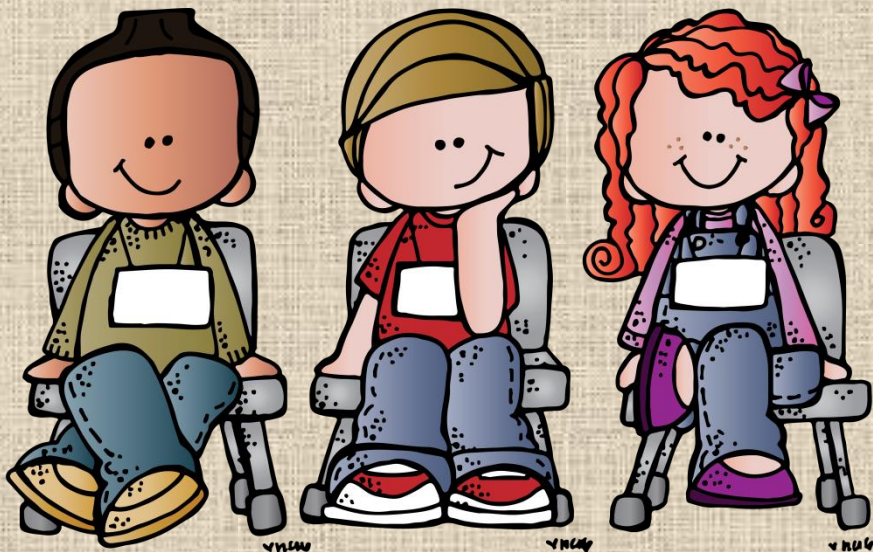


Effective Spelling Strategies for Upper Elementary Students



Teaching upper elementary students how to spell can be challenging, but mnemonic spelling devices can make the process more engaging and memorable. Mnemonic devices are clever techniques that help students remember the spelling of tricky words.

I have compiled a list of mnemonic devices and catchy phrases you can share with your students.



Method 1: Acronym

In this method, acronyms are created using the first letters of words in a sentence or phrase to help remember the spelling of a word. The focus is creating a memorable acronym representing the word's spelling and meaning. Notice that in these acronyms, the clue phrases to remember the spelling of the words also explain the meanings of the words.

RHYTHM: Rhythm Helps Your Timing Happen Magnificently

BECAUSE: Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants

FRIEND: Few Relations In Earth Never Die

TOMORROW: Time Of My Life, Only Wish One Remembers Yesterday

COMPUTER: Common Operating Machine Particularly Used for Trade, Education, and Research

FAMILY: Father And Mother I Love You

HAPPINESS: Having A Positive Perspective Inspires New Experiences So Savor

AFFECT: Always Find and Fix Errors Carefully Today

ARGUMENT: A Really Great Unicorn Makes Every Nice Thought

NECESSARY: Never Ever Cross Every Street Unless Someone Asks Really Yelling

BEAUTIFUL: Big Elephants Are Under Trees In Forests Until Light

Method 2: Acrostic

Acrostics are similar to acronyms. The difference is that acrostics use fun, memorable sentences that may have nothing to do with the word's meaning.

In the acrostic method, spellers create a phrase or sentence where each word's first letter corresponds to the word's first letter. The emphasis is on creating a sentence that helps remember the sequence of letters in the word. The examples provided in the acrostic list use creative sentences to assist in remembering the correct spelling of specific words.

ARITHMETIC: A Rat In The House May Eat The Ice Cream

GEOGRAPHY: General Eisenhower's Oldest Girl Rode A Pony Home Yesterday

EQUAL: Eat Quickly U (as in you) Are Late

DESPERATE: Desperate Elephants Squirt Water Over Pumpkins And Turnips Everywhere

OCCURRENCE: Only Cool Cats Understand Really Rare Events Nicely Comprehended Everytime

SEPARATE: Some Elephants Prefer Apples, Radishes, and Tomatoes Eagerly

NECESSARY: Not Every Cat Eats Sardines (Some Are Really Yummy)

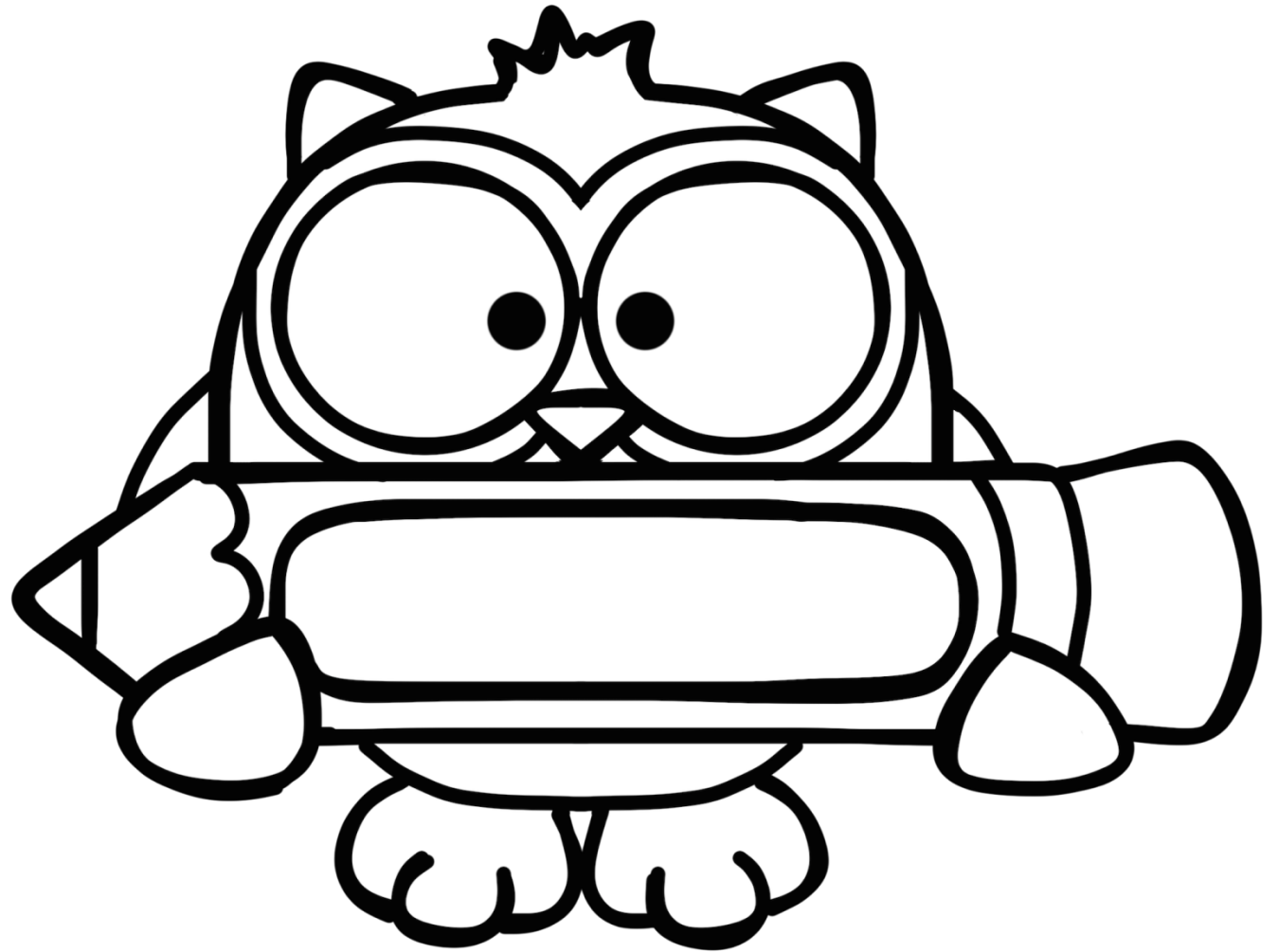
OCEAN: Only Cats' Eyes Are Narrow

Idea #3: Word Association

This method involves associating the word you're trying to spell with another word that is easy to remember.

ocean: "Ocean" can be associated with the "sea" to remember to put the e before the a in the spelling of ocean.

psychology: A psych studies the mind and behavior, so "psychology" must have the letters "psych."



Idea #4: Catchy Phrases

Catchy phrases, rhymes, or songs can be great tools for helping students remember the spelling of specific words. Here are a few examples:

Do you find yourself saying the old rhyme...

M-I crooked letter

Crooked letter I

Crooked letter

Crooked letter I

Humpback humpback I

Mississippi!

...when you spell Mississippi?

Do you sing Aretha Franklin's R-E-S-P-E-C-T as you write the word?

How many times have you reminded yourself i before e except after c?

Catchy phrases creating rhymes or songs can help you remember the spelling of specific words.

Method 5: Additional Catchy Phrases

Here are some more catchy phrases that can assist in remembering specific words:

affect/effect: R emember A ffect V erb E ffect N oun

SIGNIFICANT: SIGN IF I CAN'T

argument: Argument or argument? I lost an 'e' in an argument.

ascertain: When you ascertain a fact, be AS CERTAIN as you possibly can.

bookkeeper: Triple compound: oo kk ee

cemetery: Remember to spell it with three e's: Picture a lady yelling "e-e-e!" as she walks past the cemetery.

compliment/complement: The opposite of compliment is insult (Remember the i.) A complement **e**nhances something else. (Remember the e.)

dilemma: Emma faced a dile**mma**.

quiet: Please keep **quiet** about your **diet**.

embarrass: I go **re**ally **re**d when my **s**ister **s**ings.

special: The **CIA** has special agents.

desert/dessert: Remember that a desert is sandy (one s). Dessert has two s's in it, like Strawberry Shortcake or Sweet Stuff.

environment: A new env**iron**ment will iron it out.

hear/here: You HEAR with your EAR.

innocent: IN NO CENTury is murder an innocent crime.

potassium: Remember one tea, two sugars.

sculpture/sculptor: A scul**P**TURE is a kind of pi**C**TURE

separate: There was a farmer named Sep and one day his wife saw a rat. She yelled, "Sep! A rat – E!!!"

slaughter: Slaughter is LAUGHTER with an S at the beginning.

there: there = here, there, where

together: Remember how to spell "together" by noting that if you GET HER, you'll be "together."

accommodation: Think of two people with the initials CC and MM sharing accommodation.

Mnemonic Devices

Activity 1: Mnemonic Word Search

Instructions: Find the 10 hidden vocabulary words related to memory devices in the grid below. Words run left-to-right (Across) or top-to-bottom (Down).

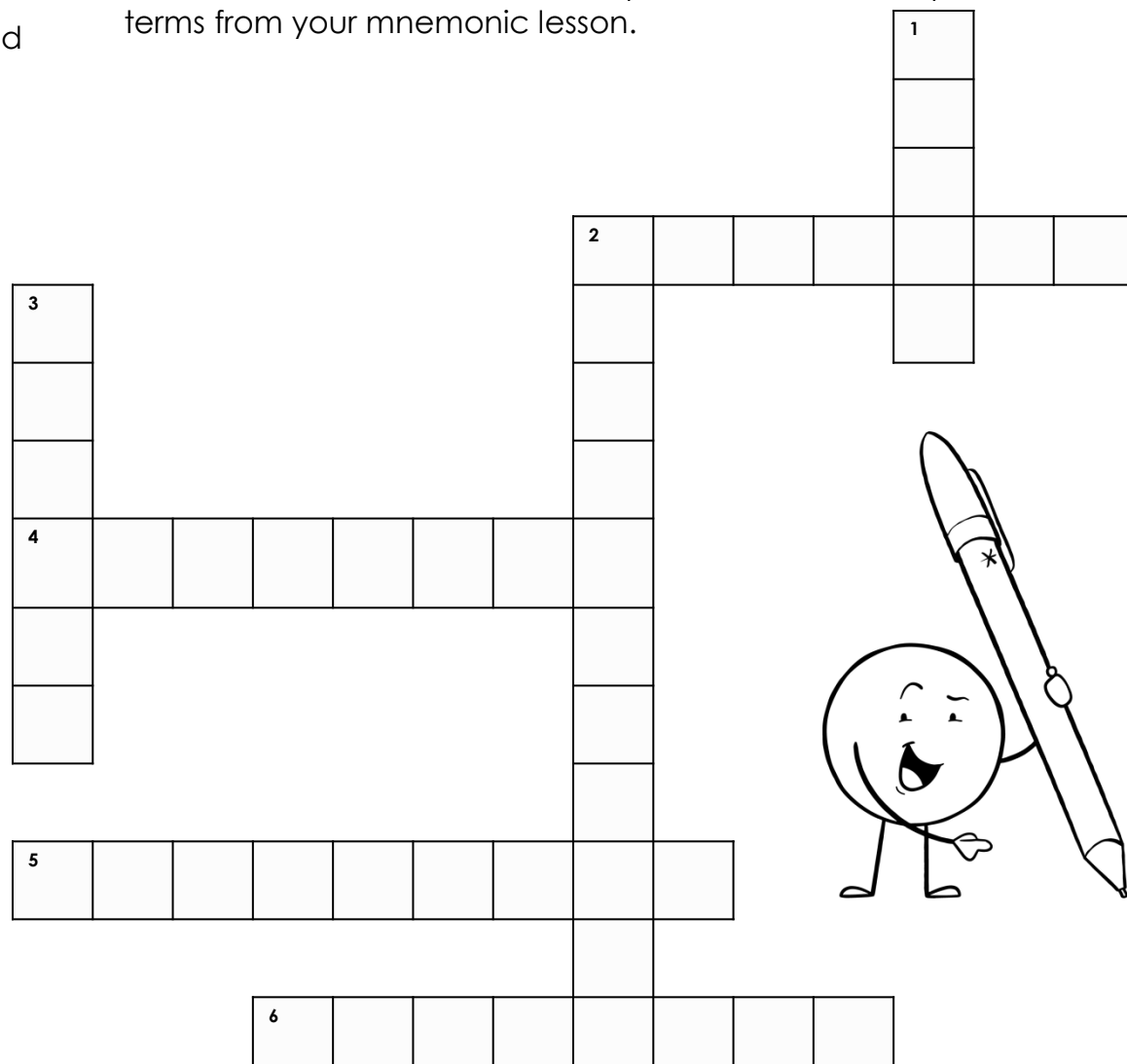
A	C	R	O	N	Y	M	X	B	S	Q
C	R	H	Y	T	H	M	P	Q	P	V
R	A	A	V	E	N	E	H	W	E	A
O	V	C	M	E	M	O	R	Y	L	P
S	E	L	R	T	B	Y	A	S	L	O
T	N	U	H	H	T	C	S	O	I	Y
I	X	E	M	R	O	A	I	L	N	H
C	Y	O	R	H	Y	M	E	G	G	T
A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T	I	O	N
N	A	K	U	P	H	R	A	S	E	E

WORD BANK

ACRONYM
ACROSTIC
ASSOCIATION
CLUE
MEMORY
PHRASE
RAVEN
RHYME
RHYTHM
SPELLING

Activity 2: Mnemonic Master Crossword

Instructions: Use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle with terms from your mnemonic lesson.



Down

1. a spelling helper that uses rhythm or rhyme to stick in your mind
2. connecting a new word to something familiar to make it easier to remember
3. a catchy saying that helps you remember how to spell a tricky word

Across

2. a memory trick that uses the first letters of a phrase to spell a word
4. a sentence where each word begins with the letters of a spelling word
5. a humorous or silly sentence that makes a spelling pattern unforgettable (two words)
6. a short, memorable sentence that explains how to spell a confusing word

Activity 3: Crack-the-Code Challenge

Instructions: Use the number code key to decode the hidden spelling mnemonic sentences below!

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1 / 18-1-20 / 9-14 / 20-8-5 / 8-15-21-19-5 / 13-1-25 / 5-1-20 / 20-8-5 / 9-3-5 / 3-18-5-1-13

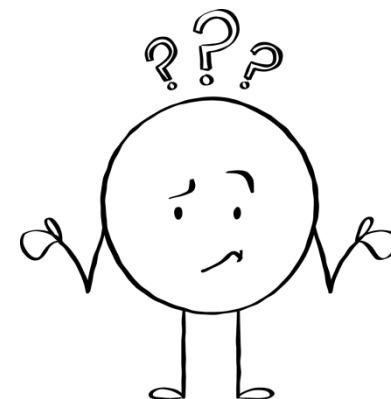
Secret Word _____

18-8-25-20-8-13 / 8-5-12-16-19 / 25-15-21-18 / 20-9-13-9-14-7 / 8-1-16-16-5-14 / 13-1-7-14-9-6-9-3-5-14-20-12-25

Secret Code _____

Activity 4: Mnemonic Match-Up

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. _____ ENVIRONMENT | a) Picture a lady screaming " E-E-E! " as she walks past. |
| 2. _____ DESERT | b) It's so sandy it only needs one S . |
| 3. _____ POTASSIUM | c) IN NO CENT ury is murder allowed. |
| 4. _____ INNOCENT | d) A new location will iron it out. |
| 5. _____ CEMETERY | e) Remember one Tea , two Sugars . |



Activity 5: Fill-In-The-Blank Mnemonics

Instructions: Complete each famous spelling mnemonic by filling in the missing words.

- BECAUSE:** Big _____ Can _____ Understand _____ Elephants.
- FRIEND:** Few _____ In _____ Never _____ .
- SEPARATE:** There was a farmer named Sep and one day his wife saw a _____ !
- DILEMMA:** _____ faced a dilemma.
- AFFECT vs. EFFECT:** Remember **R.A.V.E.N.** — Remember **A**ffect = _____ , **E**ffect = _____ .

Mnemonic Devices (Answer Key)

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Instructions: Find the 10 hidden vocabulary words related to memory devices in the grid below. Words run left-to-right (Across) or top-to-bottom (Down).

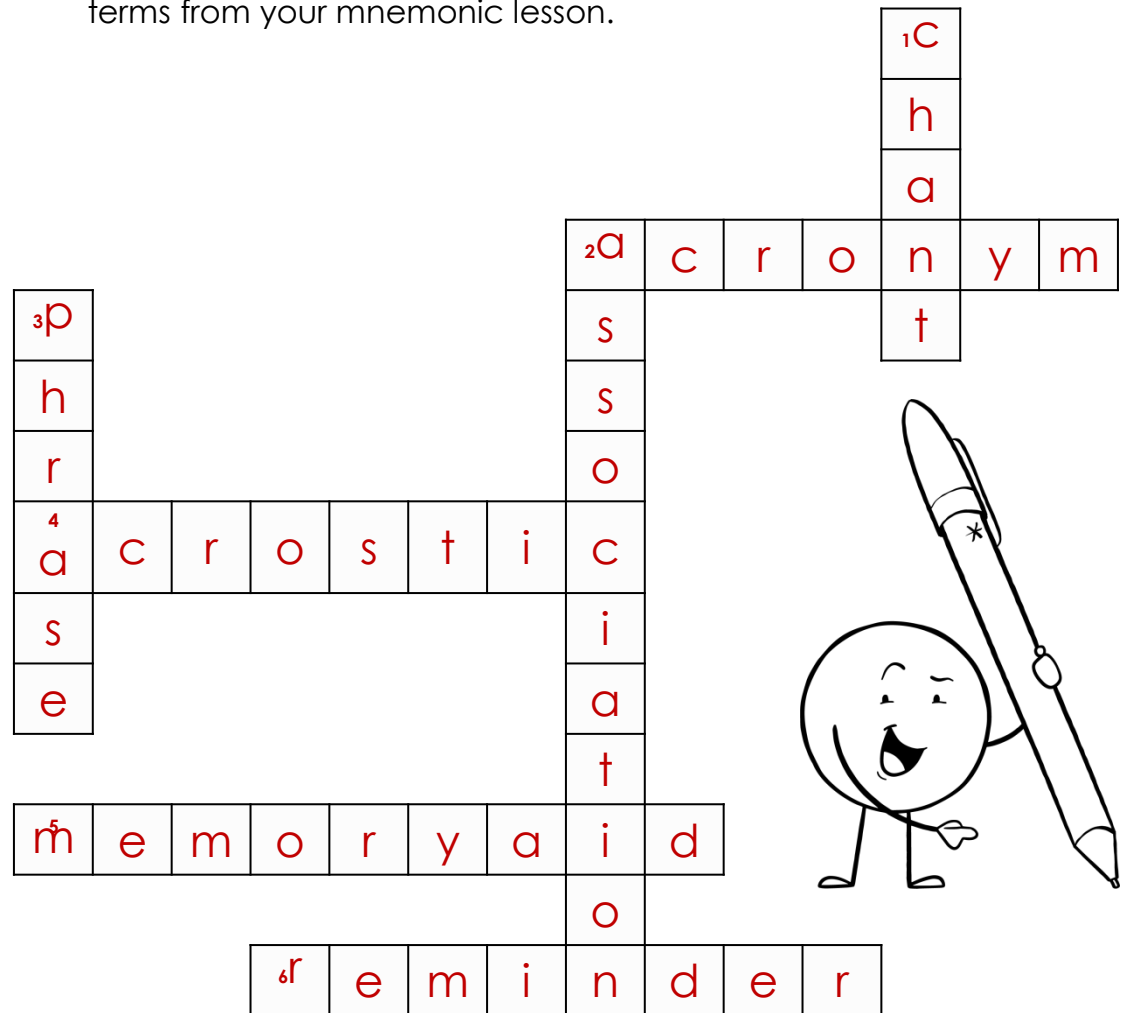
A	C	R	O	N	Y	M	X	B	S	Q
C	R	H	Y	T	H	M	P	Q	P	V
R	A	A	V	E	N	E	H	W	E	A
O	V	C	M	E	M	O	R	Y	L	P
S	E	L	R	T	B	Y	A	S	L	O
T	N	U	H	H	T	C	S	O	I	Y
I	X	E	M	R	O	A	I	L	N	H
C	Y	O	R	H	Y	M	E	G	G	T
A	S	S	O	C	I	A	T	I	O	N
N	A	K	U	P	H	R	A	S	E	E

WORD BANK

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ACROSTIC
ASSOCIATION
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PHRASE
RAVEN
RHYME
RHYTHM
SPELLING

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1 / 18-1-20 / 9-14 / 20-8-5 / 8-15-21-19-5 / 13-1-25 / 5-1-20 / 20-8-5 / 9-3-5 / 3-18-5-1-13

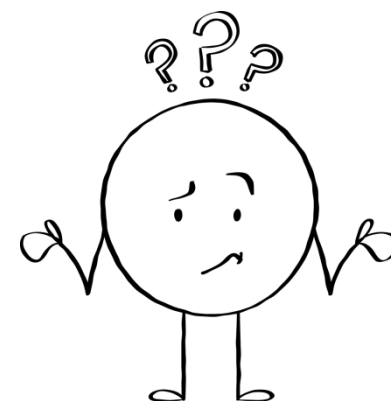
Secret Word **Code 1:** A RAT IN THE HOUSE MAY EAT THE ICE CREAM (**Acrostic for ARITHMETIC**)

18-8-25-20-8-13 / 8-5-12-16-19 / 25-15-21-18 / 20-9-13-9-14-7 / 8-1-16-16-5-14 / 13-1-7-14-9-6-9-3-5-14-20-12-25

Secret Code **Code 2:** RHYTHM HELPS YOUR TIMING HAPPEN MAGNIFICENTLY (**Acronym for RHYTHM**)

Activity 4: Mnemonic Match-Up

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>d</u> ENVIRONMENT | a) Picture a lady screaming "E-E-E!" as she walks past. |
| 2. <u>b</u> DESERT | b) It's so sandy it only needs one S . |
| 3. <u>e</u> POTASSIUM | c) IN NO CENT ury is murder allowed. |
| 4. <u>c</u> INNOCENT | d) A new location will iron it out. |
| 5. <u>a</u> CEMETERY | e) Remember one Tea , two Sugars . |



Activity 5: Fill-In-The-Blank Mnemonics

Instructions: Complete each famous spelling mnemonic by filling in the missing words.

- BECAUSE:** Big Elephants Can Always Understand Small Elephants.
- FRIEND:** Few Relations In Earth Never Die.
- SEPARATE:** There was a farmer named Sep and one day his wife saw a RAT (Sep - A - RAT) !
- DILEMMA:** EMMA (dilemma) faced a dilemma.
- AFFECT vs. EFFECT:** Remember **R.A.V.E.N.** — Remember **A**ffect = Verb , **E**ffect = Noun .

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G H I J K L
M N O P Q R
S T U V W X
Y Z

Movable Tiles

Video Spinner

T U R B U L A N C E
P
L
V
E
R
I
Z
E

Play with any vocabulary list.

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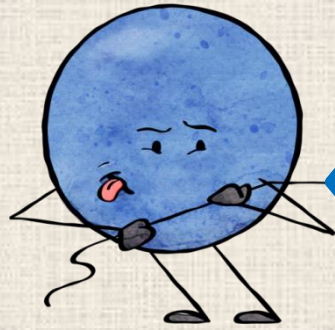
HUNCHT
VOCABULARY LIST

Word	Definition
Canine	relating to dogs
horde	a large group of people or animals
ambush	to surprise and attack
permeable	allowing liquids or gases to pass through
permeant	allowing liquids or gases to pass through
shaft	a long, narrow, pointed object
rotation	the act of turning around a central point
transcript	a written record of spoken words
affluence	the state of being rich
abundant	existing in large quantities
emerge	to come out from under or from within
granted	to give or allow
conscience	the feeling of responsibility for one's actions
conspire	to plan secretly with others to do something
offense	an act that causes harm or injury



Credits

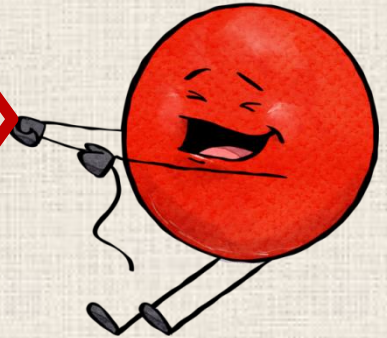




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