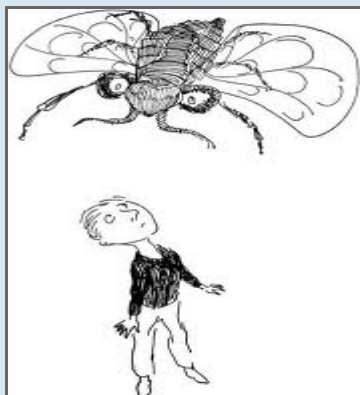


“Can you spell everything?”
asked Milo admiringly.

“Just about,” replied the bee
with a hint of pride in his voice.
“You see years ago I was just an
ordinary bee minding my own
business, smelling flowers all
day and occasionally picking up
part-time work in people’s
bonnets. Then one day I realised
that I would never amount to
anything without an education
and, being naturally adept at
spelling...”



Norton Juster

The Phantom Tollbooth

- Useful Points of Reference -

The Oxford School Spelling, Punctuation
and Grammar Dictionary

www.snappywords.com

www.visuwords.com

ACE spelling dictionary

(recommended by The Dyslexia
Awareness Campaign)

www.dyslexiadictionary.com

Enquiries can be directed to:

Northampton School *for boys*
Billing Road
Northampton
NN1 5RT

☎ 01604 230240
nsb@nsb.northants.sch.uk

Top Tips for Spelling



Ten ways to develop secure spelling habits:

1. Read.

It doesn't matter what you read, rather that you do. Read with your children, alongside them, at the same time. Share audio books in the car or before bedtime; download podcasts from the BBC Radio4 extra website to encourage new books and authors.

2. Write.

Shopping lists, a thank you note, an email to a friend or relation... In fact, it doesn't matter what you write, rather that your child is picking up a pen. Sending a card by post? Get them to write the address.

3. Use reliable websites like...

www.spellingcity.com: You can enter a list of words and select a variety of options such as hangman, matching games and word tests. There is also an audio option so users can hear the words.

www.timesspellingbee.co.uk: You don't have to enter the real-life competition to make use of the excellent games on the newspaper's website. The words are graded from easy, to medium then hard. You need sound to play along.

4. **Make labels** and display them around the house. This works really well for learning French or Spanish vocabulary too.

5. **Reward** with magazines or books.

6. Take trips to the **library**—it's free! There are often themed activities running at the weekend too.

7. Some students like **mnemonics** to learn words: **big** elephants **can** always **u**nderstand **s**mall elephants or You **hear** with your **ear**...

8. **Encourage checking**. Make sure your child can use a dictionary. Bookmark a simple online dictionary too like www.dict.org Having secure dictionary skills is fantastic—it means that you don't need to recall every spelling; you just need to know how to check the one you've chosen.

9. Point out **prefixes** at the start of a word (un-, in-, re-, pre-, im-...) and **suffixes** added at the end (-s, -es, -er, -ed, -est, -ing). If the word does not make sense when these are taken away then something has probably gone wrong! Take disappoint for example. If you split it apart into dis + appoint, you'll always spell it correctly. Make adverbs by adding "ly" at the end—quick+ly, smooth+ly, bizarre+ly!

10. And finally...

...**be positive** about spellings. They do matter; they are an important part of communicating clearly. But we don't need to know them all right now, all at once. Take it a word at a time—and give your child lots of praise when they crack a new piece of vocabulary.

A word of caution about websites:

A general search engine enquiry will return a lot of USA-based websites with American spellings! Try adding "site:.uk" to the the search box to filter these out.