

Introduction

Do your older students consistently misspell basic and common words in their writing? A research study reported in *The English Record* showed that just 1.5% of the words used by students in grades 9–12 accounted for 28% of the misspellings. More than a quarter of spelling mistakes by high schoolers are of just 100 words!

The lists in *Spell Well* contain words which make up more than half of the misspellings by high school students in their writing. Because spelling ability in English is largely a talent, your less gifted students may have been hurried through word lists in early grades with insufficient time for review and mastery. It's never too late to stress the importance of spelling and to insist on high standards. By reviewing these most common troublesome words and incorporating sentence dictation into your teaching, you can give older students another chance to achieve excellence.

Spell Well is not intended to follow *Spelling Plus: 1000 Words toward Spelling Success*. Many of the same high-priority words are included in both programs. Students who have mastered the 1000 core words in *Spelling Plus* and who continue to study words they misspell in their writing should not need *Spell Well*. The same teaching techniques are recommended as in *Spelling Plus*. Only the lists differ.

Teachers are encouraged to adapt instruction to their own preferences and their own students. The materials and dictation sentences in this book are intended to save you time, not to restrict your style.

Spelling *is* important. Readers are offended by poor spelling. Fairly or unfairly, people often base judgments about a writer's intelligence, education and character on spelling. You are doing your older students a great favor by giving them one more chance to learn.