

A seven-step plan to teach the spellings of homophones

Step	Purpose	Example
1. Read or listen to a text with homophones	This provides a meaningful context and model of the language being studied.	The effect of throwing away plastic is that animals are affected when it enters the food chain.
2. Define and visualise the words through illustrations	This helps to make meaning personal and memorable	Drawing own images or creating own actions for each word.
3. Identify the word class for each homophone	Understanding grammatical structure helps children decide when and how to use their words. Also makes links with and reinforces grammar learning.	See the chart for affect and effect from Oxforddictionaries.com http://cdn.oxwordsblog.wpfuel.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/affect-effect-Oxford-Dictionaries-infographic.pdf
4. Explore differences in spelling linked to word class and meaning.	Highlights spelling differences linked to meaning to support choices when writing	Highlight the tricky part of the word and what needs to be remembered. This could be by drawing boxes around it, using different colours etc.
5. Create sentences (actions/mimes etc) to help remember the differences in meaning and spelling.	Supports decision making when writing.	Affect with A is an action (verb). Effect with an E is an end-result (noun). The snow affected the traffic. I love coffee because the effect is amazing.
6. Practise writing the words in lots of different situations.	Supports the decision making when writing.	Practise speed-writing both words in best handwriting. Cloze procedure to make choices about the correct spelling of the word. Creating own sentences which contain the words. There are some good ideas here http://www.healthcarecommunication.com/Main/Articles/Affect_or_effect_6_simple_memory_tricks_9167.aspx
7. Use the words correctly in own writing.	This is the whole point of the exercise!	Opportunities might need to be found for some of the homophones that children need to learn (affect/effect). Others will be used all the time (their/ they're/there). Proof-read own writing for correct spelling of homophones taught.