

Learn to Spell Well

Spelling Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Spelling

a e i o u
sometimes y,
th, sm

1. Vowels
a e i o u sometimes y
At least one per syllable

2. Syllables
Each one has a vowel.
How many in word?
How many letters in each?

Mon-te-cal-vo
1 2 3 4

3. Letters in Word
How many total letters?

10

4. Assign Number to Letters
What is first letter?
Last letter?
What is #4?
What is #2? etc.

M o n t e c a l v o
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Montecalvo
ovlacetnoM

5. Spell Word
Forward
Backward
With no hesitation

6. Practice Test
Give test like it's done in class
Relearn ones not in right sequence



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www.BrendaMontecalvo.com



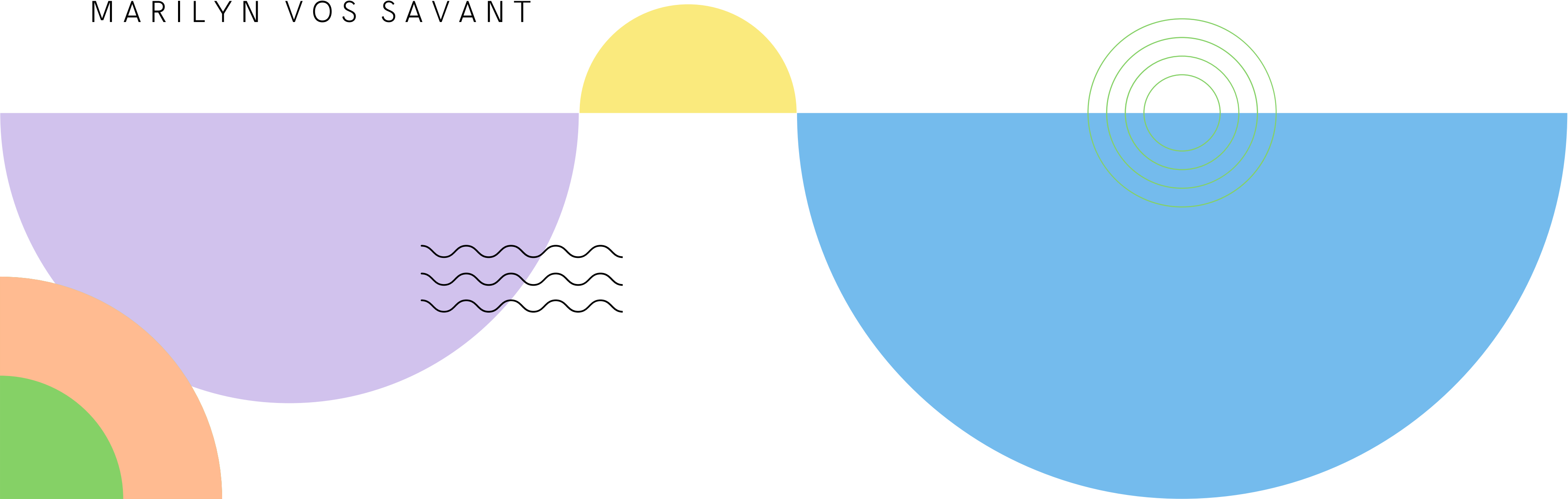
VISUAL SECRETS FOR SPELLING

Brenda Montecalvo, OD

www.BrendaMontecalvo.com
Brenda@BrendaMontecalvo.com

When our spelling is perfect, it's invisible. But when it's flawed, it prompts strong negative associations.

MARILYN VOS SAVANT



Visual Secrets Activity Cards

The Art of Beautiful Handwriting

Handwriting Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Handwriting

1. Proper Position Includes
Feet flat
Proper desk and chair height
Slanted work surface

2. Pencil Grip Includes
Pointer and thumb pinching pencil
Soft grasp

3. Up and Over
Make letters round
Move pencil up and over

4. Breathing
In through the nose
Out through the mouth
No holding the breath while writing

5. Feather Touch
Don't push hard
Write as lightly as possible
No broken pencil tips

6. Eyes Guide Hand
Look ahead of pencil tip
Grasp pencil so you can see tip

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The Art of Writing

Composition Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Composition

1. Stop Correcting...
Grammar
Spelling
Penmanship

2. Telling Stories
At bedtime
Have child add to story
Be creative

3. Define...
Verbs
Nouns
Adjectives
Adverbs

4. Fun Writing Materials
Attractive Journal
Wide Ruled Paper
Comfortable Chair & Desk
Smooth Writing Pen

5. Describe...
What an apple looks like.
How do you set the table?

6. Writing Space
Where is your favorite spot to sit?
Make the space creative and relaxing.

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Understanding the Language of Math

Math Made Easy

6 Steps to Mastering Math

1. Count Steps
Space between numbers is equal.
Foundation for understanding math.
Engineers like to count steps.

2. Number line
Visual representation of how far apart each number is.

3. Count By Sets
Do 2s, then 5s, then 10s
Next do 3s, 4s, 6s,
7s, 8s, 9s

4. Fractions
Which is larger, 1/3 or 1/2?
How big are the pieces if you are sharing with 7 friends?
How about with 3 friends?

5. Measuring
How high is the door? = Height
How wide is it? = Width
How big if it was cut in half?
Calculate the area (Height x Width)

6. Timed Tests
Avoid flash cards. Learn sets first.
Do verbal call out.
Ex. Multiples of 6.
Say 1, answer is 6
Say 3, answer is 18

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Reading Can Take You Anywhere

Reading Made Easy

6 Steps to Enjoying Reading

1. Comfortable reading posture
Center reading material at a slight slant
Keep reading material about 16" from eyes

2. Interesting Material
Student's favorite area of interest...
Sports? Horses? Hunting? Friends?

3. Build Vocabulary
Define words prior to seeing them.
Use new word in a sentence.
Then show the written word.

4. Silent Reading
Avoid lip reading.
Ask questions after first paragraph.
Watch eyes move along print.

5. Upside Down
Minimizes the habit
of sounding
out each word.

6. Describe...
Characters in detail.
What might happen next.

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Montecalvo

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COMFORT IS INVALUABLE WHEN LEARNING NEW SKILLS

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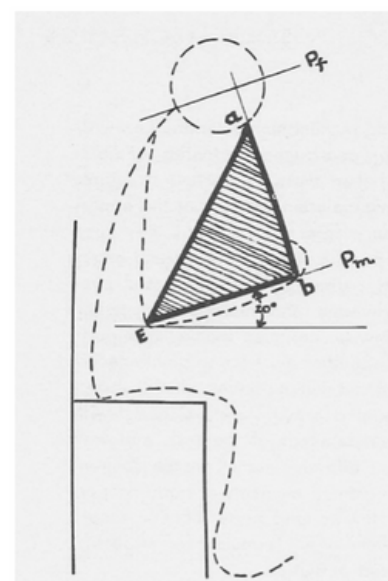
STUDY AREA

Modifying the Study Area

Select the correct table and chair height. When uncomfortable, it's difficult to pay attention and concentrate. A correct chair height allows the feet to be flat on the floor with the knees bent at a 90-degree angle. Dangling feet do not allow for proper position, which interferes with the eye-brain process.

PROPER POSTURE ALLOWS FOR ...

- BETTER BODY TONICITY
- GOOD CIRCULATION
- IMPROVED ALERTNESS
- INCREASED CONCENTRATION
- MORE COMFORT



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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF FLUORESCENT LIGHTING

- Eye pain
- Blurred vision
- Difficulty reading or focusing
- Vertigo or dizziness
- Lightheadedness
- Shortness of breath
- Nausea
- Lethargy
- Anxiety
- Feelings of depression
- Disrupted sleep

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VISUAL SECRETS

LIGHTING

BEST LIGHT SOURCE: SUNLIGHT OR CANDLELIGHT

The next best is full-spectrum incandescent.

Fluorescent light, common in schools, is the most difficult under which to study and can be very disruptive to a reader's eyes and visual process. It can affect physiological systems and eye-brain processing.

STUDY AREA

Modifying the Study Area

If the study area does not have natural light, use full-spectrum lights. Reduce shiny surfaces and glare.

DYNAMIC LIGHTING

POSITIVE EFFECTS ON LEARNING

Improves visual comfort

A study done in a first-grade classroom showed that dynamic light had a positive effect on oral reading fluency. Dynamic light is defined as the change in the quality of illumination and color temperature of the light based on the activity being performed.

Dynamic light changes depending on the student's needs throughout the day. For example, one type of lighting should be used for quiet time, and a different type used for times when the student needs to be more alert.

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HYDRATION

Our bodies are comprised of 60 percent water. Water is a conductor of all of the electrical impulses that occur within our bodies. There are millions of impulses occurring each second in our eye-brain process. When a student becomes dehydrated, the eye-brain process will not be optimal. It has been shown that hydrated children have better memories. Headaches, fatigue, and lightheadedness are early signs of dehydration.

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VISUAL SECRETS

TEMPERATURE

STUDY BY CORNELL UNIVERSITY:

Productivity and Happiness

Reducing the room temperature to 68 degrees Fahrenheit or colder resulted in employees making 44 percent more errors. The optimal room temperature was 77 degrees Fahrenheit. The study stated that when a person is cold, energy is diverted to keep warm and takes away from the ability to concentrate. The study also noted that being warmer also made people happier.

STUDY AREA

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If the study area is difficult to heat without making the entire house too warm, you can use a blanket or small room heater during study times. Have a thermometer nearby to keep track of the temperature.

BENEFITS OF UNDERSTANDING TEMPERATURE

OPPORTUNITY TO RELATE TO MATH

Associate reading temperature with a numberline.

- Keeping the room at the correct temperature teaches the student how to read a thermometer
- Teaches the difference between Fahrenheit and Celsius

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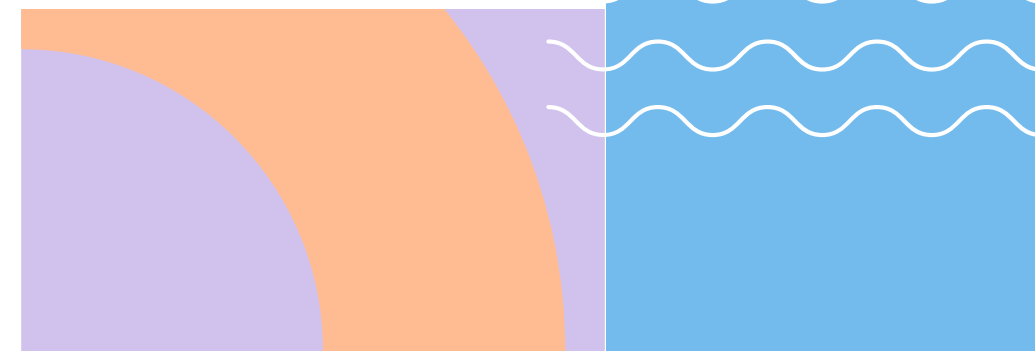
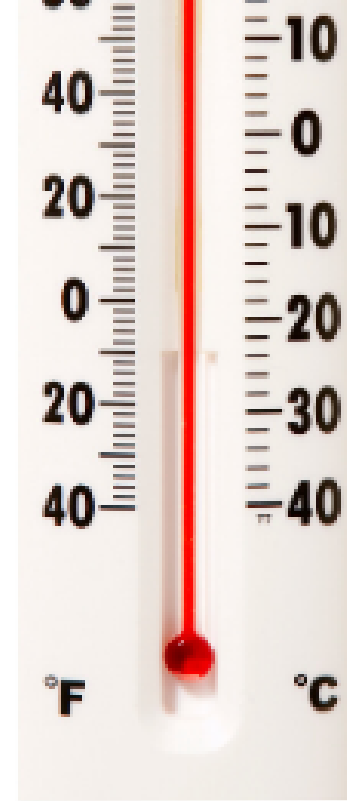


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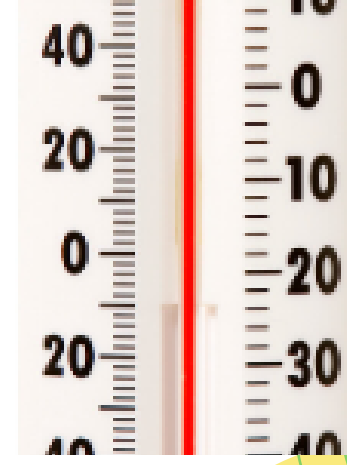
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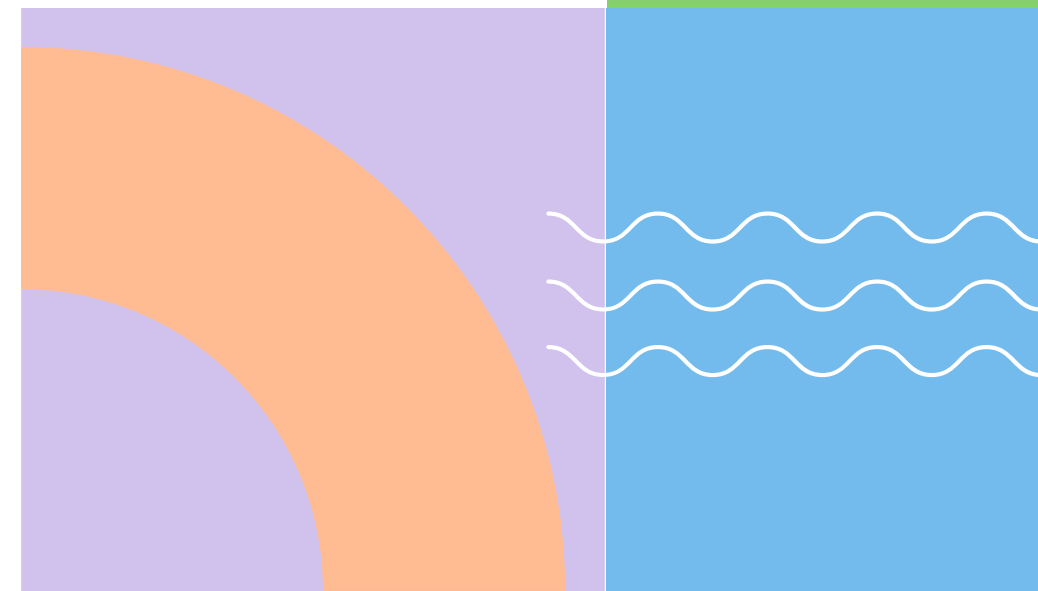
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Getting Students Ready to Learn



Montecalvo

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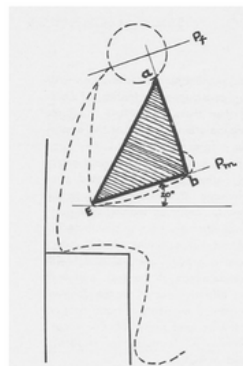
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HARMON'S DISTANCE

The table height should allow the student to write or read the materials on the table at a distance known as the Harmon Distance. In the illustration, "E" to "b" is the distance from the elbow to the knuckles. This is equal to the distance from "a" to "b", which is the distance the eyes should be from the reading or writing material. If the table is too high, the eyes will be too close to the material to be comfortable. If the table height is too low, the student will hunch over the work, which affects circulation and back comfort.

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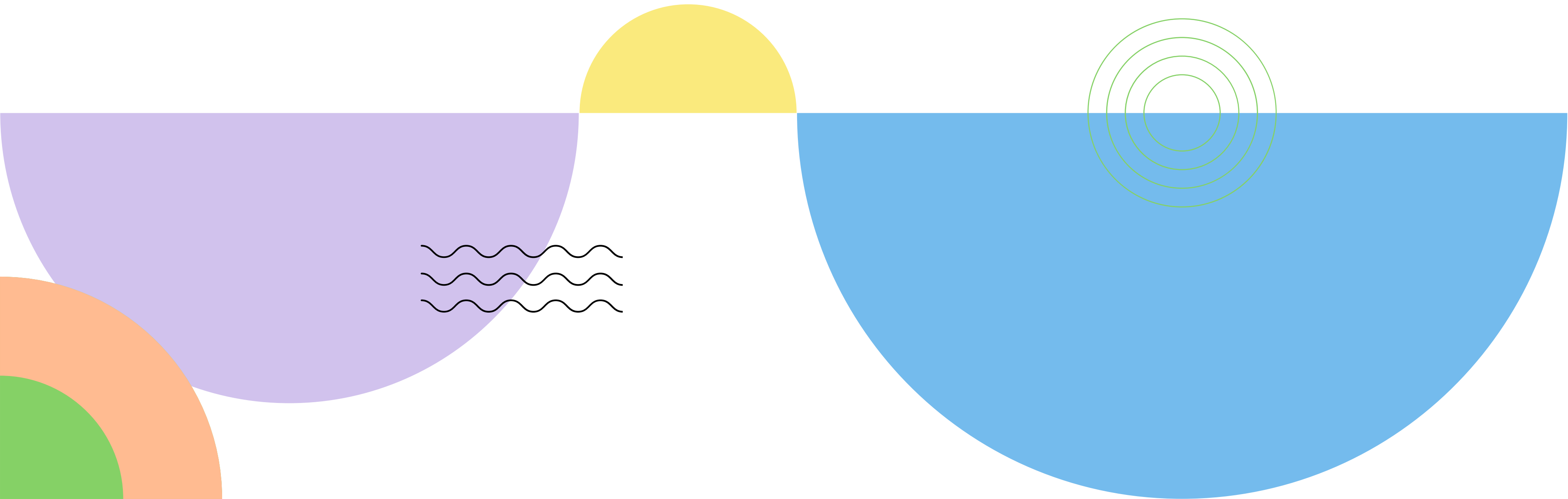
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Brain areas for spelling are the left posterior inferior frontal region and left ventral temporal cortex, which is involved in processing visual memories and language.





Myths About Spelling

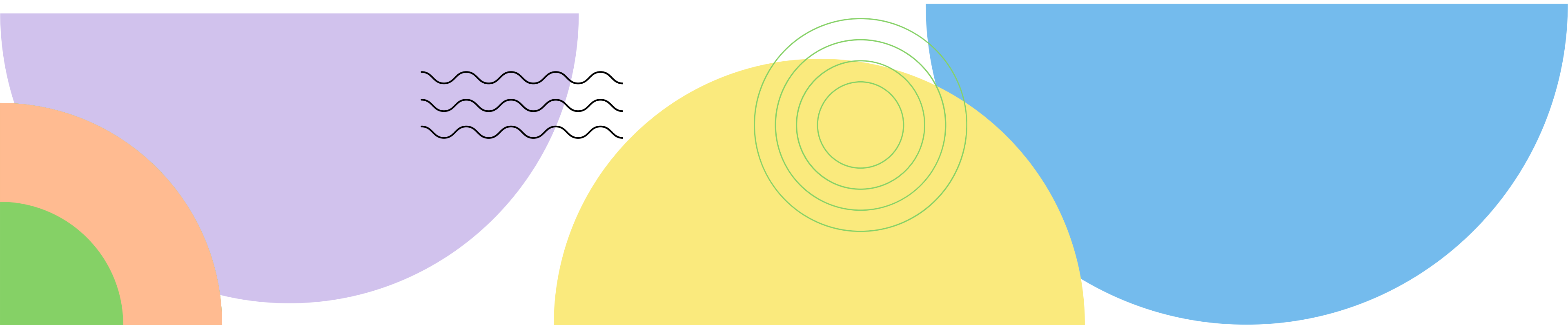
RELATED TO
READING

Good spelling does not guarantee
good readers, and
poor spellers can be
good readers.

Encoding versus Decoding

Reading is the process of decoding words. Decoding is just a fancy way of saying “how we apply what we know about letter sounds and language patterns to figure out what words say.”

Encoding is the opposite of decoding. Encoding is using sounds to build and write words. Encoding is how we spell.





Why Learn to Be a Good Speller?

FIRST
IMPRESSION

One word spelled incorrectly can
change all the positive impressions you
have already made.

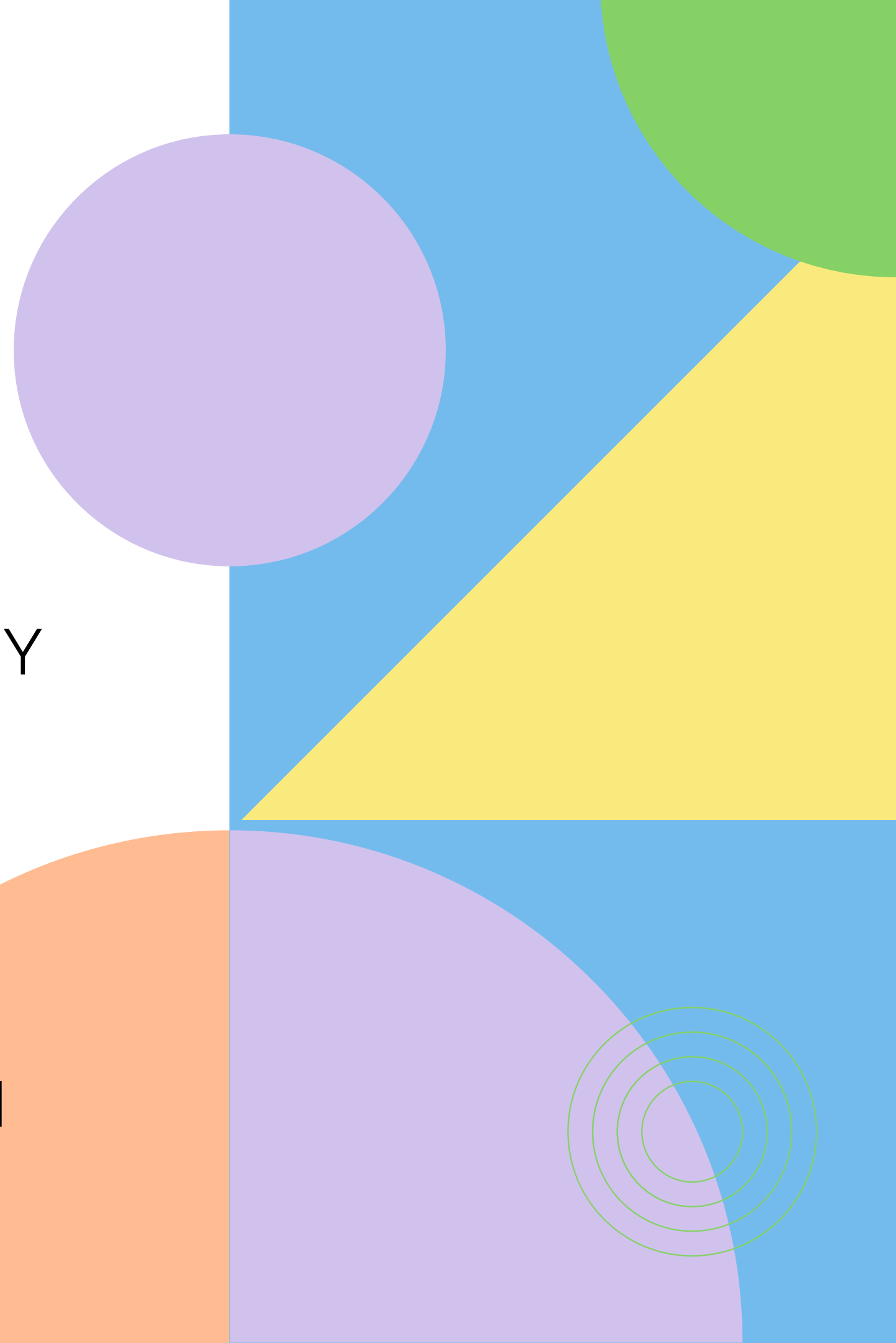
The brain fills in or reorganizes the information to gain meaning.

”According to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.”



Visual Skills for Spelling

- VISUALIZATION
- IMAGERY
- VISUAL MEMORY
- VISUAL SEQUENTIAL MEMORY
- NON-IMAGERY SPATIAL
PROCESSING/APHANTASIA
- VISUAL DISCRIMINATION,
MATCHING, IDENTIFICATION
OF SIZE, SHAPE AND SPACE



Visualization

Being able to see a
picture of previously
viewed objects.



Imagery

Remembering an
object previously
viewed without being
able to picture it.
Usually reported as
seeing black.

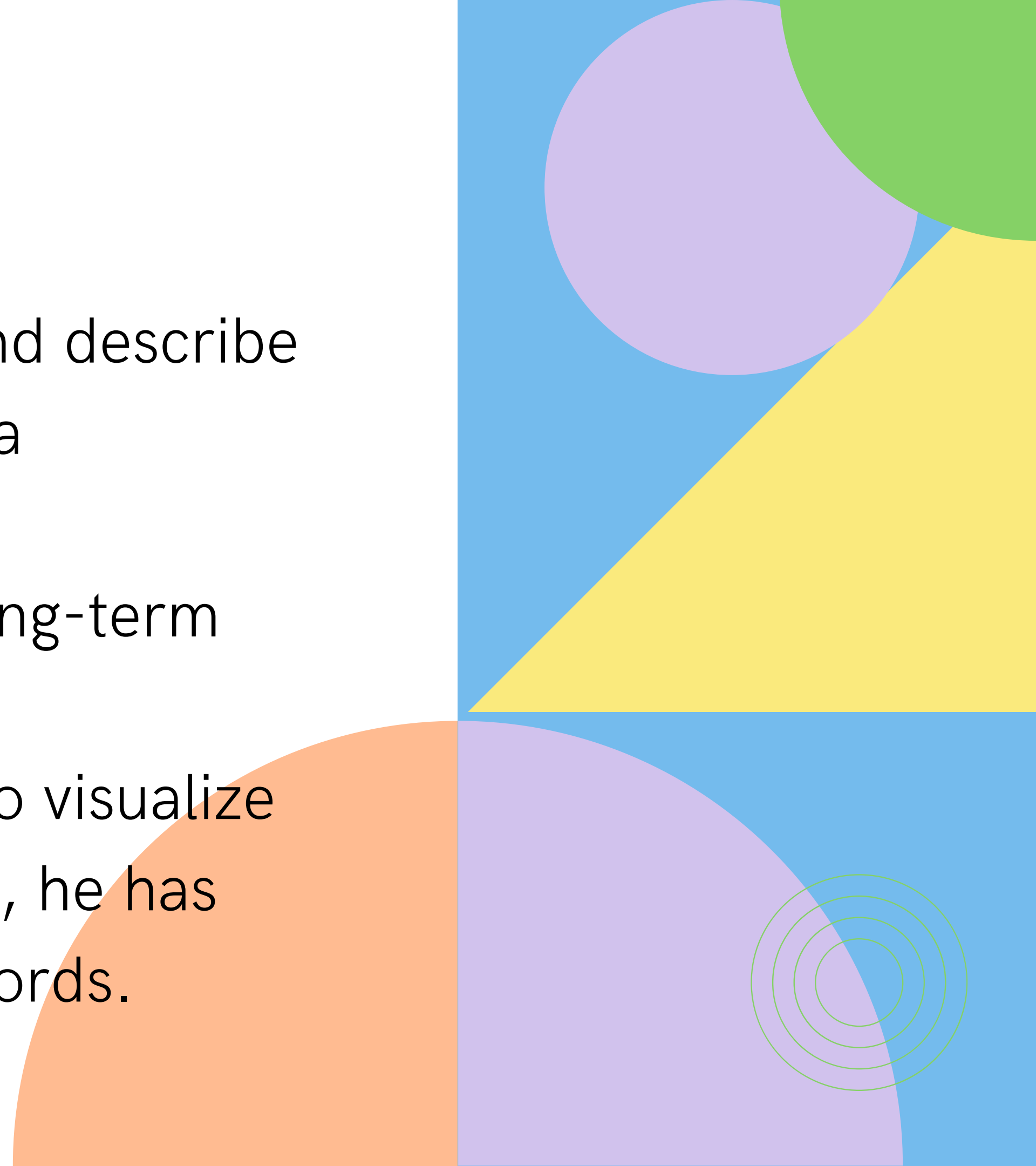


Visual Memory

The ability to see a favorite toy and describe what it looks like, as if looking at a photograph of it.

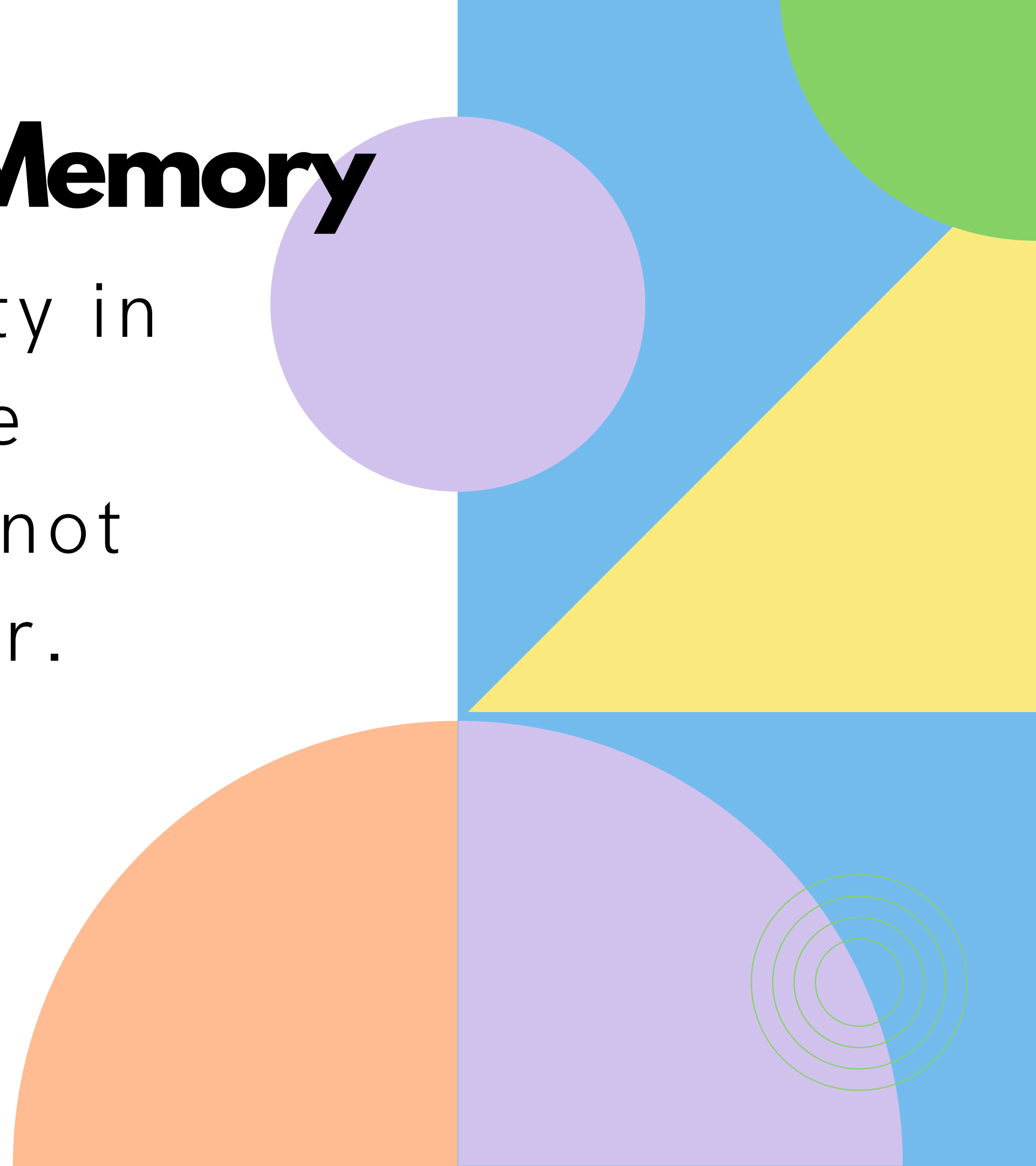
There are both short-term and long-term types of visual memory skills.

When a student has poor ability to visualize and no short-term visual memory, he has difficulty remembering spelling words.



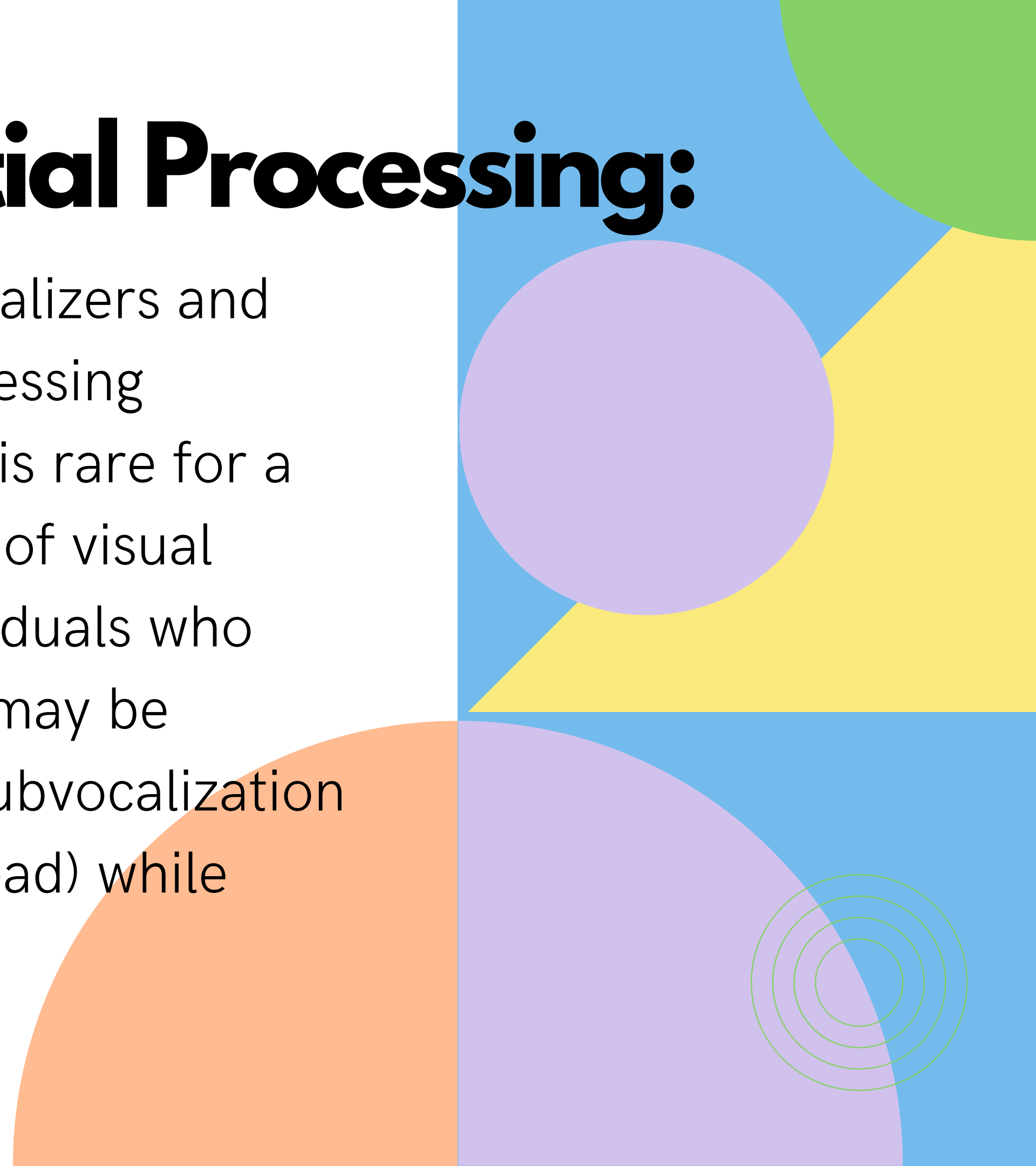
Visual Sequential Memory

A student with difficulty in this area gets all of the letters correct but cannot recall the correct order.



Non-imagery Spatial Processing:

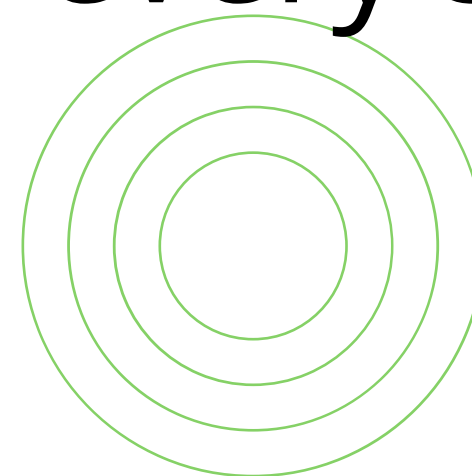
Also known as aphantasia. The visualizers and aphantasics use very different processing techniques to recall information. It is rare for a student to be able to do both types of visual processing. It is possible that individuals who develop speed-reading techniques may be aphantasics, since visualizing and subvocalization (sounding the words out in one's head) while reading are slower processes.





Syllables

Did you know that there is a vowel in
ALMOST every syllable in the English
language?



Which words have two syllables and
only one vowel?

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a e i o u
sometimes y,
th, sm
a e i o u sometimes y
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Each one has a vowel.
How many in word? Mon-te-cal-vo
How many letters in each? 1 2 3 4

10

3. Letters in Word
How many total letters?

4. Assign Number to Letters

What is first letter? M
Last letter? o
What is #4? c
What is #2? etc. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Montecalvo
ovlacetnoM

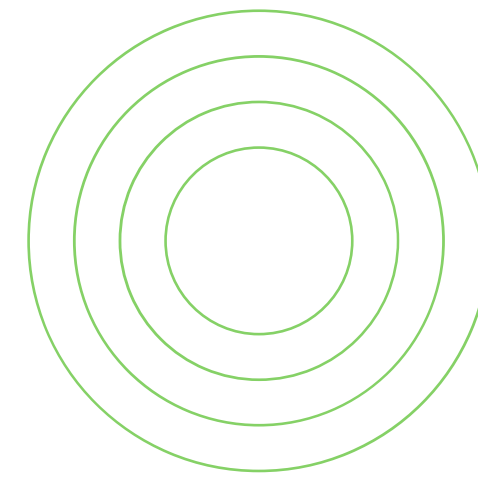
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≡

Vowels

a e i o u
sometimes y,
th, sm

1. Vowels

a e i o u sometimes y
At least one per syllable

When finished spelling a word, the number of vowels will be equal to or greater than the number of syllables.



MONTECALVO Spelling Technique

How many syllables in Montecalvo?

2. Syllables

Each one has a vowel.

How many in word?

How many letters in each?

Mon-te-cal-vo

1 2 3 4



MONTECALVO Spelling Technique

What is the first syllable?
second? third? forth?

2. Syllables

Each one has a vowel.

How many in word?

How many letters in each?

Mon-te-cal-vo

1 2 3 4



MONTECALVO Spelling Technique





MONTECALVO Spelling Technique

Step 1: Identify syllables.

Step 2: Say 1st syllable.

Step 3: Identify how many letters
in 1st syllable.

Step 4: Hold up first 3 fingers and
assign a letter to each one.



MONTECALVO Spelling Technique

Step 5: Wiggle each finger and
call out the letter related to
that finger.

Step 6: Say 2nd syllable and repeat
steps 1-5.

Step 7: Repeat with 3rd and 4th
syllables.



MONTECALVO Spelling Technique

Step 8: Put up all 10 fingers, wiggle randomly and call out correct letter associated with that finger.

Step 9: Wiggle in order forward, then backward.

Step 10: Go quickly, without hesitation.



Spelling Tests

Step 1: Apply this to a list of spelling words.

Step 2: Do a pretend test.

Step 3: Have student check self by stating letter sequence.

Step 4: Circle those that need work, star those that are correct.



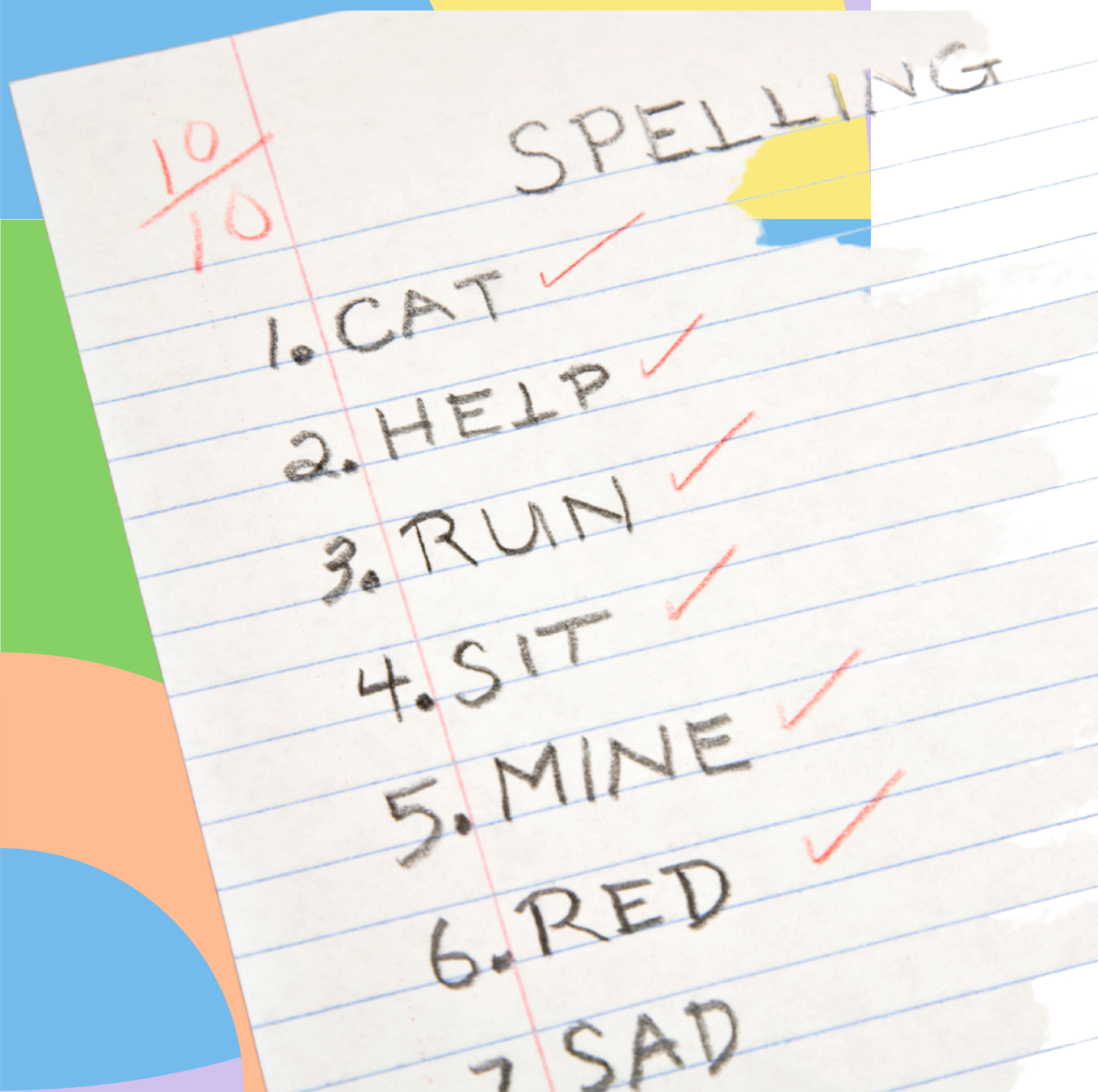
Spelling Tests

When a word is spelled incorrectly, define what is correct about the attempt rather than what is incorrect.



Spelling Tests

Re-learn circled words, then retake test. Repeat until all are correct.





Building Spelling Skills

Stacking cups



Building Spelling Skills

Parquetry Blocks: Memory





Building Spelling Skills

Attribute Blocks





Building Spelling Skills

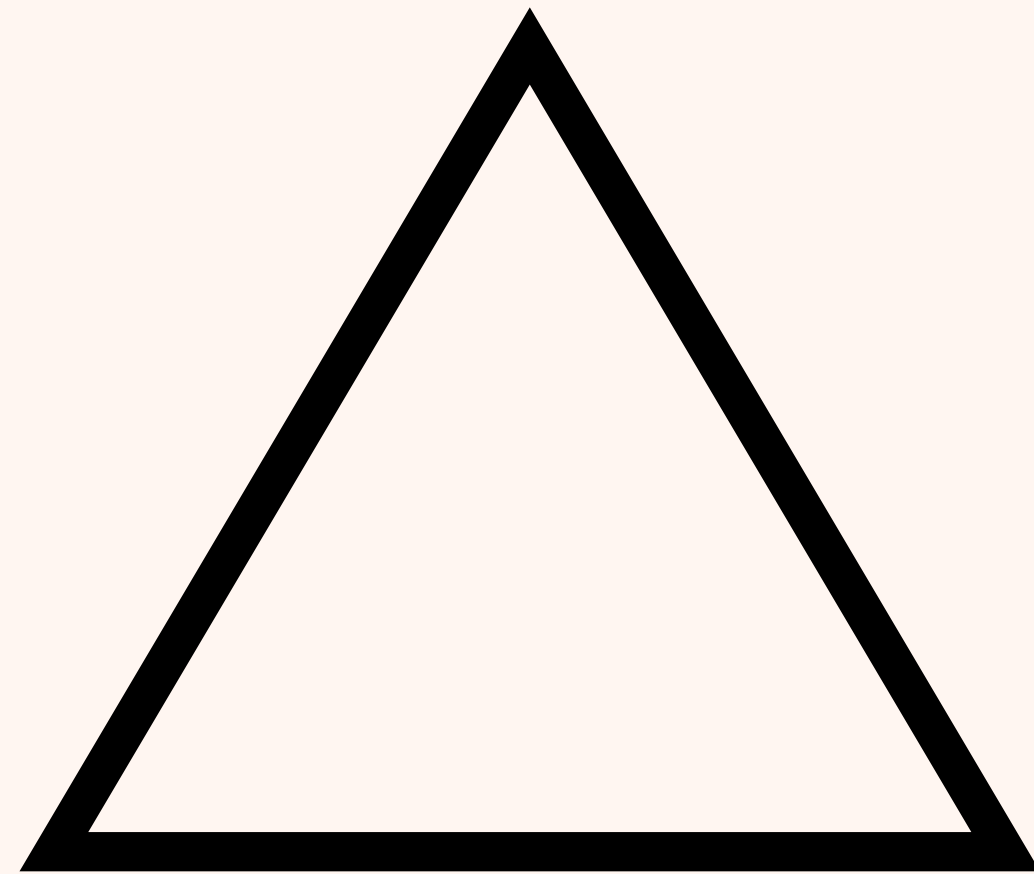
Visual Auditory Digit Span

c t e f x p



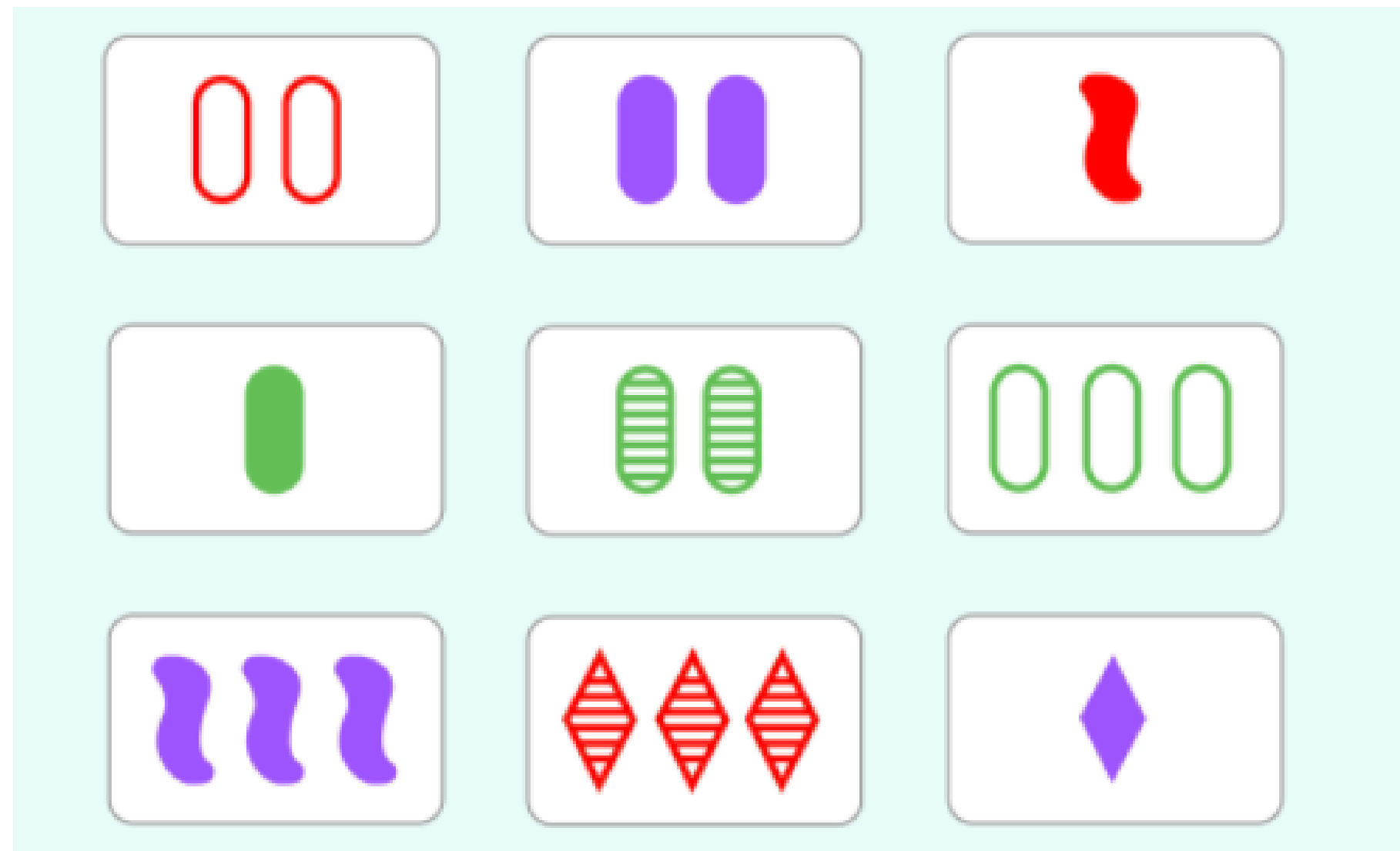
Building Spelling Skills



Board Tach



Building Spelling Skills

Set Game





**When a word is spelled
wrong the same way
each time...**

...the eye/brain has learned the
incorrect sequence, which must be
over written with the correct
sequence.

**When a word is spelled
wrong the same way
each time...**





Fixing Common Misspelled Words

Step 1: Create list.

Step 2: Learn 10 words per week.

Step 3: Use the MONTECALVO Spelling
Technique to learn them.

Step 4: 3x5 index card with weekly list.

Step 5: Always look at correct spelling;
never guess or spell the old way.

Save Time, Learn Faster

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Handwriting Made Easy

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Proper desk and chair height
Slanted work surface
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Look ahead of pencil tip
Grasp pencil so can see tip

Contact me at
www.BrendaMontecalvo.com

Learn to Spell Well

Spelling Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Spelling

a e i o u
sometimes
y or th

1. Vowels
a e i o u sometimes y
At least one per syllable

2. Syllables
Each one has a vowel
How many in word?
How many letters in each?

Mon-te-cal-vo
1 2 3 4

3. Letters in Word
How many total letters?

10

4. Assign Number to Letters
What is first letter? M
Last letter? o
What is #4? l
What is #2? t etc.

Montecalvo
ovlacetnoM

5. Spell Word
Forward
Backward
With no hesitation

6. Practice Test
Give test like done in class
Relearn ones not in right sequence.

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The Art of Writing

Composition Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Composition

- 1. Stop Correcting...!**
Grammar
Spelling
Penmanship
- 2. Telling Stories**
At bedtime
Have child add to story
Be creative
- 3. Define...**
Verbs
Nouns
Adjectives
Adverbs
- 4. Fun Writing Materials**
Journal
Paper
Desk
Pen
- 5. Describe...**
What an apple looks like.
How do you set the table?
- 6. Writing Space**
Where is your favorite spot to sit?
Make the space creative and relaxing.

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Understand the Language of Math

Math Made Easy

6 Steps to Master Math

- 1. Count Steps**
Feet flat
Proper desk and chair height
Slanted work surface
- 2. Numberline**
Pointer and thumb pinching pencil
Soft grasp
- 3. Count By Sets**
Make letters round
Move pencil up and over
- 4. Fractions**
In through the nose
Out through the mouth
No holding the breath while writing
- 5. Measuring**
Don't push hard
Write as light as possible
- 6. Timed Tests**
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Grasp pencil so can see tip

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Reading Can Take You Anywhere.

Reading Made Easy

6 Steps to Enjoy Reading

- 1. Comfortable reading posture**
Center reading lit a slight slant
Keep reading about 16" from eyes
- 2. Interesting Material**
Student's favorite area of interest...
Sports? Horses? Hunting? Friends?
- 3. Build Vocabulary**
Define words prior to seeing them.
Use new word in a sentence.
Then show the written word
- 4. Silent Reading**
Avoid lip reading.
Ask questions after first paragraph.
Watch eyes move along print.
- 5. Upside Down**
Minimizes habit
of sounding
each word out.
- 6. Describe...**
Characters in detail.
What might happen next.

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A collection of colorful alphabet blocks arranged in a circle, with the word 'SPELLING' spelled out in the center using larger blocks. The blocks are in various colors (blue, yellow, pink, purple, orange, red) and feature different letters in a serif font. The word 'SPELLING' is prominently displayed in the center, with each letter on a separate block. The surrounding blocks form a circular border around the central word.

