

Learn to Spell Well

Spelling Made Easy

6 Steps to Better Spelling

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

2. Syllables
Each one has a vowel.
How many in word? **Mon-te-cal-vo**
How many letters in each? **1 2 3 4**

3. Letters in Word
How many total letters?
10

4. Assign Number to Letters
What is first letter?
Last letter? **M o n t e c a l v o**
What is #4? **1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10**
What is #2? etc.

5. Spell Word
Forward
Backward
With no hesitation
Montecalvo
ovlacetnoM

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



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www.BrendaMontecalvo.com



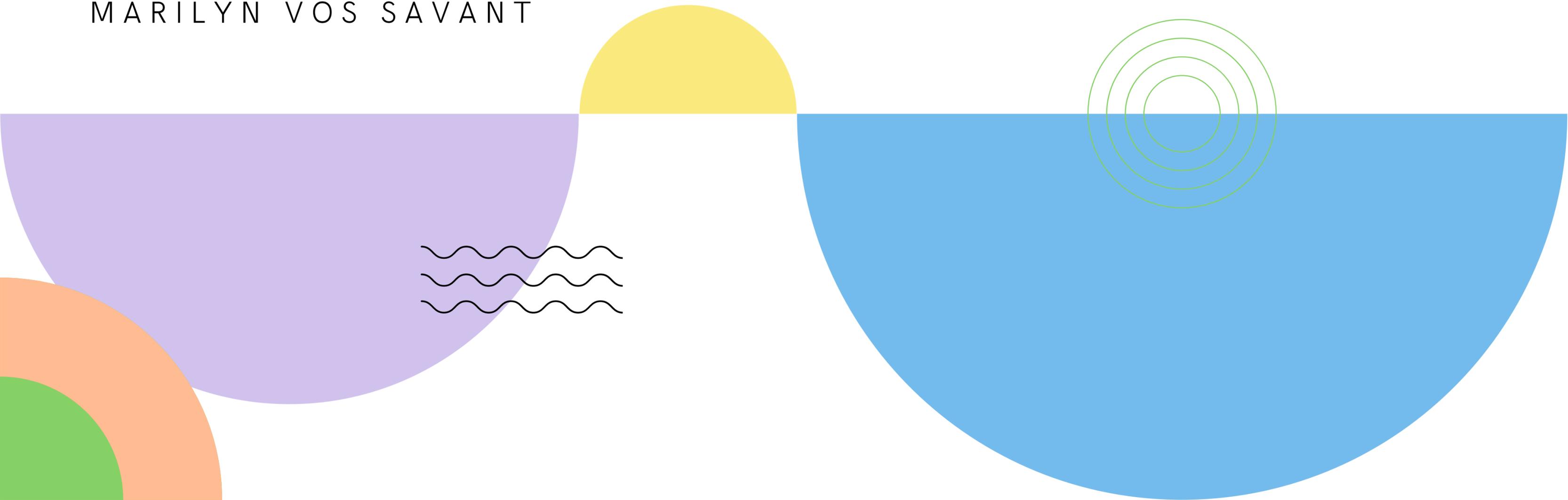
VISUAL SECRETS FOR SPELLING

Brenda Montecalvo, OD

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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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Understand 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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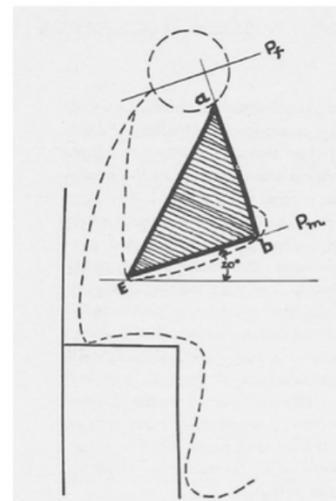
STUDY AREA

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
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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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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.

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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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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
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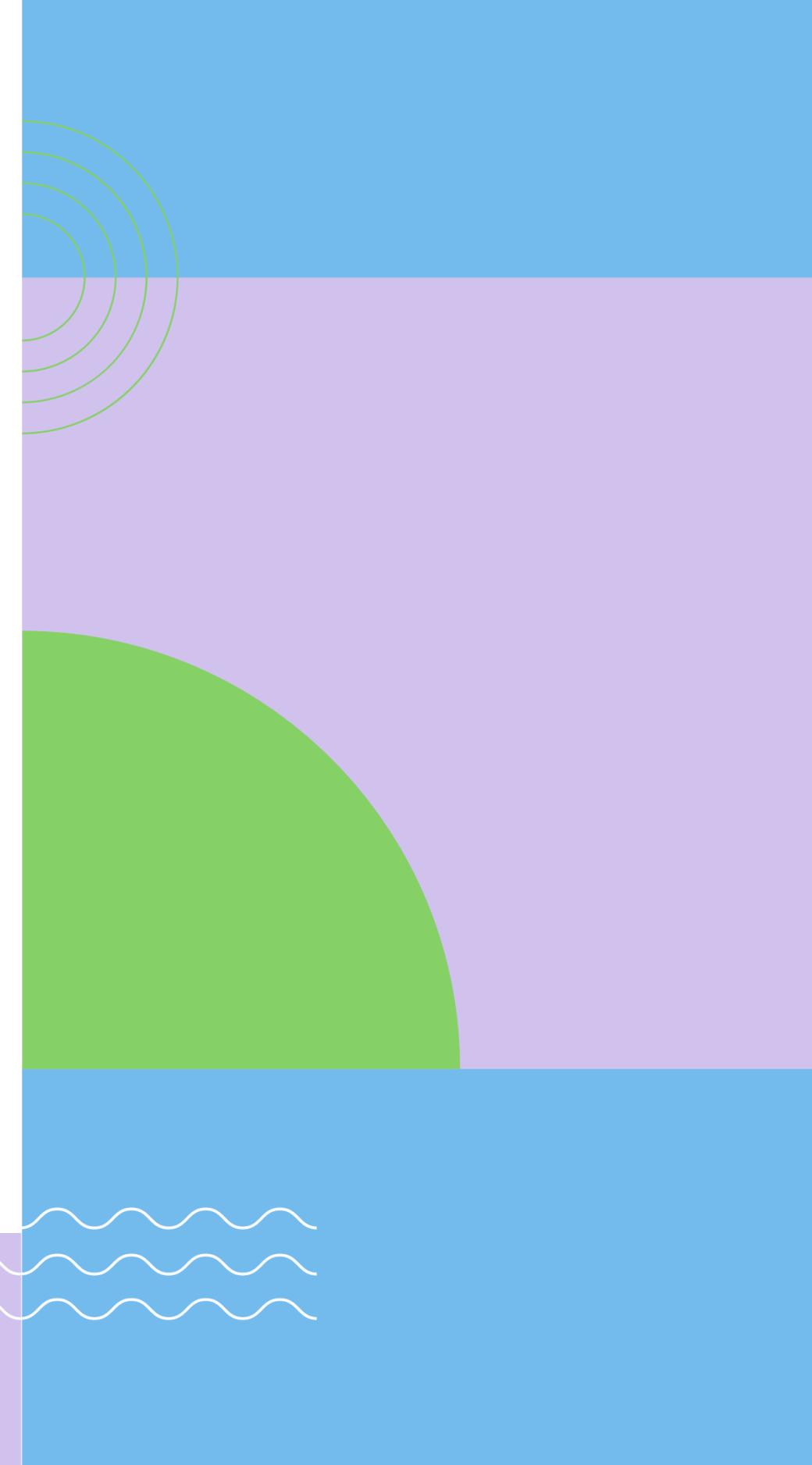
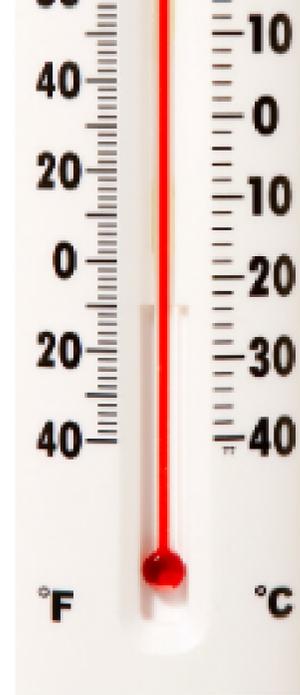


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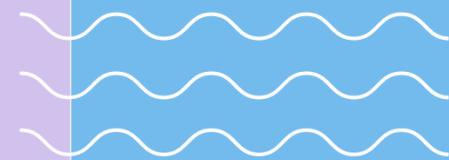
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Getting Students Ready to Learn



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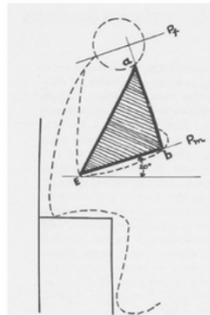
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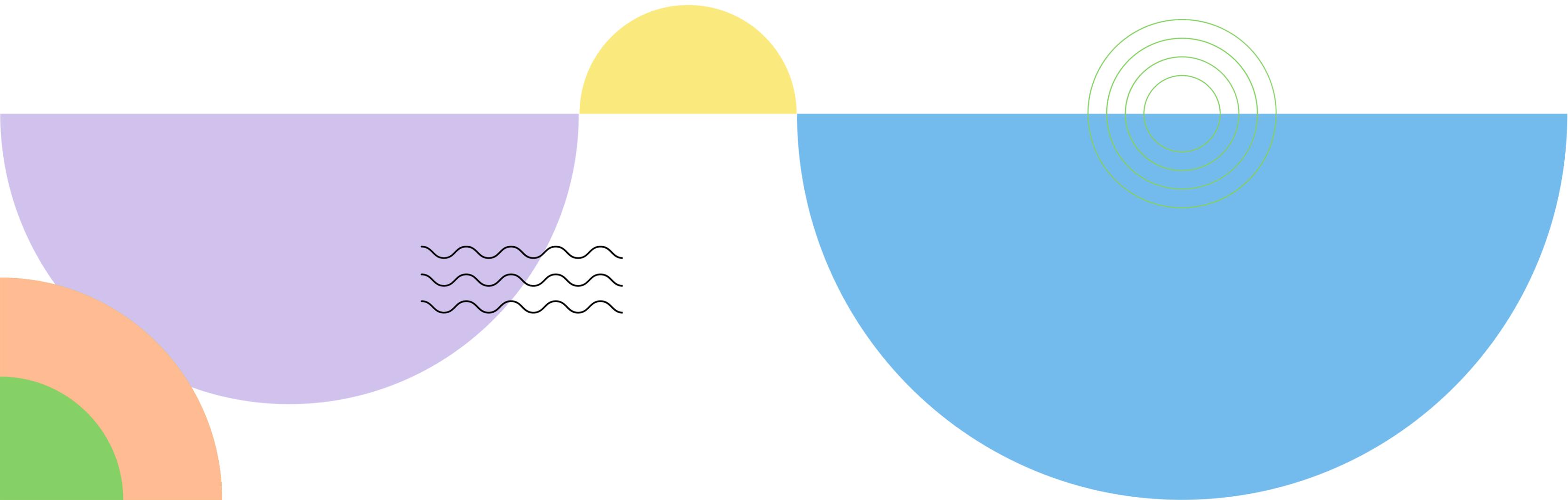
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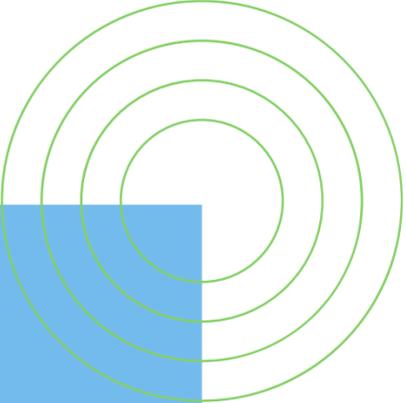
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Brain areas for spelling are the left posterior inferior frontal region and left ventral temporal cortex, which is involved in processing visual memories and language.





Myths About Spelling

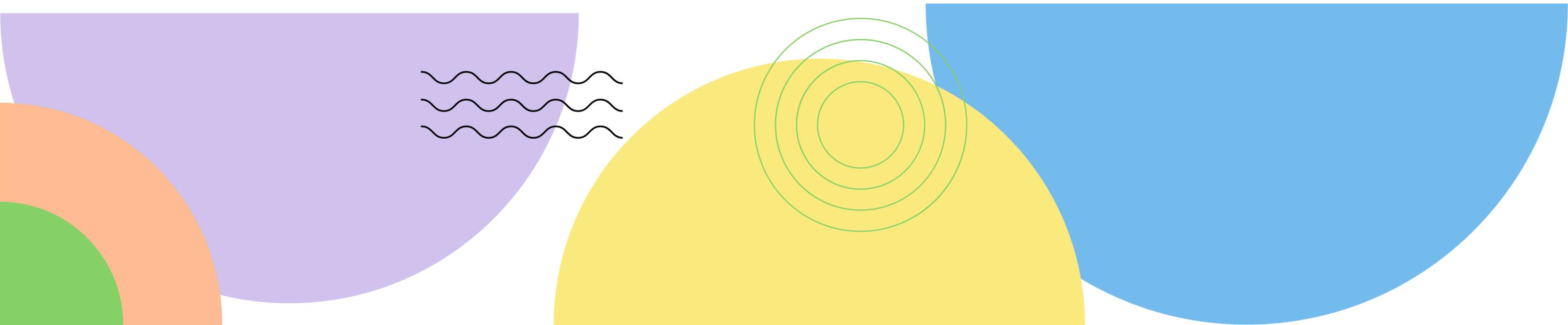
RELATED TO
READING

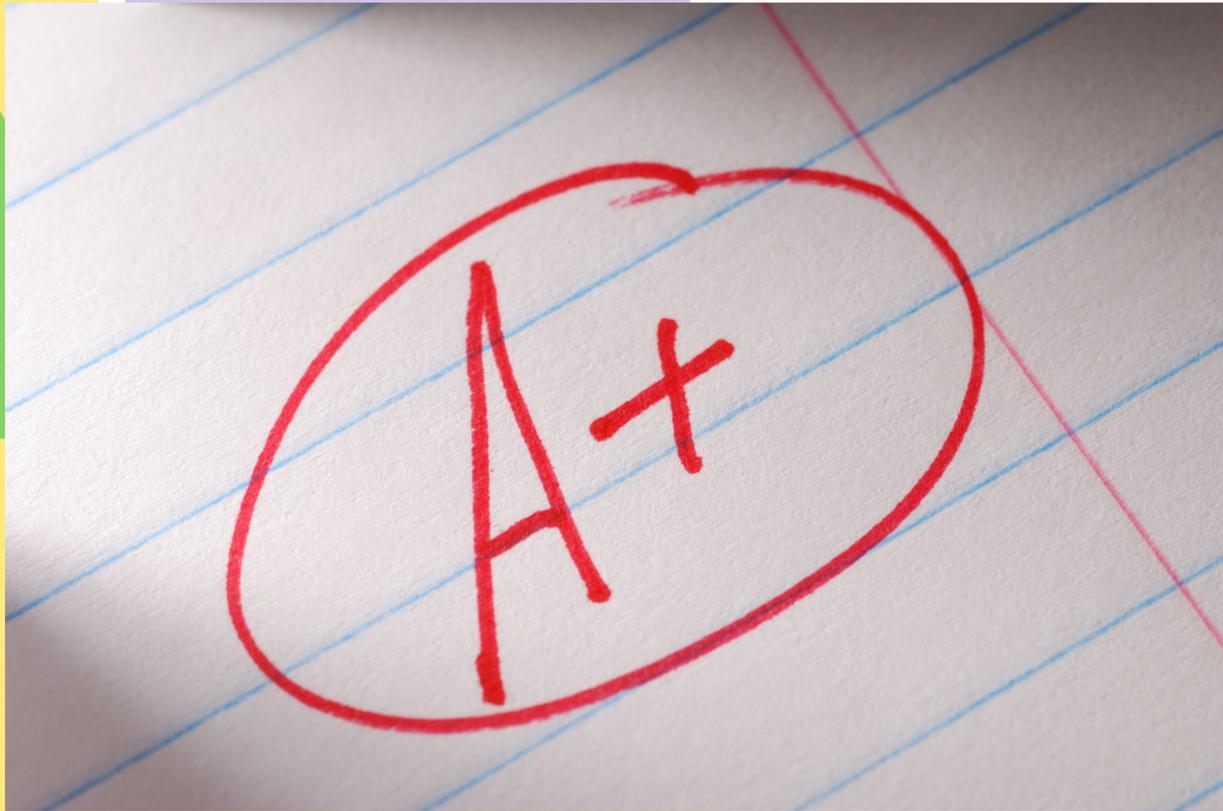
Good spelling does not guarantee
good readers, and
poor spellers can be
good readers.

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.

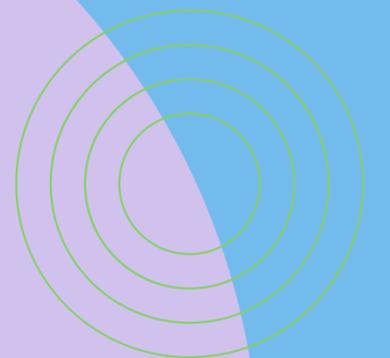


Visual Memory

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

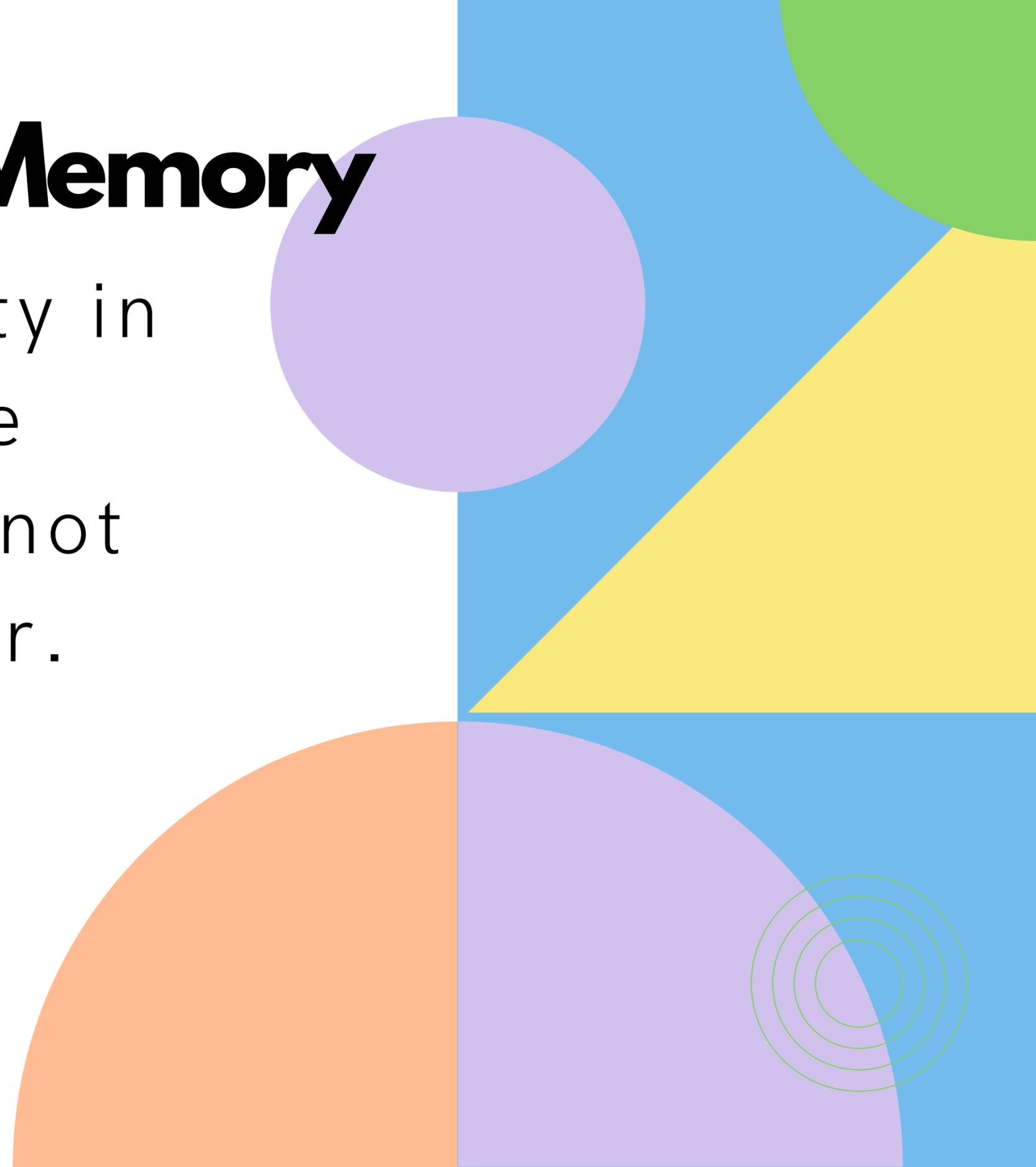
There are both short-term and long-term types of visual memory skills.

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



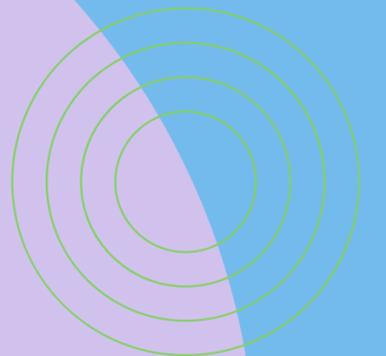
Visual Sequential Memory

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.



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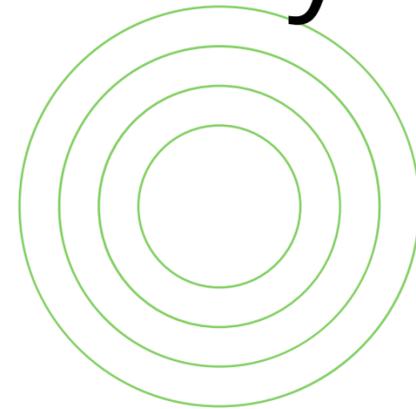


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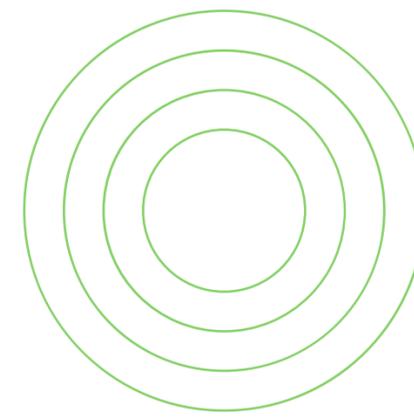


Syllables

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?



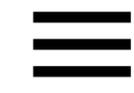
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a e i o u
sometimes y,
th, sm

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? fourth?

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.

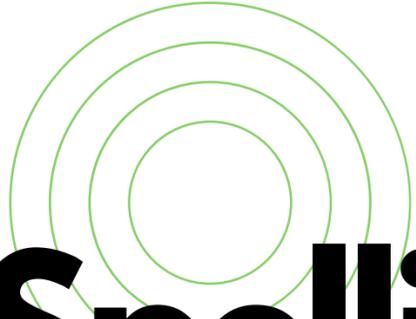
Step 3: Have student check self by stating letter sequence.

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



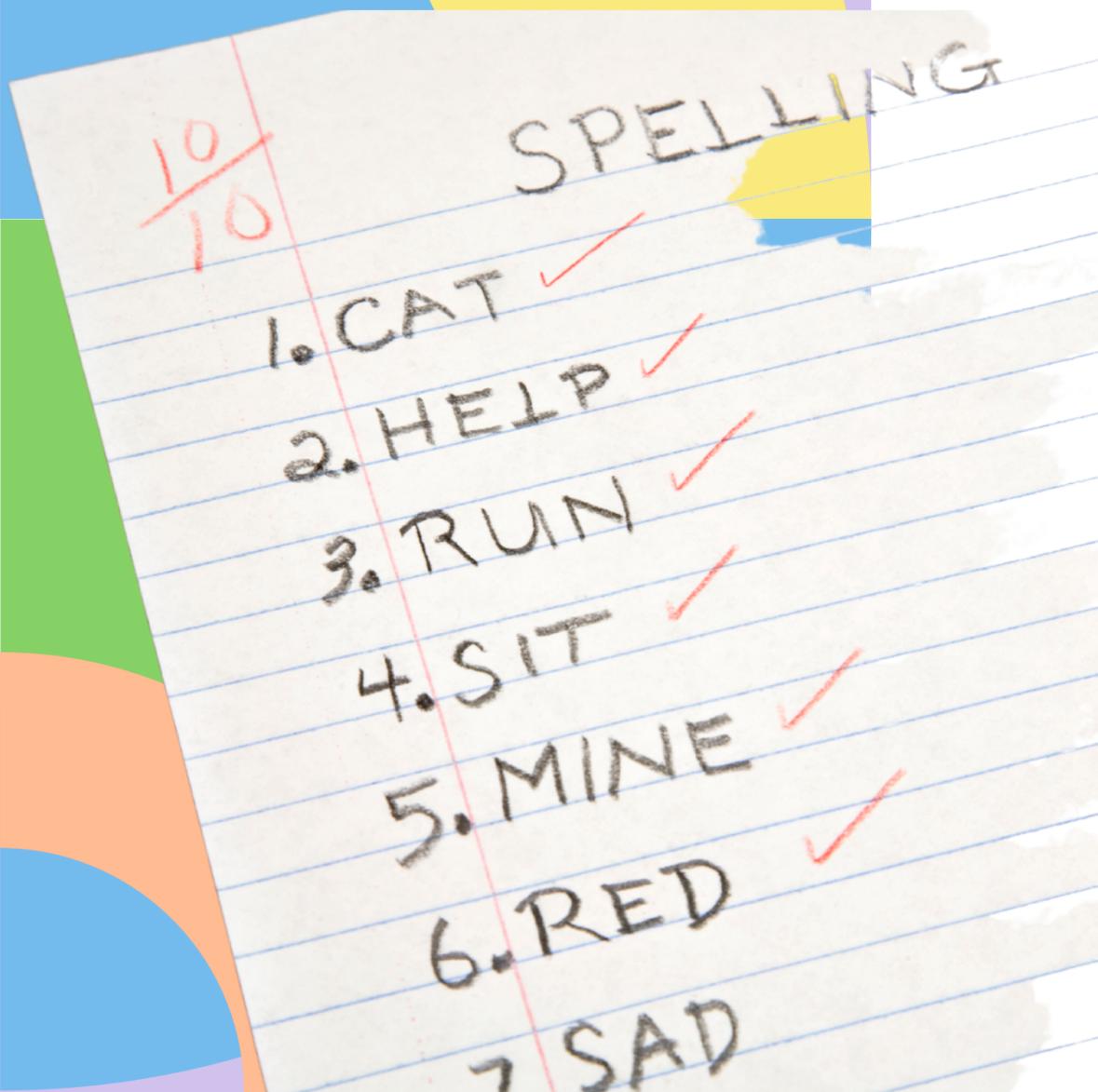
Spelling Tests

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



Spelling Tests

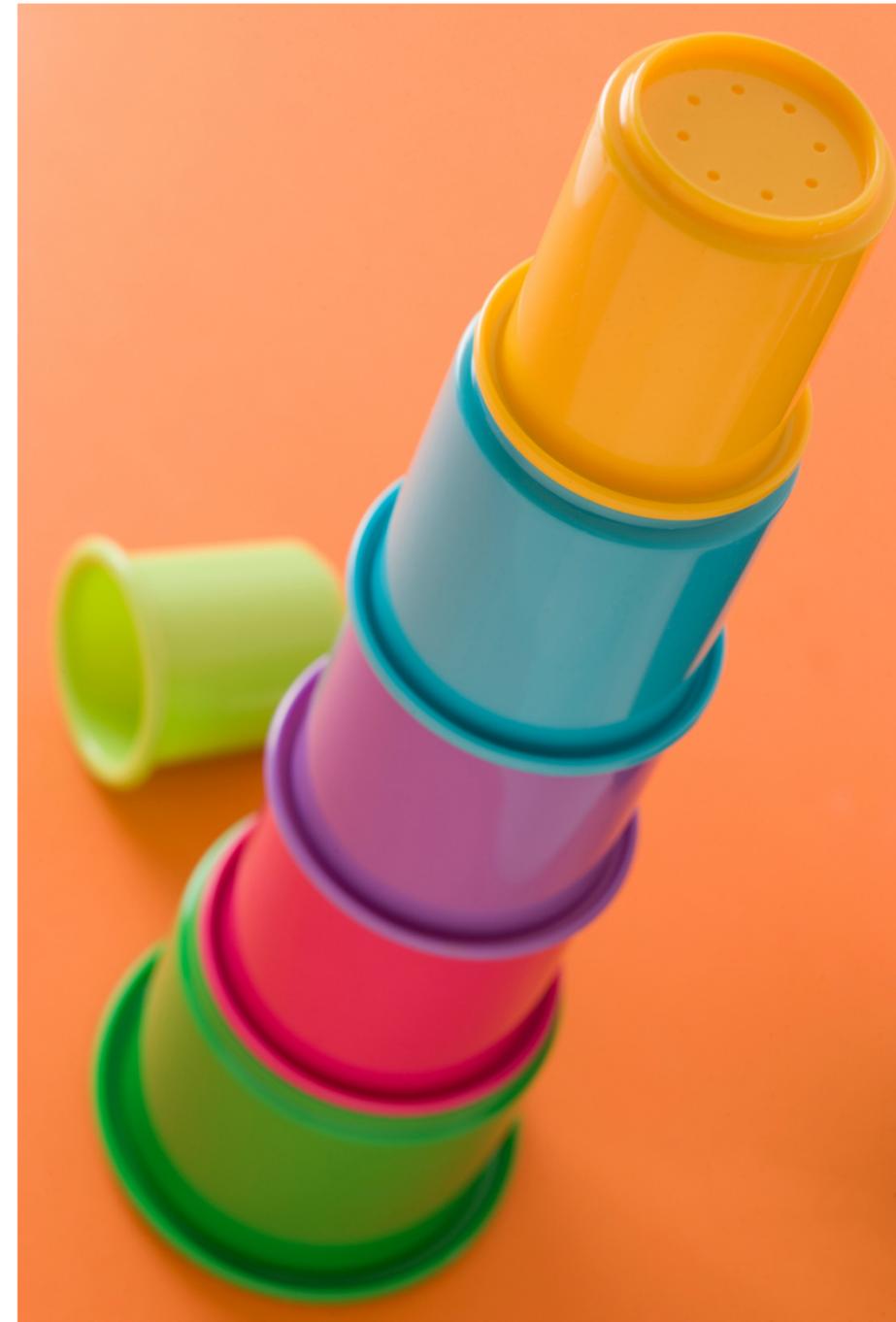
Re-learn circled words, then retake test. Repeat until all are correct.





Building Spelling Skills

Stacking cups





Building Spelling Skills

Parquetry Blocks: Memory

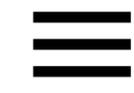




Building Spelling Skills

Attribute Blocks





Building Spelling Skills

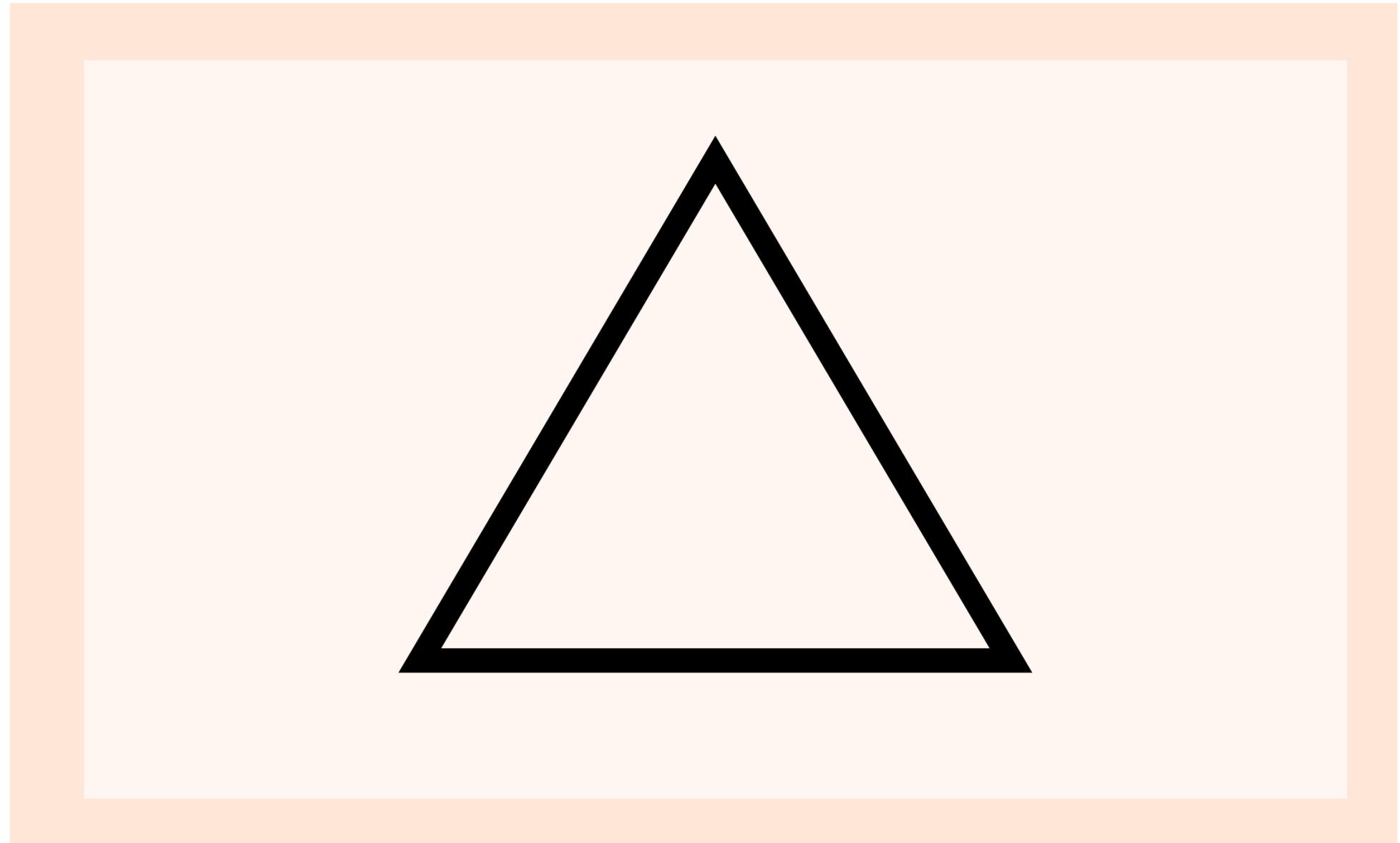
Visual Auditory Digit Span

c t e f x p



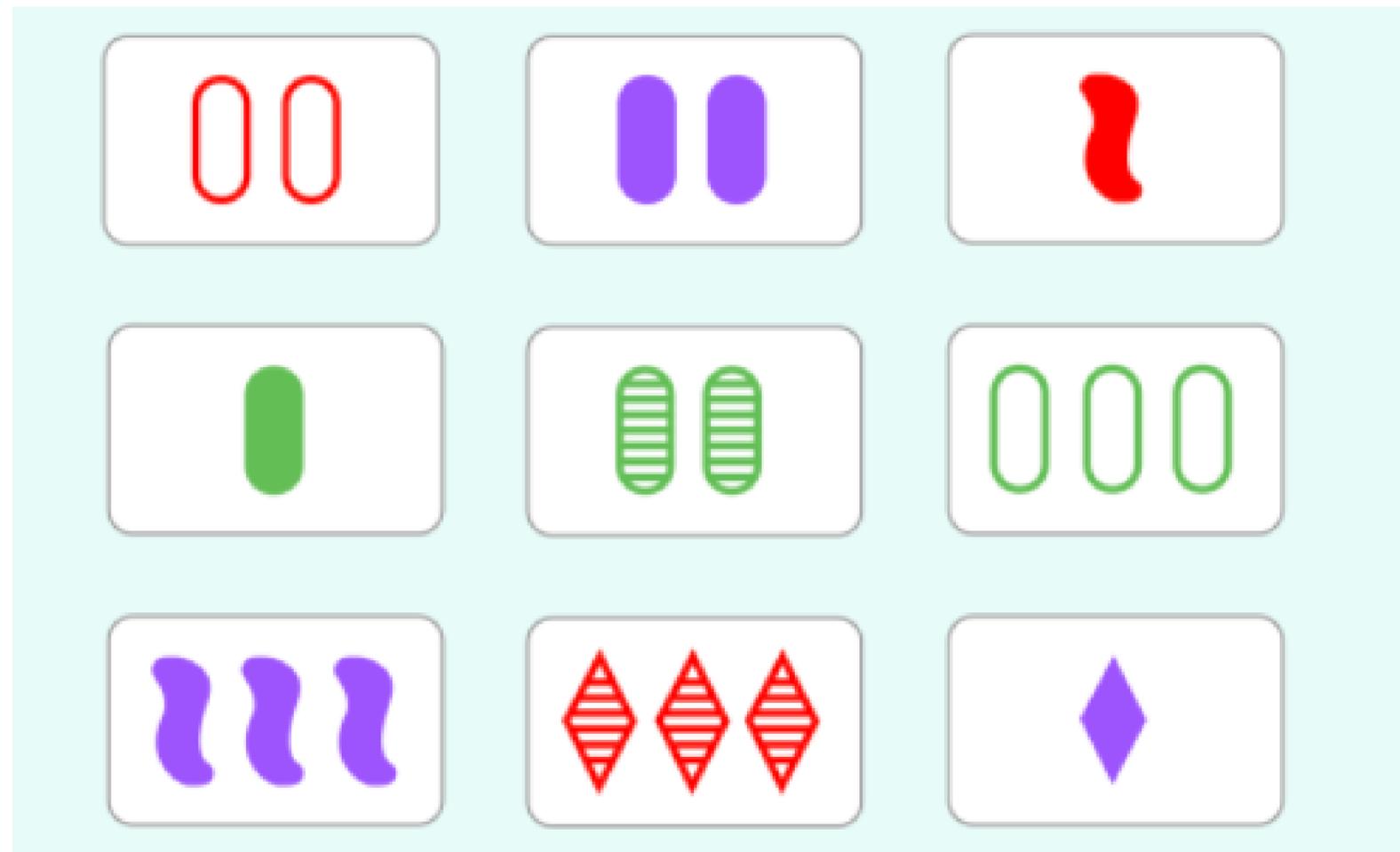
Building Spelling Skills

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

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. Proper 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 light as possible
 No broken pencil tips

6. Eyes Guide Hand
 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

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

3. Letters in Word
 How many total letters?

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

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
 Look ahead of pencil tip
 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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Thanks for being here!

WWW.BRENDAMONTECALVO.COM

