



Unusual Spellings

Congradulations Rams! District Volleyball Champs!

Did you catch the spelling mistake on the banner? Why do you think the word **congratulations** was misspelled?

Thinking about Words

1. Many people are challenged by the spelling of the word **congratulations** because it is a long word and the first /t/ sound is not always clearly pronounced. Developing tricks for recalling unusual spellings is often helpful. You could, for example, shorten *congratulations* to *congrats* where the /t/ sound is more obvious.

Can you add any other strategies for remembering the “t” in *congratulations*?

2. Create a brief announcement that might have been broadcast over the school’s P.A. system praising the Rams on their big win. Try to use some of the list words in your announcement, such as **anxious**, **conquer**, **feud**, **forty**, and of course, **congratulations**.

Word Pattern

It is important to use a variety of spelling strategies for words that have unusual spellings.

- anxious
- buoy
- canoe
- circuit
- congratulations
- conquer
- feud
- forty
- leisure
- mortgage
- penguin
- rescue
- skiing
- surgeon
- tongue

OTHER PATTERNS

- disappeared
- *field
- impatient
- *probably
- unpopular

* frequently misspelled word

Working with Words

SPELLING SECRETS

The spelling of the word **skiing** is easy to remember if you think of *ski + ing*.

1. Many of the list words contain unusual vowel combinations. Complete each word below. Then circle or highlight the letters you added.

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| a) surg_ _n | b) tong_ _ | c) b_ _y |
| d) circ_ _t | e) conq_ _r | f) peng_ _n |
| g) resc_ _ | h) f_ _d | i) can_ _ |

2. Unscramble the syllables in the box to spell five list words.

bly	la	ap	a	tions
u	im	grat	tient	dis
u	pop	pear	ed	prob
pa	con	lar	un	

3. The word **tongue** is used in several common expressions or idioms. Try to explain in your own words what the following idioms mean.

- I knew why Anook was not at school, but I decided to hold my tongue.
- Her name is on the tip of my tongue.
- I'm sorry I called you Helena instead of Alana. It was just a slip of the tongue.
- As soon as I mentioned Raoul's party to her, I could have bitten my tongue.

4. Write as many synonyms as you can for the list words **anxious**, **conquer**, **feud**, and **leisure**.

Consult a thesaurus and add any other synonyms that aren't already on your list.

5. Write the list words that match these shapes. Pay special attention to the consonants above and below the line.



6. Which list word has a homophone? Write both the list word and its homophone.

Writing and Revising

SPELLING SECRETS

Notice that **leisure** is an exception to the rule **i** before **e** except after **c**.

1. Double consonants are among several unusual spelling patterns that challenge many writers. Use the clues below to help you unscramble these double-consonant words. Then, write a “memory trick” for each one to help you remember the spelling.

- a) sradsted (You might write this on the outside of an envelope.)
- b) nospisoses (Something you own or have)
- c) resarabdems (Your face is red when you feel like this.)
- d) rialglo (An endangered African primate)

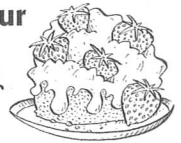
2. Signs are short forms of communication. Sometimes they only consist of one or two words. What do the road signs below mean? Write your explanation in sentence form.

- a) Be prepared to stop
- b) Right lane must exit
- c) Soft shoulders
- d) Caution: Falling rocks

3. Make a scrapbook of interesting signs you have seen that contain a “blooper” or a clever use of words like this sign. If possible, include photographs of the signs.

Berry yourself in our

Strawberry
shortcake!



4. What's wrong with these signs? Write your answer in sentence form.
- a) Don't take this sale for granite
 - b) All dogs must be on leash no longer than 2.5 km
 - c) Buypass nest exit
 - d) Breakfast served all day
 - e) No parking. Car's towed at owner's expense and will be prosecuted

The Editing Desk

Adverbs You can use adverbs to describe or modify a verb, another adverb, or an adjective. Many adverbs end in **-ly**. Example:

- She raced quickly up the stairs. *Quickly* modifies the verb *raced*.
- The wind blew so fiercely. *So* modifies the adverb *fiercely*, which tells something about the verb *blew*.
- David is an extremely helpful person. *Extremely* modifies the adjective *helpful*, which tells something about the noun *person*.

The adverbs have been underlined in this excerpt from Grace Richardson's novel *Into That Darkness Peering*:

“The handle was so deeply rusted now, there seemed to be nothing to it but rust. Marnie grabbed it with her mittened hand and gave it several fierce tugs. Abruptly, the door burst open.”

1. Rewrite the following sentences, replacing the blanks with some of these adverbs (or adverbs of your own): beautifully, suddenly, remarkably, quickly, sickly, unusually, extremely. (Hint: More than one adverb might work in any given blank.)

- Slumber Beauty Cologne makes you smell like a(n) _____ fake flower. (modifies the adjective *fake*)
- Splash it _____ on your face. (modifies the verb *splash*)
- Don't be _____ alarmed if your eyes grow heavy. (modifies the verb *alarmed*)
- It's a(n) _____ long rest worth taking! (modifies the adjective *long*)

2. Not all adverbs end in *-ly*. Use the adverbs listed in the box to complete the paragraph that follows.

almost never ✓	more straight ✓	before ✓ still ✓
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The traffic stopped _____ we had time to swerve out of the way. I have _____ seen anything like it. Cars bounced off one another like billiard balls. We headed _____ for the ditch but _____ hit the truck in front of us. It was _____ impossible to believe no one was hurt. There were _____ smashed bumpers and fenders than in a car-chase movie.

LANGUAGE MATTERS

The words *well* and *good* are two describing words that can really drive you crazy! *Well* is an adverb, *good* is an adjective.

To figure out which one of these words to use, first identify what is happening in the sentence. What kind of word is being modified?

- For an action or other word that isn't a noun, use *well*. For example, "She plays basketball well."
- For a noun or subject word, use *good*. For example, "This is a good movie."