

Spelling Newsletter

for Students and Their Families

Getting Started

This year your child is using *Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary* to learn to spell and use correctly words that are most needed in writing. The words are organized according to spelling patterns and word parts common to the English language. This organization makes it easier for your child to learn to spell the words on the weekly word lists. It also provides your child with spelling strategies needed to spell hundreds of other words.

The first unit focused on the short vowel sounds spelled *a, e, i, o, or u* in words such as *plan, smell, gift, clock, and pumpkin*. In Unit 2, children learned that long vowel sounds are often spelled vowel-consonant-*e*, such as *cone* or *skate*. Units 3–5 expand on Unit 2 by giving many more spelling patterns for long vowel sounds (*trail/today; sweet/dream; sight/pilot/die; foam/told/glow*).

Word Lists

Your child has been studying the words below and others with similar patterns.

UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 3	UNIT 4	UNIT 5
plan	cone	trail	told	bright
smell	cube	sweet	yellow	mild
pumpkin	price	today	foam	sight
clock	erase	dream	glow	mind
gift	ripe	always	coach	tie
head	skate	eight	sew	pilot
friend	done	neighbor	though	die

Family Activity

Play Charades with your child, using the Spelling Words above. Take turns choosing Spelling Words and acting them out for one another. Allow a specific amount of time for guessing the word, such as three minutes. The first person to get ten points wins the game.