

Spelling Newsletter

for Students and Their Families

Getting Started

This year your child is using *Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary*. The authors of this program have carefully compiled thematic lists of words that follow spelling principles and patterns. The program fosters an understanding of basic principles to help your child become a successful speller. At the same time, the program builds and expands vocabulary skills and concepts and provides opportunities for writing.

The first unit introduces spelling patterns for the short vowel sounds in *grasp*, *breath*, *blister*, *shovel*, and *comic*. In Units 2 and 3, study focuses on words with long vowel sounds, such as *stray*, *disease*, *reply*, and *thrown*. Unit 4 examines the spellings of the vowel sounds in *youth* and *jewel*. Unit 5 presents the spelling patterns for the vowel sounds in *ounce*, *falter*, and *destroy*.

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
grasp	stray	reply	youth	ounce
breath	praise	thrown	choose	falter
blister	scale	compose	bruise	scowl
hymn	disease	dough	lose	moist
shovel	thief	height	view	naughty
stingy	ashamed	spider	avenue	poison
energy	sleeve	control	dilute	destroy
feather	waist	brighten	cartoon	awkward
comic	beneath	excite	jewel	announce
frantic	niece	define	souvenir	auction

Family Activity

Work with your child to write sentences that include at least one Spelling Word from each unit. For example, I cannot grasp why the city allowed the height and scale of that building to destroy the view of the mountains.