

Spelling Newsletter

for Students and Their Families

Getting Started

This year your child is using *Houghton Mifflin Spelling and Vocabulary*. The authors have developed a spelling program with lists of words based on spelling principles and patterns and word parts common to English. The program also builds vocabulary skills through a wide variety of activities featuring thematically related vocabulary.

The first two units of the book introduce spelling patterns for the short vowel sounds heard in *expand*, *pledge*, *simplify*, *sloppy*, and *blunder* and for the long vowel sounds heard in *faithful*, *supreme*, *confine*, *devote* and *mute*. Unit 3 deals with spellings for the vowel sounds heard in *mound*, *gloomy*, *vault*, and *hoist*. Unit 4 focuses on the vowel + *r* sound heard in such words as *parka*, *smirk*, *scorn*, and *fierce*. Unit 5 presents homophones, words that sound the same but that have different spellings and meanings, such as *waist* and *waste*.

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
vanish	supreme	gloomy	source	waist
sloppy	mute	annoy	hurdle	patience
rhythm	faithful	haughty	parka	principal
blunder	devote	devour	scorn	sight
cleanse	succeed	thoughtful	earnest	stationary
pledge	forgave	flawless	smirk	waste
expand	confine	droop	rehearse	patients
promptly	reproach	hoist	parcel	principle
simplify	defeat	exhausted	fierce	cite
somehow	rely	scoundrel	formula	stationery

Family Activity

Work with your child to use several of the words from the lists above in a rhyme about a recent family outing, vacation, sporting event, or other family activity as a topic for the rhyme. Have your child circle each list word in the rhyme.