

# Spell check software



## Context

Spelling is difficult for many people, not just learners. It is also especially complicated for learners with dyslexia or dysorthographia, as they struggle with spelling independently from other tasks where they might perform just fine. Spelling reversals of easily confused letters such as **b** and **d**, or sequences of letters, such as **wnet** for **went** are manifestations of underlying language learning weaknesses rather than of a visually based problem.

Poor spellers have trouble remembering the letters in words because they have trouble noticing, remembering, and recalling the features of language that those letters represent.



## How we learn to spell

When learning to read, children learn to understand how words are made up of separate speech sounds and that letters represent those sounds. As knowledge of that principle increases, children also notice patterns in the way letters are used, then notice **recurring sequences of letters that form syllables, word endings, word roots, prefixes, and suffixes**. Memories for whole words are formed much faster and recalled much more easily when children have a sense of language structure and receive ample practice writing the words.

The English spelling system is not unpredictable. Nearly 50% of English words are predictable based on sound-letter correspondences alone (e.g., slap, pitch, boy). Other information, such as the language from which a word came (e.g., Old English, Latin, Greek, or French) and word meaning, also helps explain the spellings of words.



## Spelling for Dys

Keep in mind that spelling for DYS learners is not a representation of actual knowledge or writing skills. Therefore, try to accommodate tasks for Dys students by:

- A** • grading written work primarily on content,
- B** • writing correct spellings over incorrect ones and limiting rewrites,
- C** • providing proofreading assistance, dictionary, summaries and mnemonic sheets
- D** • encouraging students to dictate their thoughts before writing and giving them the spellings of key content words to use in writing,
- e** • allowing students in intermediate grades and higher to type exams and papers or to use a voice-translation device on a computer,
- f** • encouraging students to hand in early draft essays to allow for revision before grading.



## Software

A spell checker (or spelling checker or spell check) is a software feature that checks for misspellings in a text. Spell-checking features are often embedded in software or services, such as a word processor, email, electronic dictionary, or search engine.

A basic spell checker usually:

- Scans the text and extracts the words contained in it.
- Compares each word with a known list of correctly spelled words (a dictionary).
- Handles morphology. The spell checker will need to consider different forms of the same word, such as **plurals, verbal forms, contractions, and possessives.**

What are some of the best spelling checker online?

**Grammarly**

**Ginger**

**Speller**

**Scribens**

**Jetpack**



## Example

Eye have a spelling chequer,  
 It came with my Pea Sea.  
 It plane lee marks four my revue  
 Miss Steaks I can knot sea.

Eye strike the quays and type a whirred  
 And weight four it two say  
 Weather eye am write oar wrong  
 It tells me straight a weigh.

Eye ran this poem threw it,  
 Your shore real glad two no.  
 Its vary polished in its weigh.  
 My chequer tolled me sew.

A chequer is a bless thing,  
 It freeze yew lodes of thyme.  
 It helps me right all stiles of righting,  
 And aides me when eye rime.



This a poem written by Jerrold H.Zar in 1992.

As you can see, there are 'technically' no spelling issues in the poem. However, it does not make sense grammatically or linguistically.

If you run this poem through a basic spelling checker, no errors would appear!



## Resources

Learn more about spelling and dyslexia:

<https://www.readingrockets.org/article/spelling-and-dyslexia>

Find some alternative free spelling checker:

<https://themeisle.com/blog/best-grammar-checker-free/>