

T4C - Strategy Description

Goal:

- To provide students a multi-sensory approach to learning to spell difficult words



Materials Needed:

- Notebook paper or blackline master of T4C

Directions:

1. If using notebook paper, tell students to fold the piece of paper like a hot dog (lengthwise). Then have them open up the paper and fold the left-hand side into the middle to make a shutter fold and the right-hand side into the middle to make a shutter fold.
2. Label the first column TRACE, the second column COPY, the third column COVER/COMPARE, and the last column CORRECT.
3. The student carefully writes his first misspelled word in the TRACE column in cursive. (Cursive writing seems to help the brain make connections, which creates a stronger imprint.) Next the student slowly traces over each letter of the spelling word whispering the sounds of the letters. It is important for students to keep their voice and pencil pace the same so there is a one-to-one correspondence. Students should trace the word three times or until they feel confident with the spelling of the word.
4. Next the student copies the word in column two, which provides one more clean practice opportunity. He then folds the left-hand side shutter to the middle so the words are not showing.
5. In column three, the student writes the spelling word for memory and then opens up the paper to compare the three words going across. If there are no mistakes, the student goes back to the beginning and starts the T4C strategy again with the next word, on the next line.
6. If the student makes a mistake, he has a chance to correct it by folding both shutters into the middle so no words show. The student rewrites the spelling word on the back of the right-hand shutter. To check, the student opens only the left-hand side shutter. This conveniently keeps the mistake covered but allows for the student to compare the rewritten word to the first 2 columns.

