

Practising Spellings at Home

In this document are some ideas to help your children practise their spellings.



Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check



This is probably the most common strategy used to learn spellings.

Look: first look at the whole word carefully and if there is one part of the word that is difficult, look at that part in more detail.

Say: say the word as you look at it, using different ways of pronouncing it if that will make it more memorable.

Cover: cover the word.

Write: write the word from memory, saying the word as you do so.

Check: Have you got it right? If yes, try writing it again and again! If not, start again – look, say, cover, write, check.

Trace, Copy and Replicate

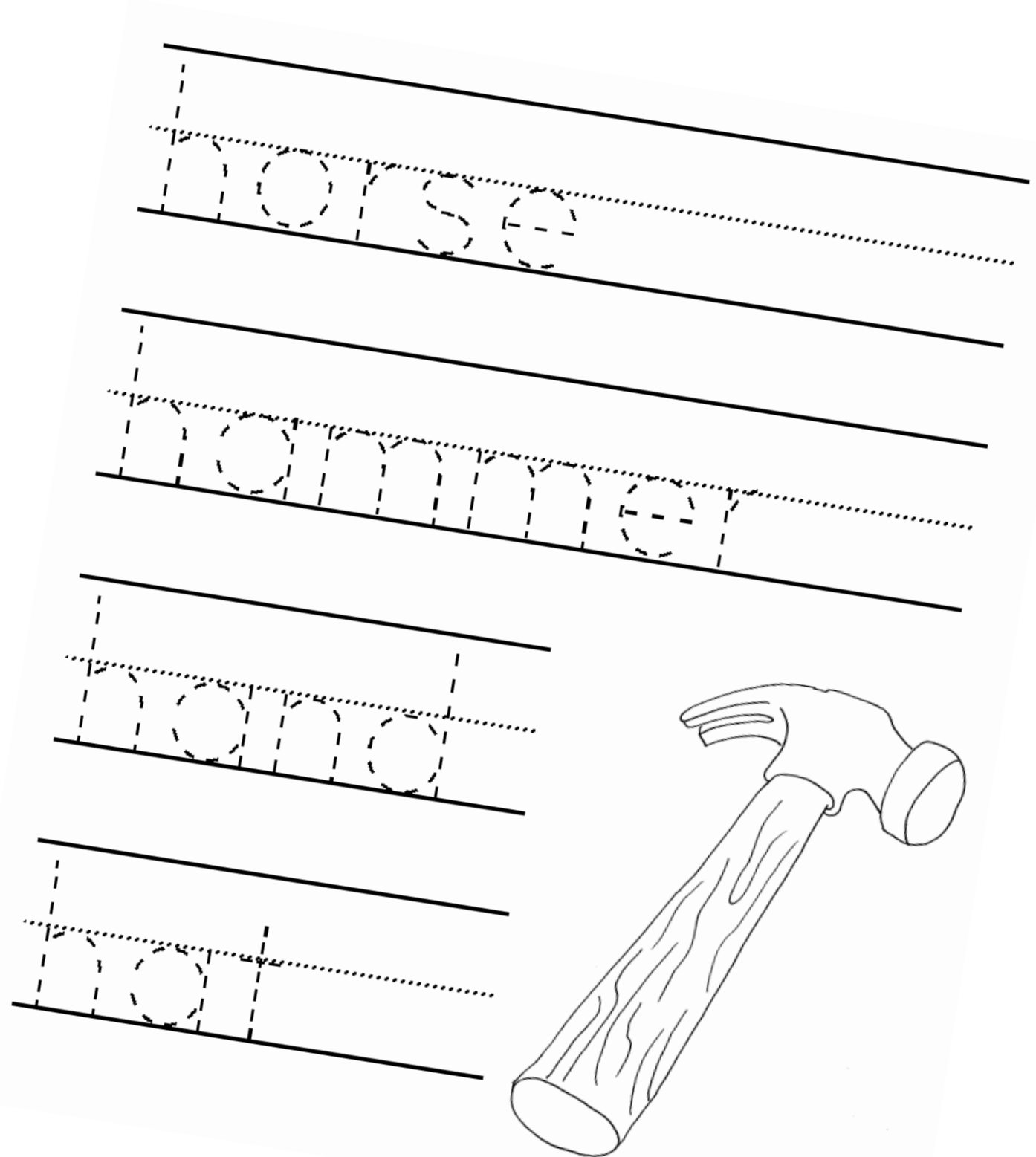
This is a similar learning process to 'look, say, cover, write, check' but is about developing automaticity and muscle memory.

Write the word out on a sheet of paper ensuring that it is spelt correctly and it is large enough to trace over. Trace over the word and say it at the same time.

Move next to the word you have just written and write it out as you say it.

Turn the page over and write the word as you say it, and then check that you have spelt it correctly.

If this is easy, do the same process for two different words at the same time. Once you have written all your words this way and feel confident, miss out the tracing and copying or the tracing alone and just write the words.



Draw around the word and see the shape



Draw around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are ascenders and descenders.

Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box.

Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.

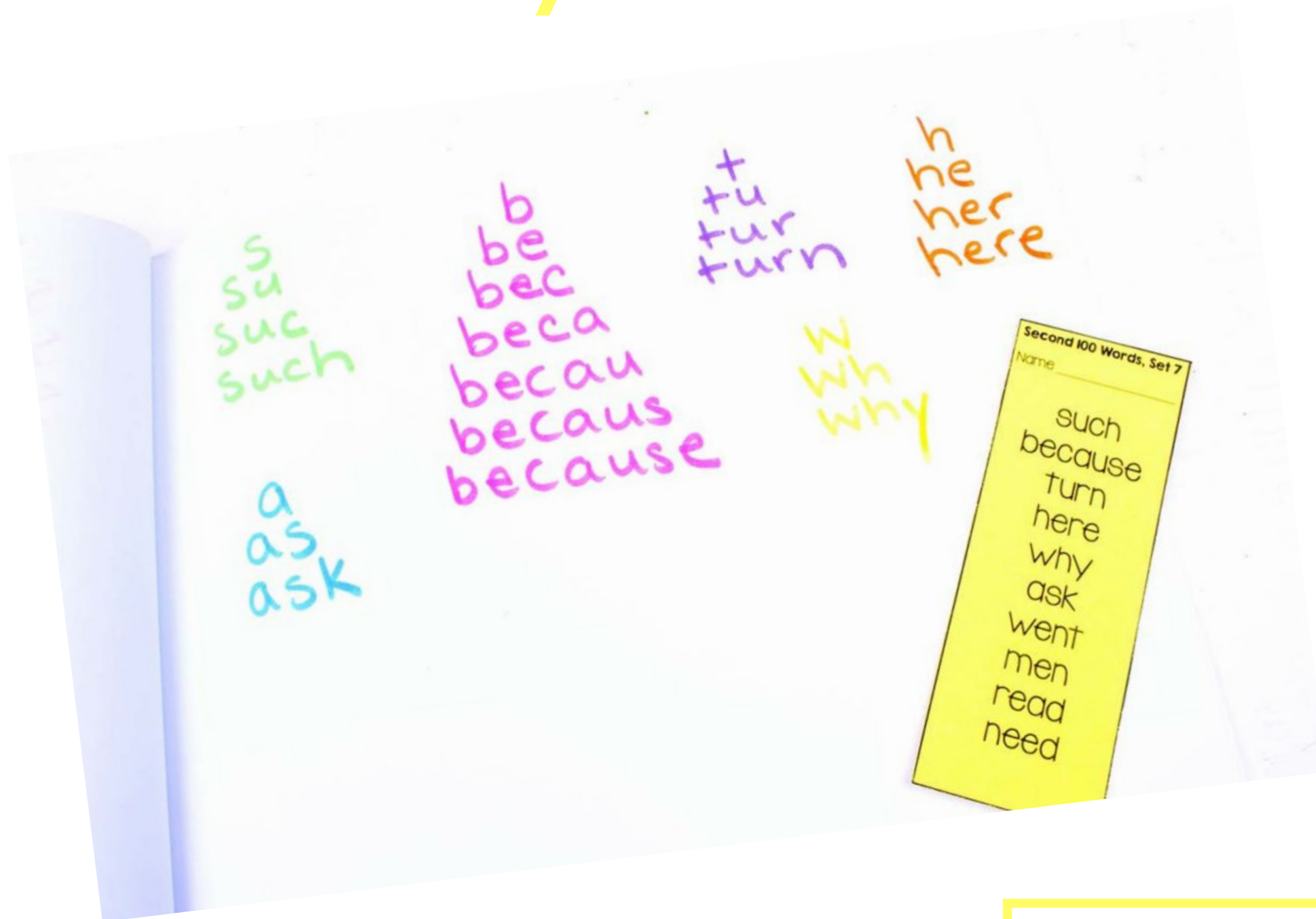
Draw an image around the word

This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable.

You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.



Pyramid Words



This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.

You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.

Words without vowels

This strategy is useful where the vowel choices are the challenge in the words.

Write the words without the vowels and pupils have to choose the correct vowel to put in the space. For example, for the words field or believe:

f _ _ _ ld

b _ _ l _ _ v _

Rainbow Writing



Rainbow coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour.

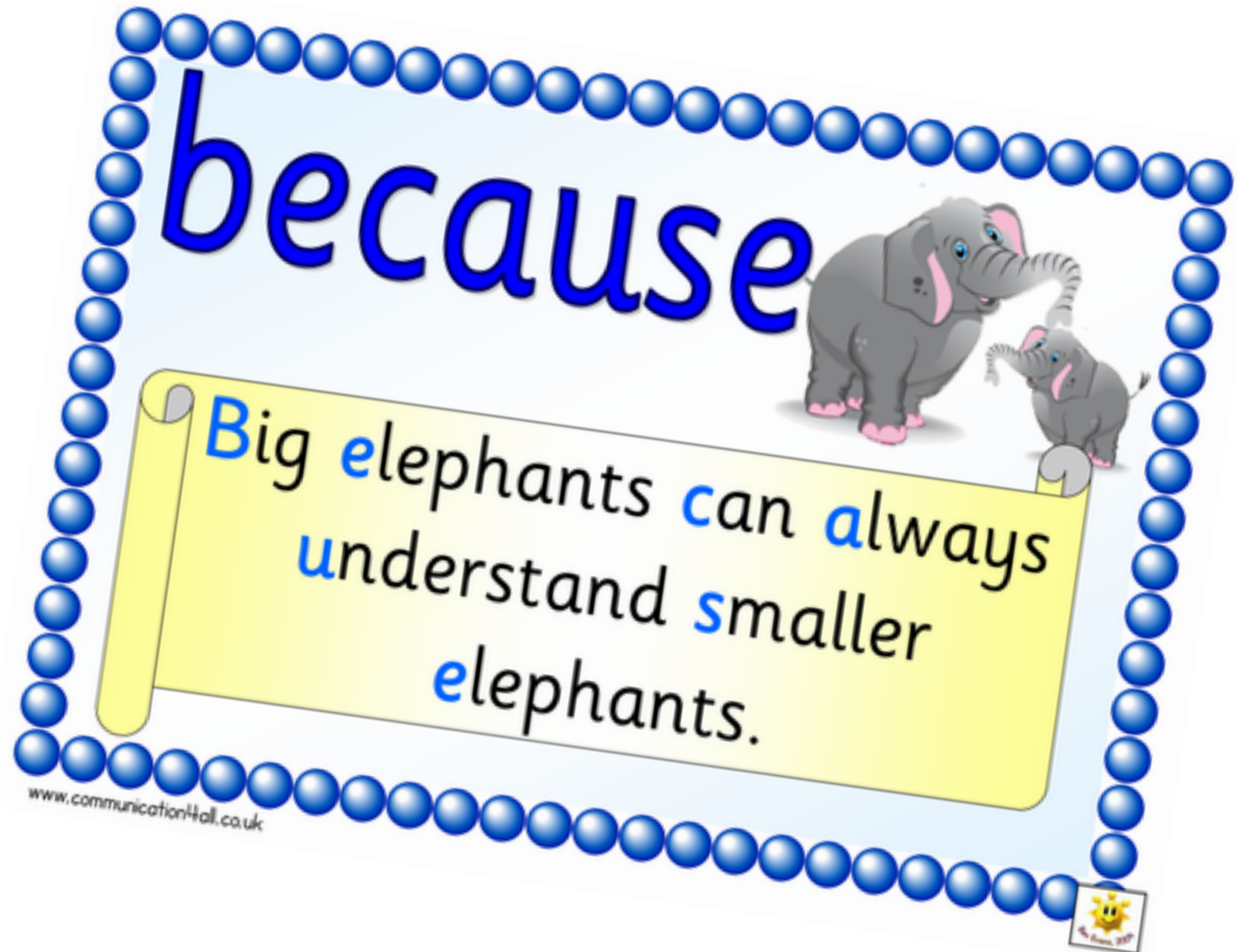
You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on.



Mnemonics

Mnemonics can be acronyms or they can be little rhymes or mental images, and they're used as a way to remember things.

You can't use this method as your main method of learning spellings, but it might work on those that are just a little more difficult to remember.



Silent Letters

Say the word in a funny way – for example, pronouncing the ‘silent’ letters in a word.

scissors

Silly Sentences

Making up memorable ‘silly sentences’ containing the word. For example for the word wears:

My dog wears a blue and purple dress when he takes a bath.

Silent Letters

Write your spelling words forwards and then backwards.

where erehw

Segmentation

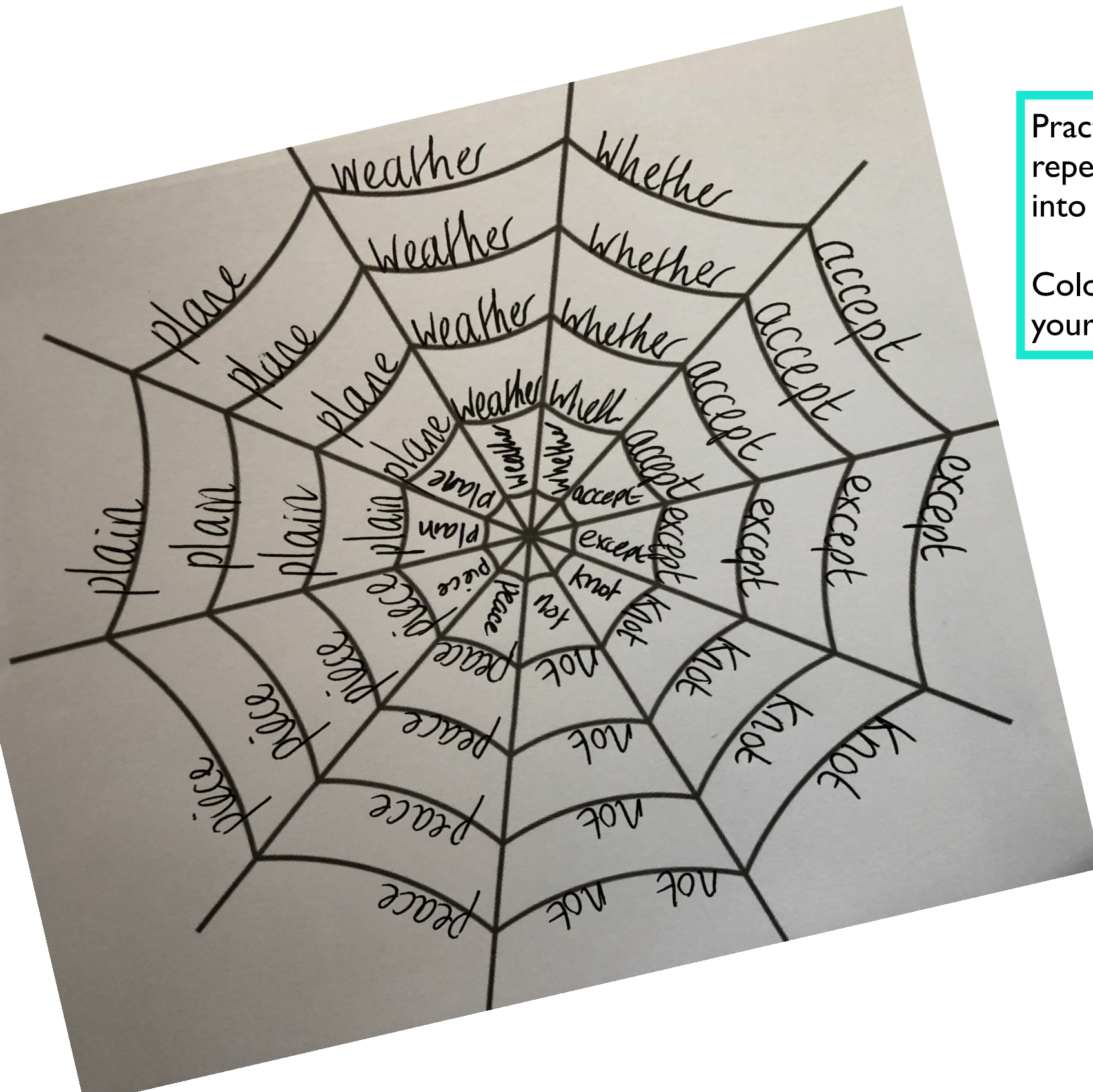
The splitting of a word into its different sounds in the correct order to support spelling.



Spelling Webs

Practise spellings through repetition. Copy each spelling into the web 5 times or more.

Colours can be used to make your web stand out.



Alphabetical Order

My Spellings

Alphabetical Order

Place your spelling words in order alphabetically.

If you have more than one word starting with the same letter then you look at the next letter.

'apple' come before **'cucumber'** because **a** comes before **c**.

'apple' comes after **'alphabet'** because the 2nd letter **p** comes after the second letter **l**.

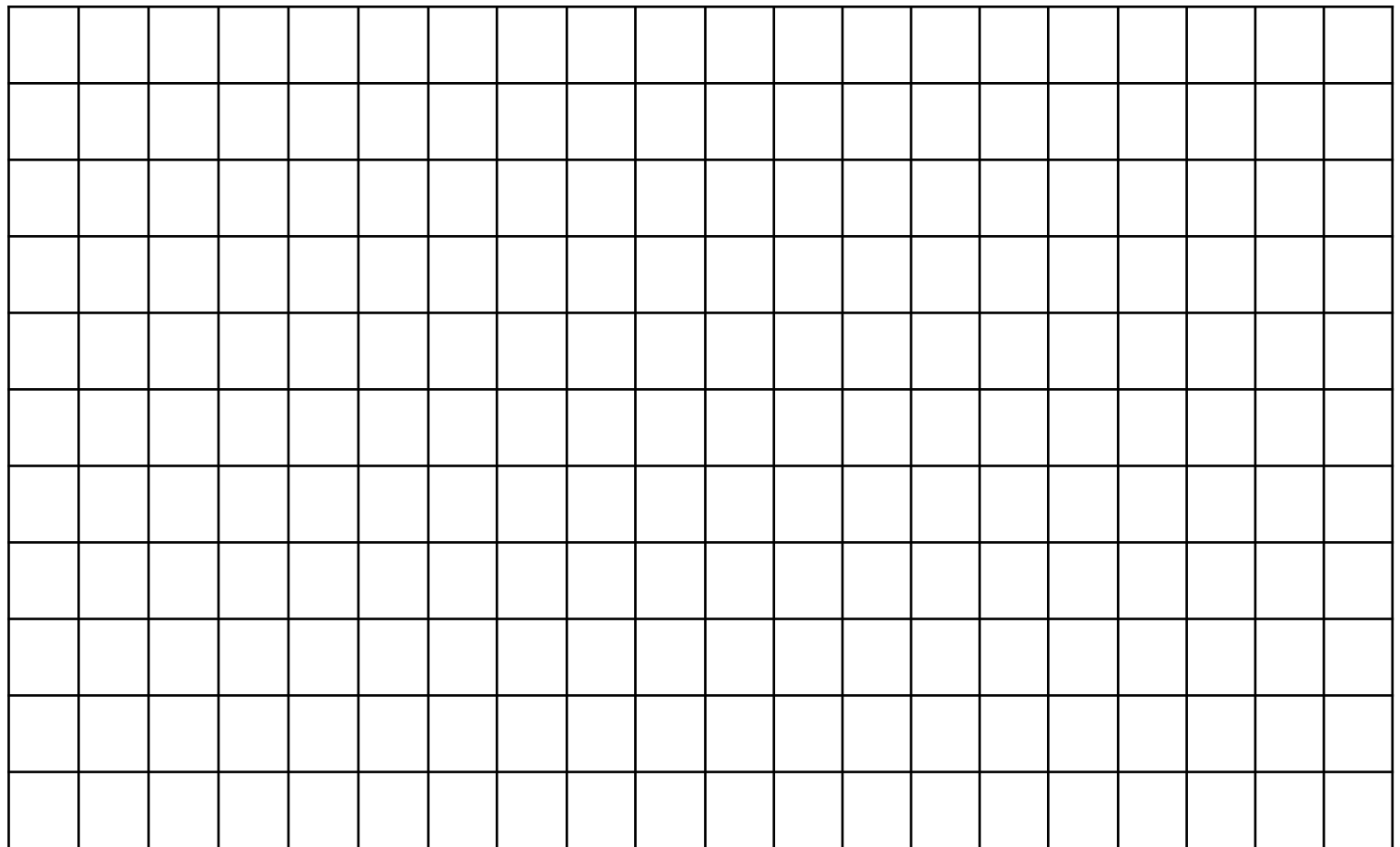
Spelling Search

Create a word search using your spellings and challenge some one to solve it.

Step 1: Add words to the grid. You can add them in any direction - vertically, horizontally, diagonally and even backwards.

Step 2: Add in letter at random to fill in the grid.

Tip: Using letters that are used in the spelling words makes finding real words more difficult.



Cross words

Link your words to make cross words. Complete the grid by adding your words too link as many words from your spelling list as possible. Your words can be positioned horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Tip: Practise joining words on a whiteboard first, this way you can move then around.

