



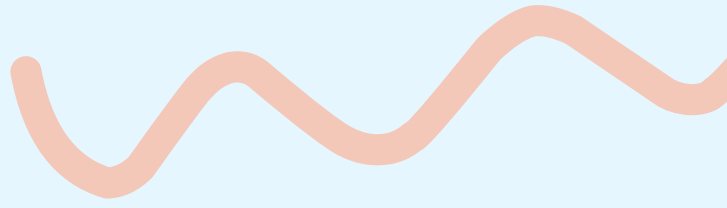
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PODCAST LISTENING GUIDE:

Spelling



Hi Teacher Friends!



Welcome to the Podcast Listening Guide!

We know the Science of Reading can sometimes feel big and overwhelming. That's why we started the Melissa & Lori Love Literacy podcast. Each week, we talk with researchers, teachers, and literacy experts who break down the research and share ideas you can try right away.

This guide pulls those conversations together around one focused topic. Use it for:

- **your own learning**
- **team discussions**
- **school-wide PD**

You'll find:

- **episodes grouped by topic**
- **conversation starters and classroom takeaways**
- **space to jot down notes or next steps**

There's never enough time in a teacher's day. Between lessons, kids who need you, and stacks of grading, it is a lot. Podcasts make learning feel doable. You can listen in the car, while setting up your room, or when you finally have a quiet moment to yourself at home.

However you use it, we hope this guide helps you feel encouraged, supported, and ready to try something new.

We can't wait to keep learning with you,

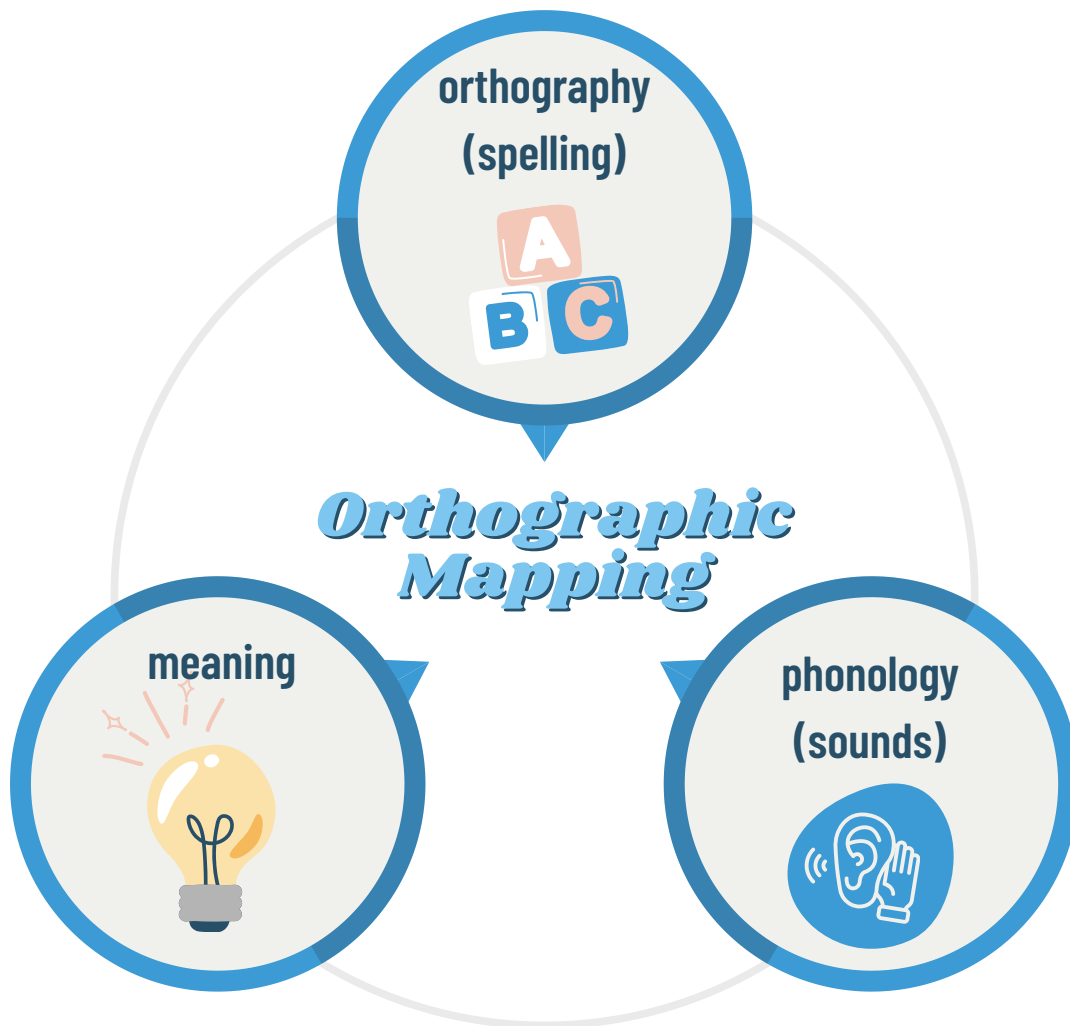
♥ *Melissa & Lori*



Spelling

Why is spelling important?

Spelling strengthens the reading brain through a process called **orthographic mapping**. When students spell, they slow down, listen to every sound, connect those sounds to letters, and build the word, sound by sound. That careful work bonds the word's pronunciation and spelling together in memory. When we intentionally connect spelling to meaning as well, those words become even more securely stored. Over time, orthographic mapping makes word reading automatic, freeing students to read more fluently and focus their attention on understanding what they read.



LISTEN: [Ep. 229: Making Words Stick with Molly Ness and Katie Pace Miles](#)

Spelling

Here are three big takeaways about spelling instruction from Melissa & Lori Love Literacy podcast straight from the voices of researchers and real classrooms:

1

Make it Stick

Spelling improves when students get frequent practice. New patterns should not replace old ones. When we interleave previously taught skills with new learning, students build mastery instead of short-term memorization. A little bit of purposeful practice every day is more powerful than one big spelling moment each week.

2

Connect Sounds to Print

Spelling is sound-to-symbol work. When students say the sounds as they write, they strengthen the connection between speech and print. That attention to every sound supports orthographic mapping and builds the word memory needed for automatic reading.

3

Teach the System

English is not random. When we teach a more complete picture of the code and stay curious about patterns instead of calling words “exceptions,” students begin to see the logic in spelling. Understanding how sounds, spellings, and word parts work together gives students tools they can apply to new words.



These ideas show that spelling is not an add-on. It is central to building strong readers and writers. Across these episodes, researchers and classroom teachers unpack how sound-to-print connections, cumulative practice, and a clear understanding of the English system strengthen both spelling and reading. You will find insights that deepen your knowledge and practical moves you can bring into your classroom right away.

LISTEN AGAIN: Episode 96

What About Spelling?

with Richard Gentry



EPISODE: 96

What About Spelling?

with Richard Gentry

LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

Richard Gentry explains that reading circuitry isn't something we're born with. Students build it, and spelling plays a central role because it helps store words as brain words for automatic reading and writing.

He shares a simple, science-based spelling routine and connects it to developmental spelling phases, showing how teachers can use students' spelling to understand what's developing and what support is needed early.

Episode Resources

Check out this article: "[Why the Human Brain Needs Spelling](#)" by Richard Gentry

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<p><i>Notice how Richard defines "brain words."</i></p>	<p><i>Listen for a quick 5-step "pre-test" routine.</i></p>



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5-Step Spelling Routine



Hear the Word

.....



Say the Word

.....



Write the Word

.....



See and Check the Word

.....



Use the Word

COMING SOON

The Science of Spelling

with Brennan Chandler



EPISODE: 258

The Science of Spelling

with Brennan Chandler

 LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

In this conversation, Brennan Chandler tells all about what research says about effective spelling instruction and why practices like retrieval, explicit instruction, and transfer matter so much for helping students become stronger writers and readers.

We included this episode in our spelling guide because spelling instruction is often overlooked in literacy conversations, even though it plays an important role in both reading and writing development.

Episode Resources

Read the article: "[The Science of Spelling: Untangling What Evidence Supports and Questions That Remain](#)" by Brennan W. Chandler, Jessica R. Toste, and Christina Novelli

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<p><i>Listen for why spelling is more than memorization and instead involves pattern recognition and decision making.</i></p>	<p><i>Pay attention to any routines or teacher language you might adapt for your classroom.</i></p>

COMING SOON

Research-Backed Spelling Routines That Work

with Brennan Chandler



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EPISODE: 259

Research-Backed Spelling Routines That Work

with Brennan Chandler

▶ LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

In this episode, Brennan Chandler shares practical, research-informed spelling routines that help students move from sounds to patterns to words to authentic writing. Throughout the conversation, Brennan walks through several routines while explaining how they support stronger spelling and writing development.

We included this episode in our spelling guide because it moves beyond traditional weekly spelling lists and offers a clear, manageable framework teachers can use to make spelling instruction more intentional.

Episode Resources

In this video, Anita Archer models explicit instruction routines that align closely with the spelling routines and instructional principles discussed in this episode.

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember

Listen for the ways retrieval practice, immediate feedback, and cumulative review support stronger spelling development over time.

What I Want to Try

Listen for practical ideas you could use right away to make spelling instruction more explicit, manageable, and engaging.

Episode 191

Teaching Spelling is Teaching Reading

with Pam Kastner



EPISODE: 191

Teaching Spelling is Teaching Reading

with Pam Kastner

LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

Pam Kastner explains why spelling matters so much in the early years: spelling makes kids slow down and connect the sounds in a word to the letters that represent them. That same work supports reading, too.

She also shares a practical shift: treat spelling attempts as useful information. When we look for patterns in students' spelling, we get clearer about what to teach next and how to support kids efficiently.

Episode Resources

Read the article "[How Spelling Supports Reading](#)" by Louisa Moats

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<i>Listen for the connection between spelling and reading.</i>	<i>Pay attention to ideas about using spelling information to guide your next teaching steps.</i>



EPISODE: 192

Quick Tips for Spelling

with Savannah Campbell

 [LISTEN TO THE EPISODE](#)

Savannah shares practical, classroom-ready spelling routines that connect sounds to print and give students the practice they need. Her message is simple: spelling improves when students say the sounds, revisit old patterns, and get lots of meaningful reps.

She reminds us that we do not need flashy activities. We need consistent routines, cumulative review, and intentional practice that helps students build strong spelling habits over time.

Episode Resources

One strategy that Savannah talks about is dictation. Learn more about dictation at the [Reading Rockets website](#).

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember	What I Want to Try
<i>Listen for the consistent themes Savannah comes back to about what really makes spelling stick.</i>	<i>Pay attention to spelling routines and activities that Savannah shares.</i>

Episode 187

Understanding the Logic of English

with Denise Eide



EPIISODE: 187

Understanding the Logic of English

with Denise Eide

 LISTEN TO THE EPISODE

Denise helps us reframe “English is full of exceptions.” Instead, she shows how English is a complex system with patterns, reasons, and more logic than we usually teach.

A big thread is that kids do better when we give them a more complete code, then invite curiosity. When teachers stop labeling words as “rule-breakers” and start exploring what’s going on, spelling and reading both get stronger.

Episode Resources

This resource from [Logic of English](#) shares several high-utility spelling patterns and generalizations that may feel more useful and transferable than the long lists of spelling “rules” many of us learned in school.

While You Listen

What I Want to Remember

Listen for how Denise talks about “exceptions.”

What I Want to Try

Notice examples where meaning helps explain spelling.

Bringing It Together...



1 What's one idea about spelling that stayed with you after listening to these episodes? Why that one?

2 What feels clearer now about the connection between spelling and reading or orthographic mapping?

3 How has your thinking about teaching spelling shifted?

Making It Happen...



What is one routine or strategy you're going to try first, and why this one?



How will you build this into your current literacy block? What might it sound or look like in action?



What needs to be in place for this to go well?

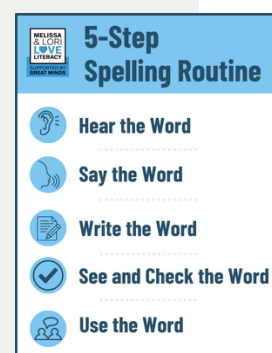
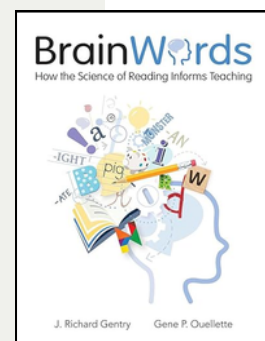
Learn More: Spelling



Resources We Love

Looking to learn more about spelling instruction?
These resources connect closely to the ideas
discussed in this listening guide:

- [Brain Words: How the Science of Reading Informs Teaching](#) by Richard Gentry & Gene Ouellette
- [5-Step Spelling Routine](#)
- [The Megabook of Spelling K-2](#) and [The Megabook of Spelling 3-5](#) by Wiley Blevins





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[*The Literacy 50 Book*](#)

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proudly presented to

in recognition of your successful completion of the

**SPELLING LISTENING GUIDE
(6 HOURS)**

You've shown your dedication to growing your knowledge and sharpening your practice. This achievement celebrates your commitment to learning, your curiosity about the science of reading, and your hard work turning insights into impact.

Date:

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