Teaching Spelling

Design and Technology

Sarah Pook
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Final version

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Teaching spelling

You may have a list of key spellings which you encourage pupils to learn. This may be in the form of word walls or lists in student planners. This support document aims to go beyond the learning of spelling lists and to consider ways of teaching spelling and understanding the subject-specific meanings of words.

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Design and technology spelling list	
Aesthetic	Machine
brief	Manufacture
carbohydrate	Natural
component	Nutrition
design	Polyester
diet	Portfolio
disassemble	Presentation
evaluation	Production
fabric	Protein
fibre	Recipe
flour	Sew
flow chart	Specification
hygiene	Technology
ingredient	Tension
innovation	Textile
knife/knives	vitamin
linen	

Subject specific terminology

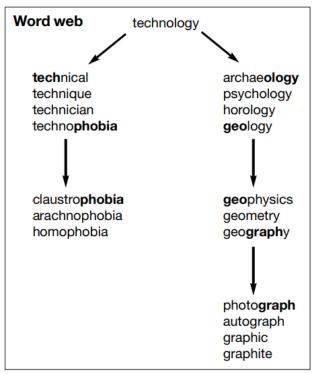| Using words in different contexts		
Word	**Everyday/other context**	**Design and technology context**
Bias		
Current		
Discrimination		
Grain		
Mould		
Smart		
Tension		

Examples of spelling strategies to consider

- Refer to root meanings – for example, proto = original
- Break it into sounds – for example, c-o-m-p-o-n-e-n-t
- Break it into syllables – for example, e-val-u-a-tion
- Break it into affixes – for example, re-search
- Apply a rule – for example, I before E except after C, for brief
- Refer to a word in the same word family – for example, design, sign, signature
- Use a key word – for example, process as a key word for excess, recess, and so on
- Look for words within words – for example, one in component
- Say it as it looks – for example, technology
- Use a mnemonic – for example, one collar, two sleeves, for necessary
- Encourage the use of visual memory (look – say – cover – write –check)

Examples of spelling strategies to consider

Design and technology is rich in root words drawn from Latin and Greek. Although pupils may find these words difficult to spell, they are useful in developing an understanding of what the words mean. This understanding can be transferred to other subjects and thus further support pupils' learning. Printed below is a word web involving the roots tech, ology, phobia, graph and geo. The left-hand column under technology takes tech- as its starting point; the right-hand column takes -ology as its starting point. The other roots are picked up as the web develops.

Word web   technology

technical   archae**ology**
technique   psychology
technician   horology
techno**phobia**   **geo**logy

claustro**phobia**   **geo**physics
arachnophobia   geometry
homophobia   geo**graph**y

                       photo**graph**
                       autograph
                       graphic
                       graphite

Examples of spelling strategies to consider

Take a few moments to decide on the meaning of the roots.

> The following notes will help you to check the meanings if you are unsure.
> tech = make, do
> ology = study
> phobia = fear
> graph = draw
> geo = earth

It is possible to work out the meaning of a root, and to spell new words by analogy with known words by using the root. This is important to pupils as they can transfer their understanding of roots across the curriculum.

Adapted from the 2004 Key Stage 3 National Strategy Literacy in design and technology

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sarah.pook2@hants.gov.uk

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