

# Spelling

The Amplify ELA spelling program is designed to develop students' spelling ability, regardless of their current skill level. The program will help students improve their spelling so they can communicate more effectively through writing.

Spelling is a challenge for many students in middle school. When students struggle to master spelling conventions and spell words correctly, it interferes with their ability to effectively communicate through written language. Their writing becomes difficult to understand, and numerous spelling errors can interfere with their intended meaning.

Middle school students become motivated to write when they see that their writing has an impact on their audience. Similarly, students lose motivation when their writing does not have an impact. When spelling errors multiply, students' writing can become difficult to understand. This can rob the writing of its intended impact, causing students to become frustrated, and lead to a reluctance to write in the future.

Middle school students have a drive to express themselves and their ideas. Understanding spelling conventions and patterns will help students express themselves through writing.

The Amplify ELA spelling program begins with words at the third grade level and increases in difficulty as teachers and students progress through each list of words. Teachers have the flexibility to begin this program with the first word list or with a later list. This allows teachers the ability to meet their students' needs by beginning with words appropriate to their current level. A pronunciation guide for individual sounds is provided for teachers. This will help teachers pronounce each sound correctly as they are introducing the words. This will also help teachers to better support students who struggle with phonological awareness.

Teachers can begin by assessing students' spelling using the provided word lists. This assessment will show teachers where students need the most support with spelling and will help them determine the correct word list to begin with.

Each word list has practice activities for students that include sorting activities, alphabetizing, writing sentences, and filling in the blanks. These activities can be done in class or at home for extra practice.

During the spelling assessments, students will write the assigned words, as well as the challenge words. Challenge words are words that are used very often, but don't follow a spelling pattern. Students will need to memorize these words. Each list also includes information on how to assess students' progress. This includes a Spelling Error Analysis chart, where teachers can keep track of the types of errors that each student is making. It also includes information about common spelling errors that students might make for each specific word list.

Students will show true mastery of spelling words and patterns when they can integrate them into their own writing. After reviewing their work, teachers can then best identify the next step toward getting better writing from their students. The results of the Spelling Error Analysis chart, paired with student writing, will help teachers identify students who would benefit from targeted, remedial instruction in certain letter-sound correspondences.

Altogether, the Amplify ELA spelling program will provide educators with the tools they need to adapt their curricula to the special needs of students who have trouble with phonological awareness while also providing effective, efficient instruction to all students.