

The “Pretend” Test

When your child masters writing the first 26 phonograms in cursive and can write in their first Spelling List notebook [the 1st level is the narrow blue one], then they begin their daily spelling test in class. This is when you begin their “pretend” test at home for homework. The first night they will only have 3 words because that is how many they were given in class that day. Then each day you will test on 3 more until you are testing a total of THE LAST 24 words in their notebook per night.

Here are the steps:

1. Say the word.
2. Use it in a sentence.
3. Say the word again.
4. They write it.
5. YOU watch to see that they have marked the words correctly. Make sure that they always mark words that are marked in their book. The markings are the rules of our English language! You were given a sheet entitled “Common Rules”. If you do not have this sheet, please ask so we can give you one so that you can become conversant with *why* these words are marked. You can even ask your child! If they don’t know yet, soon they will.
6. Write “homework” at the top of this paper. You should have a master paper that you use to make copies to use at home. [If you do not have this, please ask.]
7. RETURN *both the homework and their test that they took in class.* I file and keep these tests to track progress.
8. RETURN ANY WORK THAT IS IN THE POCKET MARKED “Class Work...for parents to look at and return.” We file Phonograms tests to also track progress.
9. HAPPY HELPING!

HINT: It would be of great value if you made reading flash cards to have your child read to you each night. Use index cards and write their words for the day [as shown below] and have them practice reading the words for the day and as many from the previous days as they can comfortably handle.

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