

In this audio series, J. Richard Gentry gives you ideas you can use immediately in your classroom to help your students become successful independent spellers.

Combining visual, kinesthetic, auditory, and tactile techniques brings all the modes of learning to spelling practice. In this podcast, spelling expert J. Richard Gentry describes using the flip folder method with spelling words.

Good news! Your students *can* practice their spelling words in only fifteen minutes a day. Better news? It's *not* through rote memorization. In a few short minutes, they can use everything they have—their eyes, brain, voice, and hands—to learn new words.

Hi. I'm Richard Gentry. And welcome to the Zaner-Bloser podcasts on best practices in spelling instruction. I am the author of Zaner-Bloser's successful spelling series, *Spelling Connections*. In these podcasts, I focus on research-based methods you can use in your classroom to *teach* spelling, not just assign it.

There's no getting around the fact that students must have multiple exposures to words in order to really learn them. Using **flip folders** makes spelling practice effective *and* efficient. Students are engaged because they do a lot with the

words in short time: They look at the word and say it aloud. They cover it and try to see it in their mind. Then they write it down and check it.

First, make the flip folders themselves. The easiest way is to use a simple manila folder. Put the folder's hinge at the top; then cut the top sheet into three strips, up to the fold. Label the first strip with four words: **LOOK SAY COVER SEE**. Label the second strip **WRITE** and **CHECK**. Label the third strip **REWRITE**.

Your students can have a little fun with this, too. Ask them to find colored file folders they really like. There are also some wild designs out there! The more they put into it, the more they will use it.

Have students copy their spelling list on a separate piece of paper so the list fits under the first folder flap. You can make this easy for students: Use the printable that accompanies this podcast. It contains a perfectly formatted, three-column blank practice sheet. Next, ask them to open the first flap and **look** at the first word. Then **say** the word aloud. Next they should close flap one and **see** the word in their mind.

Remember, the flaps will remind students what to do. The first one says **LOOK SAY COVER SEE**.

Then open flap two and **write** the spelling word on the sheet of paper below.

Have students open flap one again and **check** their spelling. Close flaps one and two, and open flap three. **Rewrite** the spelling word from memory under flap three. Then open all the flaps again to check it.

This study method provides students with on-the-spot feedback. They know right away whether they've spelled each word correctly. Then they can immediately correct it, too.

Even better, they learn a technique they can use at every grade level. Flip folders will help them deal with more advanced words when they get to high school courses. Every subject has new terms that students must learn to read and write. With flip folders, they have a study technique that can take on even the most technical words and phrases.

Flip folders are a research-based method that makes studying spelling effective. It brings all the learning modes to a simple practice that helps students really *learn* their spelling words—not just memorize them.