



**KEY STAGE 4
SPELLING CHECK**

About these spellings

A significant percentage of your final mark for GCSE English Language will be based upon the accuracy of spellings and grammar.

It is also true that people outside of education will judge your English skills on your ability to spell. It is not true that spell-check will correct everything for you in a correct fashion nor is it true that you will never be asked to write something with a pen in your future job.

The older you get, the harder it becomes to un-learn incorrect spellings and to take on board spelling patterns that you don't already know. Now you are in Key Stage 4, if you find spelling difficult, it is unlikely we can make it easy for you.

However, there is a way to appear like a better speller than you are!

In this guide there are twenty words that could be used in any type of writing; they are common words but not easy words to spell.

You could learn the correct spelling of these 20 words by the time you reach the end of Year 11 and the exams. The way to learn them? The only way to learn them? Practice!

Much like an actor learns their lines, you simply need to say aloud the spelling or write it down several times and check whether you are correct and make sure you are doing it regularly; this means, at least weekly.

Your teacher will test you, not every week, but it will be clear to your teacher whether you have been spending time at home practising the spellings or not.

If you and your class have mastered the spelling of these twenty useful words, your teacher may decide to give you a second list of twenty useful words to spell accurately.

Remember: if you find spelling hard there is something **you** can do about it. No-one can do it for you though! It is simply down to **you**!

20 useful words to learn the spelling of:

	Word	Definition
1	anxious	
2	mediocre	
3	believe	
4	accurately	
5	conscious	
6	luxurious	
7	silhouette	
8	intuition	
9	appalling	
10	naïve	
11	necessary	
12	embarrassment	
13	achievement	
14	similarly	
15	separate	
16	alternatively	
17	jealous	
18	melancholy	
19	mirrored	
20	cultivated	

WAYS TO LEARN SPELLINGS

- (a) Mnemonics: a memory technique to learn a spelling pattern. For example, 'business people *bus in* to work'.
- (b) Acronyms: treat the spelling as a word formed from the initial letters of other words: Never Eat Cress Eat Salad Sandwiches And Remain Young (necessary).
- (c) Rote learning: spelling out the word aloud over and over again until you have firmly remembered it.
- (d) Visual recognition: writing the word out over and over until you are sure that you know what it 'looks like'.
- (e) Phonetic pronunciation: saying the word, aloud initially, in the way that is spelt: sep-a-rate.