

## **Part I** Basis for theory that students can learn to improve their reading and/or spelling skills by learning phonic patterns as they learn the keyboard

Modern English spelling is fundamentally a system of a comparatively few arbitrary contrastive sets of spelling-patterns, to which readers, to be efficient, must through much practice, develop high-speed recognition responses.

— C. C. Fries, *Linguistics and Reading*

One of the time-honored methods of teaching a person to respond to what Fries describes as “arbitrary contrastive sets of spelling-patterns” is that of having the person look at the word, say the word, try to see it in his mind, and then to write the word several times. The act of writing the word – if it isn’t a mere drawing exercise – does help lock the pattern of letters into the computer brain.

This is why many teachers for years have combined the teaching of writing with reading and why Maria Montessori advocated teaching reading through writing. If a person hears the word all, is shown the word all, writes the word all using the letters a-l-l and says, “AY EL EL, all” as the person writes it over and over and over again, the learner is not only practicing stroking techniques in penmanship, but the learner is also locking in the sounds of the letters with the words.

Imagine a person writing the following exercise longhand while hearing someone read the word, as he/she sees and writes the words.

all	ball	balls			
all	call	calls	called	calling	caller
all	recall	recalls	recalled	recalling	
all	fall	falls		falling	
all	halls	halls			
all	mall	malls			
all	small				smaller
all	tall				taller
all	stall	stalls	stalled	stalling	
all	install	installs	installed	installing	installer

By the time the person is finished, he/she can read and respond to all the words.

For convenience, we will repeat Fries' definition of reading (with our italics) and then we will paraphrase it.

Modern English spelling is fundamentally a system of a comparatively few arbitrary contrastive *sets* of *spelling-patterns*, to which *readers*, to be efficient, must through *much practice*, develop *high-speed recognition responses*.

— C. C. Fries, *Linguistics and Reading*

Modern English spelling is fundamentally a system of a comparatively few arbitrary contrastive sets of spelling-patterns, to which *typists or computer operators*, to be efficient, must through much practice, develop high-speed *digital (or kinesthetic)* responses.

— C. C. Fries, *Linguistics and Reading*

Copying words, if done “actively,” is a help to learning to read. This is often considered to be a kinesthetic mode of learning. Remember, however, that drawing words (copying passively with no concentration) does not help.

Typing is kinesthetic. The automatic muscle responses to letters and letter patterns help in almost precisely the same way as the automatic muscle responses in the fingers (or throat muscles when vocalizing or subvocalizing) help a person remember a word after the person has finished writing it.

Typing can provide the drill	drill	drill	drill	drill
	ill	ill	ill	ill
	rill	rill	rill	rill
	drill	drill	drill	drill

or as Fries describes it, “much practice” that is necessary for some students to learn to read or spell or type or as he puts it, “develop high-speed recognition responses.”

Others would say that since typing uses both hands, both sides of the computer brain are automatically involved. Integration of both right and left hemispheres of the brain is considered desirable by most experts on reading,