



AVKO Educational Research Foundation

A non-profit organization devoted to helping teachers, parents, and researchers since 1974

AVKO Tutor Training Series

Tutor Training Series

Issue 2

Featured Material



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Dear Don,

Thanks for joining me again on this journey to becoming an AVKO Tutor. Did you do your homework from last time? It was only a few pages of reading and a few videos plus surfing the website and browsing of the samples of our curriculum materials. You can do it!

For this week's lesson, we are going to dig deeper into the mechanics of English spelling. We will look at some of the eccentricities of the language, reasons why it is so difficult for people to learn (especially dyslexics!), and some of the common hang-ups.

Keep up the good work!

The Mechanics of English Spelling



We'll start out today's work with Don McCabe's workshop on the mechanics of English spelling.

Before you listen to the workshop, turn to the pages in "The Teaching of Reading..." that go over the 5 types of English spelling (p. 182)

Pull out a pad of paper and take notes for your own reference.

OK, you're ready to listen to the workshop! Go to the [workshop recordings page on the AVKO.org website](#) and download the "Mechanics of English Spelling" Mp3. You may wish to burn this to an audio CD so that you can listen to it in your car, do chores, etc.

Pull Out Your Textbook

The Teaching of Reading & Spelling:



The textbook [The Teaching of Reading and Spelling: A Continuum from Kindergarten through College](#) will be our main reference throughout this



series. This book is one of the many books available for free as an e-book with [AVKO membership](#).

A little review:

If you're not already familiar with [Sequential Spelling](#), visit the website to learn more about it. Watch the [video on Sequential Spelling](#) if you haven't done so already. Familiarize yourself with the [different materials that AVKO has for spelling](#) and how they differ in customizability, parent/teacher involvement, speed, etc.

Let's dive in:

- 1.) [How AVKO's approach to teaching spelling differs from traditional methods](#) (p.107, 234)
 - 2.) What Does a Gallup Poll on Spelling Reveal? (p. 149)
 - 3.) [Patterns not systematically taught are harder to learn](#)
 - 4.) [The phonic patterns that are seldom systematically taught](#)
 - 5.) The three different words spelled h-a-v-e (pp. 261-2)
 - 6.) The Three "Tooze" (pp. 263-4)
 - 7.) The Case of the Invisible Y (pp. 355-359)
 - 8.) The Tricky Words (pp. 216-219)
- See also: ["The Tricky Words" book](#)
- 9.) The Scrunched Up Words (pp. 229-233)
- See also: ["Speech to Spelling" book](#)
- 10.) Faux compound words--"notice" is not "not ice" (p. 361-363)
 - 11.) The Holder of the Folder technique (p. 360)

Your Homework for Today's Lesson:

- Be sure that you've read everything that was assigned in today's lesson. Formulate and ASK any questions that you may have at this point.
- Read pp. 47-51, 91-99 in "The Teaching of Reading..." Look at the flash cards made for the Dolch words (pp. 52-90)
- Read "The Mechanics of English Spelling" (pp. 131-146)

You're off to a great start! You are well on your way to becoming an AVKO tutor. Keep up the good work, be diligent with your lessons and reading, and ask questions!

Be sure to join us on the social networking sites (see below) to connect with others and get the latest updates from AVKO.

Sincerely,

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