

Feb 28 2008

AVKO Educational Research Foundation

Newsletter

Why Can't Johnny Spell?

1. Too many administrators and researchers consider themselves, "The world's worst speller." They don't realize just how bad some spellers are. And they think spellcheckers will take care of all their problems. So spelling is on the bottom of their list of priorities.



2. Spelling is caught, not taught in our schools. Good spellers already know all but one or two of the words given to the class to study. Poor spellers try to memorize them all for the test on Friday but forget them by Monday. Their spelling never seems to improve much.

Can Johnny Learn To Spell?

1. Yes, if the U.S. Department of Education and/or a major university decides to establish a baseline study on student spelling. The last such study was done in **1954!** For a better study

to be made, we need the input of researchers as well as teachers, parents, and employers.

[A Challenge to U.S. Department of Education, All State Departments of Education, All Educational Organizations, and University Reading Researchers](#)

2. Yes, if the instructors in the colleges of education begin to teach their students about the differences between the phonics of words that have a one syllable base (Simple) and those words that cannot be reduced to a base of one syllable (Fancy).

AVKO's Test That Demonstrates the Simple Principle:
Words Containing **Phonic Patterns Never**
Systematically Taught Are More Difficult to Read
or Spell than Those Words that Contain **Phonic Patterns Normally**
Taught or Encountered in
Whole Language Classrooms During the First
Three Years of School.

Which word in each pair of words is more likely to be misspelled or too difficult for a student to read?

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. painter | 2. precious | 3. chateaux |
| partial | pretends | churches |
| 4. booklets | 5. mechanized | 6. unions |
| boutique | meaningful | unsafe |
| 7. mistakes | 8. petites | 9. spending |
| missions | pecking | specials |
| 10. collected | | |
| collusion | | |

Prediction: Even though each word pair has the same number of letters and syllables and begin with exactly the same two letters, the mode and the median score will be 100% correct. The mean will be close to 90% correct! Reason? We all

intuitively know that we haven't been taught or haven't been systematically exposed to the phonic patterns in one of each pair of words. Believe it or not, all the words below are phonically regular!

Answers: 1. partial, 2. precious, 3. chateaux, 4. boutique, 5. mechanized, 6. unions, 7. missions, 8. petites, 9. specials, 10. collusion.

Homeschooling on the Seas



This year on the July 18-25 Cruise to Alaska, Don McCabe, Research Director of the AVKO Foundation, is going to be presenting AVKO demonstration workshops for parents and kids on HOW TO BE BETTER AT SPELLING AND READING during the cruise.

There will also be interactive lessons and activities in Science, History and Current Events of each city and country visited. They will be presented by homeschooling moms with professional education experience. There will be lots of on-board fun and educational activities.

Give AVKO as your referral and receive a **FREE** autographed copy of [To Teach A Dyslexic](#).

Book Now! Don't wait as there are a limited number of spaces. Don McCabe will be will also train parents to be certified AVKO tutors FREE.

Testimonials

Dear AVKO Educational Research Foundation

We are a home schooling family with one very bright child. He does not have any learning disability, however, he has never been what I would call a good speller. We are using Sequential Spelling this year for the first time, and I can see improvement in his ability and confidence in both spelling and writing. He used to complain about spelling lessons, but now he says spelling is fun!

We are looking forward to an equally good experience with your keyboarding curriculum.

Thank you,

Donna K. Harper



If you have a success story and would like to share it with us, please do so at AVKOFoundation@hotmail.com

Also, for more testimonials and success stories, visit our site at <http://www.avko.org/testimonials.html>

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\$25

If you are not already a member of the AVKO Educational Research Foundation, join today for only \$25! Your membership fee includes a year long membership, which includes over \$100 worth of e-books and materials including Don's autobiography *To Teach A Dyslexic*. To join, simply sign up at www.avko.org/membership.html

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