

# AVKO Educational Research Foundation Newsletter

October 9, 2008

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## Join Our List

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Dear Reader,

AVKO has some great resources, freebies, and discounts available for you in this edition of the AVKO Newsletter! Read on for more information! Know someone who'd love this newsletter and the resources AVKO can provide? Forward this email to them and make sure they sign up for their own issue of the AVKO Newsletter.

## AVKO.org Has Been Updated

**Browse the website to see the reorganization, improved navigation, and more resources!**

Please also give us feedback as to what you would like to see on the website, how to improve navigation even more, and the resources you would like to see there.

## Updated Freebies Section!

Check out the Updated [Freebies](#) section for links to free software, articles and essays on AVKO materials and methods, rules of English Spelling, information, videos, etc.

## Readings for Comprehension

### Using Humor to Teach Comprehension

AVKO highly recommends using humorous materials to increase fluency, increase vocabulary, and assess comprehension. If your child isn't laughing (or groaning!) it's easy to gauge that they haven't understood what it is they read. AVKO has a vast array of recently updated quips, stories, and other [readings for comprehension](#) on the website. These are completely free to access. [Members](#) have access to additional readings as well. Any joke book, humor site, cartoon, etc. could be used. [Garfield](#) and many other cartoons have their own websites.

### AVKO Resources for Fluency

Don't forget that AVKO has materials that can be used for fluency as well, including [Readings for Fluency](#), [Word Families in Sentence](#)

[Context](#), and even [Speech to Spelling](#).

**Readings for Fluency**--Using different fonts, *Readings for Fluency* trains the brain to be able to read different scripts and improve the automaticity of reading. We are constantly bombarded with our 26 letters presented in a multitude of shapes: lower case, upper case, cursive, print, calligraphy, etc. In order to be a successful reader, one must navigate these different shapes automatically. These sentences will help your child on his way to more fluent reading.

**Word Families in Sentence Context**--Learn vocabulary words together with other words in the same word family. We provide you with the most important words from each word family and a sentence for context and vocabulary building. This is also a great resource for dictation exercises to supplement your Sequential Spelling program. This book gives you a bank of sentences to go along with your Sequential Spelling word lists if you cannot think of a sentence. This is now available for free (with [membership](#)) in a combined book with [The Patterns of English Spelling](#). The word families (from *The Patterns of English Spelling*) appear on one page with the sentences (from *Word Families in Sentence Context*) appear on the page facing the other.

**Speech to Spelling**--Dictation exercises to help turn those "hafta's" into "have to's" and other scrunched together spoken forms of English into their formal equivalents. *Speech to Spelling* is October's [Book of the Month](#).

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## Spelling City

[Spelling City](#) is a great resource for more spelling games, word lists, and spoken versions of the words with sentence context.

## What to do with all of those free ebooks?

### So...you're already a member of the AVKO Foundation. How are YOU going to use \$400 worth of free ebooks?

This week we'll start with *The Patterns of English Spelling*.

#### [The Patterns of English Spelling](#)

- Look up all of the words in a word family
- Change out or add more words for a particular Sequential Spelling lesson. Simply use the references at the bottom of each Sequential Spelling page to find the word family you seek.

- Make your OWN, customized Sequential Spelling tests. Trim away the fat, make the lessons more pertinent, and only teach the word families your child needs to learn. We recommend using [Individualized Spelling](#) to first assess which word families need to be learned. Then use the [Make Your Own Sequential Spelling Tests](#) resource on the website for more instruction.
- Create vocabulary building exercises based on the word families being learned.
- Create composition exercises where your child incorporates many of the word family's words into an acrostic poem or a short piece of prose.
- See the grade level of the most common words.

## Resources for (Home) Educators

### Teaching Materials from PBS

PBS has a wealth of resources for educators, including lesson plans, worksheets, and reading materials. They have entire units built specifically for various subjects, grade levels, and even themes with multiple lessons for each. Visit the [PBS Teacher's section](#) for all of these invaluable resources. PBS also has a [kids section](#) with lots of games.

### Teaching Resources in Your Home

Most kids don't want to memorize lists of words to learn vocabulary. Fortunately, they don't need to! Utilize the resources that you have in your home to learn vocabulary that's interesting to your own children. Art and fashion magazines (or the Lifestyle section of the newspaper) are great for learning foreign words, especially French and Italian. The newspaper is great, in general, for formal and sophisticated speech, as well as to-the-point language. You can even access many newspapers online, so no worries if you don't already subscribe to a paper. Cook books and magazines are also great for learning those foreign words that are so common in English.

**Send us your favorite educational resources to share with everyone, including great websites, books, and your own tips.  
Email [news@avko.org](mailto:news@avko.org) with your tips!**

## Introducing AVKO Clearance Items

### Discounts for older editions of your favorite AVKO Materials.

When we change our covers or revise a book, or have shipments with some bent pages or covers, we have surplus stock that we can't sell at cover price. AVKO has decided to give AVKO members the

opportunity to scoop up these bargain buys for a great deal.

If you've been eying a book for a while now and weren't sure if you wanted to commit to it, this is your opportunity!

Clearance items are 40% off the retail value for non-members or 50% off the retail value for members.

Quantities are limited and not available for every title, but many of your favorite materials are available.

See our [Clearance page](#) for more info and to pick up your copies today!

### Send Us Your Feedback and Pictures

#### **We Can't Hear From You Enough!**

AVKO exists for you, our devoted members. We respect your opinions very highly. Let us know how we can improve our resources, improve our materials, and improve our service for you. Tell us what you like about what we do and what you don't like. We are also in the process of revising and revamping our website -- give us your suggestions so we can make it the best it can be. Reply to this email and let us know how we can better serve you.

**Send us your pictures** of you and your students/children working with the AVKO materials so that we can post them online. Send them to [news@avko.org](mailto:news@avko.org) or to 3084 Willard Rd, Birch Run, MI 48415.

*By submitting pictures, you agree that they may be posted online or in our advertisements for no additional compensation; pictures and sent-in materials will not be returned.*

Sincerely,

Brian McCabe  
AVKO Educational Research Foundation

AVKO is introducing a Featured **Book of the Month** promotion. Each month, one of our books will be featured and will be discounted 10%. [Members](#) will therefore get a 32.50% discount because of their pre-existing discount.

**Save  
32.5%**

**October's book is Speech to Spelling, available for \$10.10 for [members](#) and \$13.46 for non-members.**

**Speech to Spelling is a series of dictation exercises to correct those widespread problems in the translation of *spoken* English into *written* English.**

**Offer Valid now until October 31, 2008**

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