

## ICANSPELL INTRODUCTION

ICANSPELL is designed to help you learn all of the spelling words you are given in this program by keeping you cycling through the words until you CAN SPELL them correctly. Canadian students will appreciate the fact that CANadian SPELLings are included among the words in this program, alongside American spellings (e.g. honour/honor). (They are more properly called British spellings.) But this program is for everyone!

The words you will study in ICANSPELL are grouped so that words with similar features can be studied together. For example, there is an ICANSPELL lesson about words containing the letters "ought" and lessons about words spelled two ways (Canadian and American). There are also a couple lessons containing the names of the Canadian provinces and territories and their capital cities. The ICANSPELL ALPHABETICAL INDEX may be used to determine a student's individual spelling level and to locate the lessons where specific words are dealt with.

Each lesson begins by saying what the words in that lesson have in common, and goes on to explain how and why they are spelled as they are. Then it gives an activity designed to help you visualize or experience each word in a fun way. For example, there is a lesson that asks you to draw a picture of a level teeter-totter and print the letters "ph" and "f" on the ends to show that they make the same sound. Then you are asked to spell the words and when you get to the "ph," slide your finger over to the "f" to remind yourself that "ph" says "f." If there are words for which the given rule does not work, then a paragraph explaining the difference is also included. In the case of "ph/f," you are asked to print words like "shepherd" and draw a knife cutting the word into two syllables between the "p" and the "h."

The instructions for studying spelling words through ICANSPELL are split into two parts, each on a cardboard sheet that is also to be used as a bookmark for the pages used in that part. The instructions on the first sheet tell the student how to study ICANSPELL words when they are first introduced. When the student needs to restudy words, s/he will follow the instructions on the second sheet where the ICANSPELL AGAIN study system is explained. The student worksheets may be removed from the binder during study sessions and returned to their correct places in the binder when the work is done. In this way, the lesson explanations can be readily accessed at any time using the lesson numbering system. The bookmarks are to be moved along each time an ICANSPELL lesson or ICANSPELL AGAIN lesson is completed. The ICANSPELL and ICANSPELL AGAIN CONTROL SHEETS are for encouraging systematic progress through the program.

The parent or teacher's role in using ICANSPELL can be minimal, if desired. The instructions are written to the student who can work on his or her own, but a younger child will need the teacher or parent to walk him or her through the process. However the system is used, the parent/teacher will need to administer spelling tests—as explained in the instructions. Use the ICANSPELL DICTATION PAD to dictate ICANSPELL WORDS, and the ICANSPELL AGAIN DICTATION PAD to record and dictate words the student must study again (and again, if necessary). ICANSPELL will help the student or parent/teacher to maintain control of the study process so that no words will be overlooked.

Some people may prefer to use ICANSPELL with their own spelling or vocabulary words taken from other materials they are studying or expand their ICANSPELL studies in this manner. For instance, those who wish to study the names of people and places not usually found in spelling systems may wish to plan additional spelling lessons using this material. Such people may use ICANSPELL GENERIC forms for this purpose.