

# ICANSPELL LESSON

## 4/13

The ICANSPELL WORDS on this page contain the consonant team **ph**, as in the word you might use when you smell something awful—phooey! Sometimes **ph** is found at the beginning of a word, as in Philip and photo. Sometimes it is found in the middle of a word, as in orphan and phosphate. And sometimes it is found at or near the end of a word, as in telegraph. In most words containing **ph**, these letters say the sound of **f**. Phone sounds like fone, but we do not spell it that way!

Once in awhile the two letters **p** and **h** keep their own sounds even when they are together, as they are in shepherd. They do not say **f**. What in the world would a sheferd be? The word shepherd is broken into two syllables, shep + herd, and it means sheep herder. You need to say the first syllable as it sounds and then say the second syllable (though the **h** almost disappears), so you cannot combine the **p+h**. In words like this, you cannot say **ph** like **f** because the **p** belongs to a separate syllable from the **h**.

Draw a picture of a teeter-totter. On the left end of the teeter-totter print **ph** and on the right end print an **f**. Make sure the teeter-totter is level, because the **ph** = the **f**. Now study the first eleven words while keeping the picture of the teeter-totter in front of you. When you get to the **ph** part of each word, point to the **ph** on the teeter-totter and then slide your finger to the **f**. Remember that **ph** says **f**, but is spelled **ph**. In the last three words the **p** and **h** are in separate syllables. To illustrate this, draw a knife cutting between the **p** and the **h** of each one. That's where the syllable break is, so **ph** cannot say **f**. To prove that the **p** and **h** in the first eleven words cannot be broken into separate syllables, try saying them as if they were!

### ICANSPELL WORDS

1. geography
2. phonics
3. phone
4. dolphin
5. telephone
6. orphanage
7. apostrophe
8. nephew
9. paragraphs
10. graph
11. autograph
12. haphazard
13. loophole
14. shepherds

### ICANSPELL TEST

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_