## Intelligence

You may be happy to learn that the ability to spell well has little to do with intelligence. Highly intelligent people can be lousy spellers. Regardless, spelling a word incorrectly is one of the biggest blunders you can commit, especially in a business letter or résumé.

## Typos

Although spelling and intelligence may have little relationship, you should be intelligent enough not to send out a document that contains misspellings. And if occasionally a typo does slip through, just hope your reader is the forgiving sort, or a poor speller!


Miss Pelling was stunned when she realized she sent an email with a misspelled word!


## Music

Spelling ability seems to be on the same order as musical ability. A misspelled word causes the same sense of anxiety and embarrassment in a good speller as a misplayed note causes in a good musician.
Of course, in both spelling and music, everyone improves with practice.

## Reputation

 Whether you use a paper dictionary or a computerized spell checker or have someone else proofread your work, remember that your reputation and career may depend on proper spelling.
## Accuracy

Try not to be too blue when an error slips through. If you make 1 error per 1000 words, you're still $99.9 \%$ accurate, which is an incredibly high standard!

## Perfection

Perfection is not the goal in life ...but the constant striving for perfection is.

## Misspellings

Review the following misspellings, corrections, and BrainAids. Add your own.

| Single vs. Double Consonants |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Misspelled | Correct | BrainAid |
| accellerate | accelerate | Imagine "1" is a car stickshift between the e's. |
| acomodate | accommodate | See 'em (cc mm) twice on one date. |
| antena | antenna | An-ten-nA. |
| apearance | appearance | Go to the $A \& P$ market to buy a pear. |
| assasin | assassin | Put two donkeys in the barn (ass-ass-in). |
| bookeeping | bookkeeping | K's=bookends for booK\||||||Keeping. |
| comited | committed | Commit Ted to the asylum. |
| comitt | commit | Commit to the fact that $M$ \& $M$ candies are it. |
| comittee | committee | The committee met at the golf tee. |
| comittment | commitment | His commitment "ment" a lot. |
| diarea | diarrhea | rrumble, heave |
| disatisfy | dissatisfy | My brother Dis failed to satisfy. |
| embarasment | embarrassment | $\underline{2}$ rattlesnakes embarrass. |
| harrasment | harassment | Laughing at someone is Har, har, har-ass-ment. |
| hemmoroid | hemorrhoid | Either Hem or Rhoid did it. |
| impecable | impeccable | Hungry birds like to "pec" $\underline{\text { abble. }}$ |
| miscelaneous | miscellaneous | Miscellaneous has a cell in it. |
| necesary | necessary | Is it necessary to have a cesspool? |
| ocasion | occasion | Oh, see (o c) Casio. |
| ocupation | occupation | Oh, see (o c) cup of coffee. |
| ocurence | occurrence | Oh, see (oc) doves curr (the sound doves make) |
| oposite | opposite | $\underline{\text { Peter \& Paul sit opposite. }}$ |
| pallete | palette | Hey Pa, let Te do it! |
| paralell | parallel | Tell El the golfer: Par all El! |
| personell | personnel | You're a fine person, Nel! |
| posess | possess | The posse possessed the villian, hiss... |
| prefered | preferred | I prefer red colors. |
| profesional | professional | Professional crooks rarely fess up. |
| recurent | recurrent | If it recurs, it's current. |
| refering | referring | Refer ring to the jeweler. |
| roomate | roommate | Where's my room, mate? |
| sucess | success | 2 card sharks (cc ss) had success. |
| supress | suppress | Let's sup with the press tonight. |
| tommorow | tomorrow | Would you rather beat the tom or row the boat? |
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| transfering | transferring | Transfer ring to her other hand. |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| vaccuum | vacuum | I own a Shop Vac. Yuu do 2. |
| waranty | warranty | The bloody war ran Ty into depression. |
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| Silent Consonants |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Misspelled | Correct | BrainAid |
| abcess | abscess | I found abs in the cesspool! |
| aquire | acquire |  |
| colesterol | cholesterol | cholesterol: See (c) holes in your arteries. |
| colum | column |  |
| concious | conscious |  |
| excercise | exercise |  |
| ryme | rhyme | RH? Y me? ("RH negative" is a blood ailment) |
| rythm | rhythm | RH? Y th[e]m? ("RH negative" is a blood ailment) |
| sissors | scissors | Scissors cut! |
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| Vowel Choices |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Misspelled | Correct | BrainAid |
| --- | repellant / ent | Either spelling is correct! |
| Ceasar | Caesar | CAesar is from CAlifornia. |
| desparate | desperate | des / ate ( / = per ) |
| excellant | excellent | "E" is for excellent. |
| liason | liaison |  |
| marraige | marriage | What is the legal marr" "'"age? (Change y to i.) |
| permenant | permanent | She gave the lion's mane a permanent hairdo. |
| persistant | persistent | My persistent Sis pitched a tent. |
| pertinant | pertinent | The fork tine was pertinent to the stab wound. |
| prominant | prominent | A prominent mine shaft. |
| seperate | separate | Separate has "a rat" in it. |
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## I before E except after C?

Many were taught the above rule to help them spell words such as belief and receive. The problem is there are many exceptions to that rule, even if you include its corollary: "Or when sounded as ' $a$ ' as in neighbor and weigh."

| Some Exceptions to the "Rule" |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ancient | either | omniscient |
| caffeine | fancier | proficient |
| conscience | foreign | science |
| counterfeit | forfeit | seize |
| deficient | height | sufficient |
| efficient | neither | weird |


| El Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| caffeine |  |
| codeine | What's the code for codeine? |
| counterfeit |  |
| deceive | My cousin Dece lives on Ive St. |
| either | Either with or without. |
| forfeit |  |
| freight | The freight was free. |
| height | He and $I$ have height; H+8. |
| kaleidoscope | Kale, I do scope. |
| leisure |  |
| neighbor | $\underline{\text { Neighbor lives } \underline{\text { near you. }}}$ |
| neither | Neither it nor her. |
| protein |  |
| receive | My cousin $\underline{\text { Rece lives on Ive St. }}$ |
| seize | $\underline{\text { See the whites of their "ize." }}$ |
| sovereign |  |
| weigh | Together we weigh a lot. |
| weird | $\underline{\text { We were weird on Halloween. }}$ |
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| IE Words |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| achieve | Aim high to achieve much. |
| believe | Don't believe a lie. |
| brief | Brief moment in time |
| chief | A chief sits high on the totem pole. |
| fancier | I fanc"i" her. |
| field | Don't fight with elders in your field. |
| financier |  |
| friend | Friend to the end. |
| grief | She cries with grief. |
| hygiene | Hygiene keeps your GI tract clean. |
| medieval | Many died in medieval times. |
| mischievous |  |
| niece | Nice niece. |
| piece | A piece of pie. |
| relieve | To get some relief, lie down. |
| retrieve | Adam wanted to "retri" Eve in court. |
| shield | The "shi" eld(er) hid behind a shield. |
| siege |  |
| thief | A thief high up on a ledge. |
| view | $\underline{\mathrm{V}}, \underline{\text { I }}$ see ew! |
| yield | I yield to my elders. |
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| EU Words |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Correct | BrainAid |  |
| amateur | The 1 ${ }^{\text {st }} \underline{\text { mate }}$ was an amateur. |  |
| maneuver | Lion $\underline{\text { maneuvers his } \underline{\text { mane. }}}$ |  |
| neutral | Have you seen the "neu" tral? |  |
| neutron | I bought a "neu" tron. |  |
| pneumatic | Think "p" = pressure. |  |
| pneumonia |  |  |
| rheumatism | RH = medical term. |  |
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|  | Imagine neu = new |  |


| UE Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| avenue |  |
| cue |  |
| due |  |
| hue |  |
| revenue |  |
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| Observe these words end with a silent "e." |  |


| OR Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| actor |  |
| calculator |  |
| contractor |  |
| creator |  |
| editor |  |
| instructor |  |
| protestor | Shall we protest or strike? |
| visitor | Shall we visit or leave? |
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| Often from base words ending in -ate, -ct, - it |  |


| AR Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| calendar | Eat "cale." Think $\underline{\text { dar } ~=~ d a y . ~}$ |
| circular |  |
| grammar | Gramma, "R" you sure? |
| popular | The population is large. |
| regular |  |
| similar |  |
| solar | The sun is so large! |
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| ER Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| cleaner |  |
| fighter |  |
| player |  |
| printer |  |
| teacher |  |
| writer |  |
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| "er" is much more common than "or/ar" endings. |  |


| RE Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| acre | $\underline{\text { A creation of land owners. }}$ |
| cadre | Being a cad results in scorn. |
| genre | $\underline{\text { Gen reads from the spy novel genre. }}$ |
| macabre |  |
| massacre | The massacre occurred over an acre. |
| mediocre | It was a lousy $\underline{\text { media creation. }}$ ( $\underline{\text { Spare me } \underline{\text { O }} \text { great monster! }}$ |
| ogre |  |
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| Miscellaneous Words |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Correct | BrainAid |
| cemetery | I could see (ce) only one meter through the cemetery gloom. |
| curiosity | Curiosity killed the "u" in curious (as well as the cat!) |
| curious | Who bought the curio, us? (a curio is a trinket or souvenir) |
| gauge (or gage) | I knew "u" pulled a gag on me. |
| persevere | To persevere means to try forever. (Common error: perservere) |
| privilege | "Pri" a vile leg up off the floor. |
| pronounce | Be sure to pronounce nouns correctly. |
| pronunciation | The Catholic nun strictly enforced proper pronunciation. |
| reconnaissance | Reconna is san Ce. (san means "without," so Reconna misses Ce) |
| Renaissance | Rena is san Ce. (san means "without," so Rena misses Ce) |
| shepherd | The sheep herder lost an "e." (sheepherd) |
| souvenir |  |
| temperament | temper A ment |
| temperature | temper A ture |
| vice versa | The Italian's vice made him "reversa" his alibi. |
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Circle the letter of the correctly spelled word.

| 1) a. occured | b. ocurred | c. occurred |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 2) a. acommodate | b. accommodate | c. accomodate |
| 3) a. tommorrow | b. tommorow | c. tomorrow |
| 4) a. rythym | b. rythm | c. rhythm |
| 5) a. separate | b. seperate | c. seporate |
| 6) a. desperate | b. desparate | c. desporate |
| 7) a. recieve | b. resceive | c. receive |
| 8) a. believe | b. beleive | c. balieve |
| 9) a. nuetral | b. neutral | c. newtral |
| 10) a. pneumonia | b. pnuemonia | c. pnumonia |
| 11) a. perservere | b. persevere | c. pursevere |
| 12) a. parallel | b. paralell | c. parrallel |
| 13) a. priviledge | b. privelege | c. privilege |
| 14) a. cemetary | b. cemetery | c. cematery |
| 15) a. gauge | b. guage | c. gage |

Fill in the blanks with EI / IE or AR / OR / ER / RE.
16) dec $\qquad$ ve
17) hyg $\qquad$ ne
$\qquad$
18) $n$ ce
19) visit $\qquad$
20) calend $\qquad$
21) og $\qquad$

