

The Spelling Strategy

20 years ago Robert Dilts decided to find out how the best spellers did it, using Richard Bandler's famous modelling technique. In America they often have national spelling contests to decide the best spellers in the country. Robert Dilts asked many of the champion speller's "How do you spell the words correctly every time?" He found that the difference between the poor spellers and the champions was that they make pictures of the words in their minds. The poor spellers used the methods that most of us are taught to use at school.

The quickest way of ensuring that your spelling is accurate is to make pictures of the words in your mind and copy them down. This is a lot faster than writing a word 50 times as some people used to suggest. The method of spelling like this is:

1. Find the word you want to learn, spelt correctly e.g. from a dictionary or another reliable source.
 2. Look up and to your right and make a picture/image of the word. This can be a picture of just the letters or of the word written onto the actual thing. For example the word picture can be seen inside a frame.
 3. Look down and to your right & check that it feels good/correct.
- Using it
 1. When you want to spell the word look up and to the right; at the picture.
 2. Look down and to the right to check it feels right, then copy/write the word down.

Some people had trouble visualising pictures in their mind. If this was the same with you then make the pictures more fascinating. For example make the words fluorescent/bright green, 3 dimensional, written on an imaginary notepad, a blackboard, different textures and anything that helps you visualise.

This method may initially seem interesting but it is not necessary to always do it. Once you have written the word a few times you automatically know how to spell it. It becomes as easy to spell as the other words you do understand. Also I have been using this technique for a while and now I can make very faint pictures quickly which makes my spelling faster plus more accurate.

This strategy is very useful for young people and I recommend that you teach it to any children that you know. It will save them a lot of time over the course of their life. However, it still saves adults a significant amount of time and can be very useful.

Reference: Richard Bandler & Robert Dilts

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