

## The Simultaneous Oral Spelling Method in Ten Easy Steps

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The **Simultaneous Oral Spelling** method can be highly effective in **improving spelling scores**. This technique combines audio (hearing), visual (seeing) and kinaesthetic (touch/ doing) methods, **helping children remember how to spell the words they practise**. It's a very easy method to use but **you must ensure you don't miss out any steps**. Here is how to use the **Simultaneous Oral Spelling method**:

**Equipment:** paper, pencil, crayons and/ or felt tips.

**Environment:** you should be seated next to the learner at an uncluttered desk or table. There should be little or no background noise.

1. First, **say the word**. This is **repeated** by the child.
2. Next, **write the word**. **Say each letter as you write it**. Use the letter name, not the letter sounds.
3. **Say the word aloud** when you have finished writing it.
4. Now **the child writes the word**, saying each letter as s/he writes it.
5. The child **says the word aloud** when s/he has finished writing it.
6. Next, **the child takes a crayon or felt tip and traces over the letters**, again naming each letter as s/he writes it.
7. The child **says the word aloud** when s/he has finished writing it.
8. **Repeat steps 6 and 7 a few times**, until the child feels confident s/he can remember how to spell the word.
9. Take away the paper and **ask the child to write the word**.
10. It's best to learn only **2/3 words per session** in this way.

This **multi-sensory approach** is ideal for **dyslexic** children or those with any **specific learning difficulty** relating to **literacy**. Linking motor and tactile techniques with audio and visual techniques increases the probability that the child will remember tricky spellings in future. It also provides the opportunity for some handwriting practice (but don't dwell on handwriting too much: focus on spellings when using the **SOS method**).