

# WRITING ESSENTIALS 8

## Confusing spellings

### Rationale

English spelling is challenging because the links between the sounds and the spelling are not always the same. Focusing on the spelling of individual words is an important strategy throughout an English course. Correct spelling is essential for business and further study. All the words selected for these worksheets are words found in Unit 5 or earlier and are often misspelled.

**Aim:** To improve learners' spelling

**Can be used:** from Unit 5 onwards

**Activity:** Pair work

**Focus:** Spelling

**Materials:** One copy of Worksheets 8.1 and 8.2 per pair; dictionaries; copies of Worksheet 1.2 (*Handwriting guidelines*), optional

**Estimated time:** 20–30 minutes

### Worksheets 8.1 and 8.2

- 1 Put learners into A and B pairs. Give As a copy of Worksheet 8.1 and Bs a copy of Worksheet 8.2.
- 2 Learners identify the correct spelling of the words on their worksheet individually. When they have done this, ask them to check the words in a dictionary.

### Answers

8.1: *necessary, exciting, incredible, popular, sensitive, shopping, application, natural, occasion, really*

8.2: *appointment, experience, interview, foreign, original, excellent, amazing, decided, essential*

- 3 Tell learners to take it in turns to dictate the words from their worksheet to each other and write them down in the *1st Try* column.
- 4 Learners check with their partner to see if they have the correct spellings for the dictated words.
- 5 Working individually, learners look again at any words they have spelled incorrectly, and follow *Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check* to memorise them correctly, using the *2nd Try* column.
- 6 Learners exchange worksheets and dictate each other's spellings, using the remaining *1st* and *2nd Try* columns.
- 7 If learners need extra support with handwriting, they can use the *Handwriting guidelines* in Worksheet 1.2.

### Extension

- Ask learners to identify ten other words which they have problems spelling. This personalises the learning and gives it individual relevance. When they have done this, they can reinforce spelling in a variety of ways.
- Working in pairs, learners use their words instead of the words supplied in Worksheets 8.1 and 8.2 and follow the same process.
- Working individually or in pairs, learners use the *Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check* method (see Worksheet 2.1).
- Learners write their problem words on slips of paper and put them into a bag or box. Working in pairs or groups, they then take it in turns to draw out a word and ask another learner to spell it. If correct they score a point, if not the word passes to the next player.

# Worksheet 8.1 Confusing spellings

**Learner A**

- 1 Choose the correct spelling of each word. Check them in a dictionary. Dictate the words to your partner.
- 2 Write down the words your partner dictates to you.

necessary	necessarry
exciting	exiting
incredable	incredible
popular	populer
sensative	sensitive
shoping	shopping
application	aplication
naturel	natural
ocasion	occasion
really	realy

1st Try	2nd Try

1st Try	2nd Try

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## Worksheet 8.2 Confusing spellings

### Learner B

- 1 Choose the correct spelling of each word. Check them in a dictionary. Dictate the words to your partner.
- 2 Write down the words your partner dictates to you.

appointment	apppointment
experience	experiance
interview	interview
foreign	foregn
original	original
excellent	excellent
amazing	amazeing
business	business
decided	decided
essential	essential

1st Try	2nd Try

1st Try	2nd Try