

Classroom English - spot the spelling mistakes

(from class 5 on)

Objectives

to introduce and practice expressions for correcting spelling mistakes
to help establish a foreign language classroom atmosphere

Topic

The idea is to establish the use of English for all classroom routines and activity instructions. For this to happen, our pupils have first of all to be equipped with the verbal means of participating in classroom management. That is why we have to teach the proper phrases. Paradoxically, this is best achieved through a well-calculated use of German for initial meaning conveyance (Erstsemantisierung), whenever there is any uncertainty about the meaning of the phrases.

Step 1

Teacher says: „We want to speak as much English as we can in the classroom. Sometimes, when we write up things on the blackboard, we make spelling mistakes. There are misspellings - Rechtschreibfehler. When we notice / spot these errors / mistakes, we want to clearly say what's wrong. Here's a list of useful phrases that help us (to) point out those mistakes.“
Teacher hands out worksheet 1a, then works through the list, helps the class to pronounce the words properly and clarifies meanings where necessary.

Step 2

Pupils do worksheet 1 b, they work on their own, silently. Then they read out loud their solutions.

Step 3

Teacher and class do worksheet 1c. Teacher either gives translations or asks for translations from the class of the proverbs and sayings. We have deliberately chosen really meaningful phrases which may be too difficult for class 5. In that case, the teacher will use well-known phrases from the coursebook instead.

Worksheet 1a,b,c

1a. List of phrases for correcting spelling mistakes

1. There should only be one *n* in it.
2. How do you spell "beetle"?
3. The first letter should be a capital M, yours is only a small one.
4. You forgot the apostrophe at the end.
5. There is an 'apostrophe s' missing at the end of this word.
6. 'Apple-pie' is spelt with double *p*, and there should be a hyphen.
7. Have you noticed that the *l* comes before the *e* in 'little'?
8. It's not *eir*, it's *ere* here, after the *th*..
9. There is an *o* too many in your spelling of 'pronunciation'.
10. You need a second *n* in the middle, here.
11. It's spelt nearly the same as in German.

12. You've got a letter too few in this word. You left out a letter.
13. Write it as one word, not as two.
14. These two letters are the wrong way round: it's *ie*, not *ei*.
15. You can't divide the word 'prism' at all, actually.
16. Is it written separately or together, I mean as one word or two?
17. Does one divide / break up "promise" after the *o* or after the *m*?

1b. Translate the words in brackets so that we get complete English sentences

1. There is a letter..... (zuviel) in *hopeing*.
2. *Cattle* (wird geschrieben) with double *t* in the middle.
3. (Trennt man).....*spirit* before or after the *r*?
4. These two letters are..... (vertauscht / verkehrt herum) it's *ae*, not *ea*.
5. You've got a letter.....(zu wenig) in *rythm*.
6. (Da fehlt ein c)in *kiking*.
7. This is spelt as two words,(mit einem Bindestrich dazwischen).
8. (Brauche ich)..... a comma here?

1c. Spot the error and correct the misspellings using expressions from the above phrases

1. Of one evil chose the least.
2. Fear gives winggs.
3. Dont cry before you are hurt.
4. Rats' desert a sinking ship.
5. Better an open enemy than a false freind.
6. Oportunity makes the thief.
7. Charitie begins at home.
8. Knowlegde is power.
9. Don't put all your egg's in one basket.
10. Let another's ship wreck be your sea-mark.
11. Make hay while the Sun shines.
12. Nothing succeeds like succes.

Solutions: worksheet 1b + c

1b. Translate the words in brackets so that we get complete English sentences

1. There is a letter too many in *hopeing*.
2. *Cattle* is spelt with double *t* in the middle.
3. Does one break up/ divide *spirit* before or after the *r*?
4. These two letters are the wrong way round: it is *ie*, not *ei*.
5. You've got a letter too few in *rythm*.
6. There is a *c* missing in *kiking*.
7. This is spelt as two words, with a hyphen in between.
8. Do I need a comma here?

1c. Spot the error and correct the misspellings using expressions from the above phrases

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| 1. Of one evil chose the least. | There is a letter/ an o too few in chose. Choose is spelt with double o. |
| 2. Fear gives winggs. | <i>Wings</i> is not spelt with double g. There is a g too many in <i>wings</i> . |
| 3. Dont cry before you are hurt. | You forgot the apostrophe in <i>don't</i> . There is an apostrophe missing after the n in <i>don't</i> . |
| 4. Rats' desert the sinking ship. | There is no apostrophe needed in <i>rats</i> . |
| 5. Better an open enemy than a false freind. | In <i>friend</i> two letters are the wrong way round: it's <i>ie</i> , not <i>ei</i> . |
| 6. Oportunity makes the thief. | <i>Opportunity</i> is spelt with double p. You left out a p in opportunity. |
| 7. Charitie begins at home. | It's not <i>ie</i> , it's y after the t. Charity is spelt with a y, not with <i>ie</i> at the end. |
| 8. Knowlegde is power. | <i>G</i> and <i>d</i> are the wrong way round in <i>knowledge</i> . |
| 9. Don't put all your egg's in one basket. | There is no apostrophe 's in <i>eggs</i> , because it's plural, not the s'-genitive. |
| 10. Let another's ship wreck be your sea-mark. | Shipwreck is normally spelt as one word, or with a hyphen. |
| 11. Make hay while the Sun shines (is shining). | The first letter in <i>sun</i> should be a small s, yours is a capital one. <i>Sun</i> is spelt with a small s. |
| 12. Nothing succeeds like succes. | There is an s too few at the end of <i>succes</i> . <i>Success</i> is spelt with double s at the end. |