



Focus Word System for Mastering Frequently Misspelled Words

This system can be implemented alongside your current spelling program. By focusing on several frequently misspelled words each week, you can provide instruction and review that will help your students master these words—so they aren't continuing to misspell them year after year.

Duplicate the *Focus Word Study List* template and the *Focus Word Test* template (three-to-a-page), and cut them apart.

Select the words:

Begin by selecting up to eight words that you have observed students misspelling in their daily writing. Depending on the grade level you teach, you may want to pretest students on some or all of the *100 Most Frequently Misspelled Words* and then choose words that your students have misspelled. (For example, for younger students or for students who struggle with spelling, you may want to provide instruction and review on one column of words, posttest those words, and then pretest students on the next column of words, etc.) You can differentiate the number of focus words by having most of your students do up to eight words, but reduce the number for students who struggle with spelling.

Pretest words using *Focus Words Study Sheet*:

At the beginning of the week, distribute a blank *Focus Word Study Sheet* to each student. Conduct a pretest by dictating the words you have selected for that week. Then guide students to self-correct each word. Spell the word, and direct students to put a dot under any errors and rewrite the word off to the side. Tell students to study from this pretest and be prepared for the final test on a specific day. (Have students circle the letter(s) for the day at the bottom of the sheet.) Tell students to focus on these words all week—making sure they spell them correctly in their writing—and explain that you will be checking to see if these words are spelled correctly in their writing.

Test the words using *Focus Words Test*:

Following your regular spelling test, distribute a blank *Focus Word Test* to each student. Dictate the words. Collect and correct the tests. Indicate the number correct over the number possible. Circle one or more appropriate comments. You may want to provide some incentives by sharing some examples of student writing from that week and awarding bonus points to students who have correctly used some of the focus words in their writing.

Recycle the words students continue to miss:

When you prepare your focus list for the next week, recycle any words your students misspelled. It's okay if some words appear on the list for several weeks!

Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Study Sheet

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Study these frequently misspelled words.
Test will be on: M T W Th F
(circle day)

Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Study Sheet

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Study these frequently misspelled words.
Test will be on: M T W Th F
(circle day)

Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Study Sheet

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Study these frequently misspelled words.
Test will be on: M T W Th F
(circle day)

Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Test

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Perfect! Great job! Good work! Did you study? Study more, please.
Handwriting looks good! Neater handwriting, please. (circle comments)

<u> </u> Number Correct	/	<u> </u> Number Possible
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Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Test

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

Perfect! Great job! Good work! Did you study? Study more, please.
Handwriting looks good! Neater handwriting, please. (circle comments)

<u> </u> Number Correct	/	<u> </u> Number Possible
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Name:

Date:
Month Day Year

Focus Words Test

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