



# PRIME MINISTER'S SPELLING BEE

## Fun with Words!

Try these activities to get your students having fun with words and to improve their spelling at the same time.

### 1. Find a Rhyme

- Choose a book you are comfortable reading on your own.
- Pick 10 words from your book and think of as many rhyming words for them as you can. Ensure you spell them correctly. Check in a dictionary if you are unsure.
- Look at your list ...  
Are all rhyming words spelt similarly?  
Which sounds had more than one way to represent them?
- Discuss with a partner any interesting spelling patterns you notice.



### 2. Word Chain



- How to play**  
The teacher gives a word to the class, which they write down. They then begin a timer (2-5 mins depending on the skill/challenge level required). Students write their own word chain by adding words that begin with the last letter of the previous word. Continue adding words until the timer finishes. Words should be a minimum of 4 letters in length. At the end of the allotted time, students calculate their points.

- Scoring**  
Begin at the start of the chain, score 1 point for each word spelt correctly plus 2 points for each word over 6 letters in length. Stop scoring after the first spelling error or at the end of the chain.

- Example scoring:**  
watch-hand-dreaded-dream-meteorite-everything-grand  
 $\checkmark 1 + \checkmark 1 + \checkmark 3 + \checkmark 1 + \checkmark 3 + \checkmark 3 + \checkmark 1 = 13$   
watch + here + every + yard + dear

### 3. Dictionary race

- How to play**  
Ensure each student has a dictionary (preferably the same type).  
Partner students with someone of a similar literacy ability.

The teacher calls out a word and each student races to find that word in the dictionary. Students are competing against their partner. The first to find the word scores a point. Continue to find the best of 10 between each pair. You may need to hold a tie-breaker round.

Alternatively, you could play as a class and find the class dictionary champion.

