



Expect Education
BECAUSE THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN YOU THINK

Level 4

BOOK 4A

SPELLING SUCKS!

...but we do it anyway.

12

weeks

240

words

1

page a day

Plus a spelling test every Friday.



Meet Lila. She's already colour-coded her notes.

Expect Education
Spell Squad series

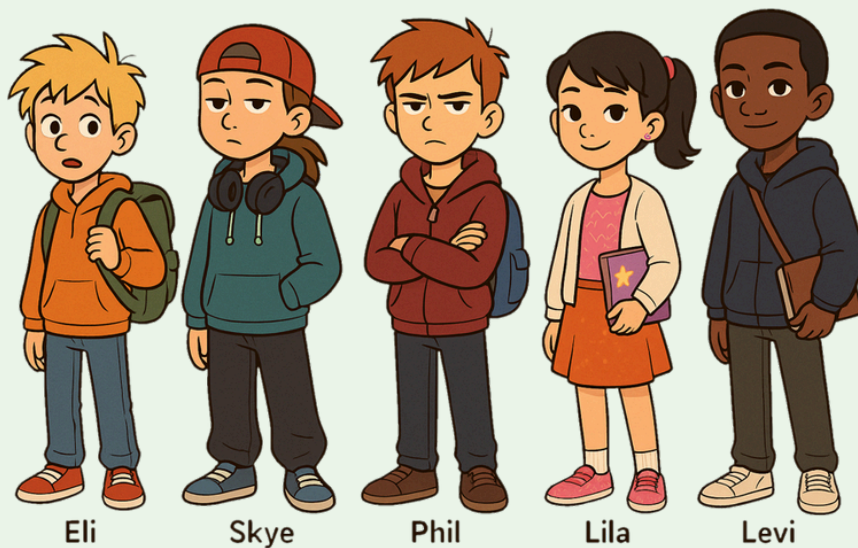
WELCOME!

You're now part of an elite team of reluctant spelling warriors.

We're not here because we love spelling... we're here because we've got goals, grit, and just enough sarcasm to get through it.

You've joined **Lila**, who believes every word deserves to be spelled perfectly. (She also believes in neat handwriting. Sorry.)

But guess what? This book is just **one** stage of the journey.



Eli

Skye

Phil

Lila

Levi

Want to level up? Meet the squad.

1

Eli

Clumsy beginnings. Big heart. Lots of mistakes.

2

Skye

Shortcuts, guesses, and low-key genius.

3

Phil

Sarcasm, sweat, and serious spelling power.

4

Lila

You are here

Style, logic, and word-perfect precision.

5

Levi

Calm, cool, and in total control of every syllable.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

One page a day. Five days a week. Twelve weeks. Let's go.

Each week focuses on one spelling pattern. You'll follow the same routine every week, and the squad will pop up with jokes, tips, groans and (occasionally) actual help.

Day 1

Theme & word list

Meet the week's spelling pattern and the 20 words you'll be working with.

Day 2

Look, cover, write, check

Say each word out loud. Get it wrong. Get it right. You'll write every word four times.

Day 3

Sentence builder

Write each word in a proper sentence. No cheating with "I like ___". Make it count.

Day 4

Word workout 1

Sorting, spotting and fixing: puzzles that make the rule stick.

Day 5

Word workout 2 & test prep

A puzzle that changes every week, then a mini review to get you ready for the test.

Test

Notes & spelling test

Jot down the tricky ones, take your test, and score yourself out of 20.

Tips for getting the most out of it

- ☐ Use a pencil. You'll make mistakes. That's the point.
- ☐ Say the words out loud. Hearing helps remembering.
- ☐ Try your best, not your fastest.
- ☐ Don't skip pages, and ask for help when you need it.
- ☐ Grown-ups: the answers are at the back of the book.

Most importantly: stick with it. That's what the squad is all about.



Week 1 • Level 4

LIST NUMBER 1

Short vowel sounds



**Definitely. D-
E-F-I-N-I-T-
E-L-Y. Write
it down.**



This week's mission

In long words, one syllable is said louder than the others. That's the **stressed** syllable, and its short vowel is usually easy to hear: ma*g*-i-cal, spe*c*-i-fic, stub*u*-born. The quieter syllables are the tricky ones, because their vowels often sound like "uh". Say each word in your "spelling voice" (def-IN-ite, not def-nit) so you don't miss a letter.

ma*g*icalge*n*erousspe*c*ifico*p*positestub*u*born

**Tick off each day as
you finish it**

☐

Mon

☐

Tue

☐

Wed

☐

Thu

☐

Fri

1

LIST 1 · SHORT VOWEL SOUNDS

Meet your 20 words. Study them, then make them yours.

EXAMPLEdef i nite **adjective**

Certain; sure; with no doubt.

Note

Use a dictionary, phone or computer to help, but write the definitions in your own words.

1 classify11 accident2 magical12 incident3 accented13 opposite4 attitude14 compliment5 generous15 profitable6 electrical16 occurrence7 definite17 stubborn8 specific18 instrument9 difference19 construction10 administer20 voluntary**Task**

Like the example: underline each syllable, highlight the short vowel in the stressed syllable, write the part of speech (noun, verb, adjective) on the dotted line and the meaning on the line below.

2

LOOK, COVER, WRITE, CHECK

Read the word, cover it, try to write it, then check your spelling.

	Try 1	Try 2	Try 3	Try 4	✓
classify	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
magical	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
accented	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
attitude	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
generous	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
electrical	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
definite	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
specific	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
difference	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
administer	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
accident	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
incident	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
opposite	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
compliment	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
profitable	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
occurrence	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
stubborn	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
instrument	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
construction	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐
voluntary	_____	_____	_____	_____	☐

Task

Fold the page or use a ruler to hide the words. Do one try at a time: write it, uncover, check. Tick the box once you get it right all four times.

3

SENTENCE BUILDER

Write a sentence using each word from List 1.

example:

Lila gave Phil a **compliment** about his handwriting. He was so shocked he dropped his pen.

classify

magical

accented

attitude

generous

electrical

definite

specific

difference

administer

accident

incident

opposite

compliment

profitable

occurrence

stubborn

instrument

construction

voluntary

Task

Every sentence needs a capital letter, a full stop and at least six words. Make it something only *you* would write.

4

WORD WORKOUT 1

Sort it, fill it, prove it.

A - Stressed vowel sort

Say each word, find the loudest beat, and sort by the short vowel you hear in it.

instrument

occurrence

incident

construction

specific

definite

voluntary

attitude

profitable

classify

administer

electrical

stubborn

difference

compliment

accented

magical

opposite

generous

accident

a**e****i****o****u****B - Fill the gap**

Choose the best word from the bank to finish each sentence. Each word is used once.

instrument

stubborn

opposite

accident

generous

compliment

- 1 It was very _____ of Lila to share her highlighters.
- 2 The _____ donkey refused to move.
- 3 Breaking the vase was a complete _____.
- 4 The _____ of hot is cold.
- 5 Lila blushed when she got a _____ about her poster.
- 6 The violin is a difficult _____ to learn.

5**WORD WORKOUT 2**

One last workout, then get ready for your test.

A • Dictation

Ask a grown-up to read out the three sentences for List 1. They're in the answers at the back of the book. Listen to the whole sentence first, then write it word-perfect: spelling, capital letters and punctuation all count.

Sentence 1

Sentence 2

Sentence 3

Lila's checklist: ☐ Capital letters ☐ Punctuation ☐ Spelling ☐ Neat handwriting

B • Test prep

Ask someone to read you five words from List 1 that you find tricky. Write them without looking, then check.

1**2****3****4****5**

**Crosswords are just
colour-coding for
words.**





NOTES & TEST

Jot down anything tricky, then test yourself after all the practice.

My notes

[illegible]

Twenty out of twenty. That's the plan.

Spelling test

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	

Score / 20



ANSWERS FOR GROWN-UPS

Answers to every workout. For Look, Cover, Write, Check and the spelling test, use the word list.

List 1 · Short vowel sounds

Workout 1A: Stressed vowel sort

a: classify, magical, accented, attitude, accident · e: generous, electrical, definite · i: specific, difference, administer, incident, instrument · o: opposite, compliment, profitable, voluntary · u: occurrence, stubborn, construction

Workout 1B: Fill the gap

1 generous · 2 stubborn · 3 accident · 4 opposite · 5 compliment · 6 instrument

Workout 2: Dictation (read these aloud)

1. It was an accident, so try not to be stubborn about it. 2. Lila gave a generous compliment to every member of the band. 3. The magical instrument played the opposite of what you asked.

List 2 · Long a sound

Workout 1A: Clue it, write it

1 celebrate · 2 betray · 3 midday · 4 complaint · 5 exclaim · 6 refrain · 7 maintain

Workout 1B: Fix it

1 basic · 2 maintain · 3 betray · 4 midday · 5 prey · 6 exclaim · 7 refrain · 8 vacancy

Workout 2: Crossword

Across: 1 obey, 4 reign, 6 celebrate, 8 vacancy, 9 complaint · Down: 2 basic, 3 midday, 5 betray, 7 exclaim

List 3 · Long e sound

Workout 1A: Long e sort

e: immediate, previous · ee / ea: agreeable, referee, retreat, conceal, eerie · e_e: supreme, concrete · ie / ei: shriek, relieve, prairie, calorie, leisure, protein · y: secrecy, scenery, envy, economy, comedy

Workout 1B: Fill the gap

1 referee · 2 scenery · 3 comedy · 4 secrecy · 5 calorie · 6 immediate

Workout 2: The eerie retreat

1 retreat, 2 prairie, 3 scenery, 4 eerie, 5 shriek, 6 conceal, 7 referee, 8 supreme, 9 comedy, 10 calorie

SPELLING SUCKS!

A 12-week, one-page-a-day spelling programme for kids who would rather be doing literally anything else.

- 12 spelling patterns and 240 carefully levelled words
- Daily practice: word study, look-cover-write-check, sentences and puzzles
- A spelling test every week, a progress tracker and answers for grown-ups
- Written by a teacher and tutor with over a decade in the classroom

One series. Five levels. The same 24 weekly themes.

Every level revisits the same patterns with harder words, so children build on what they know instead of starting again. Not sure which level? Take the free spelling assessment at expectededucation.co.uk/spelling



Eli

Skye

Phil

Lila

Levi



Expect Education
BECAUSE THERE'S MORE TO YOU THAN YOU THINK

Which level is right?

Take the free 10-minute spelling
assessment at
expectededucation.co.uk/spelling