Sumdog Spelling
Engaging spelling practice

www.sumdog.com
Why Sumdog Spelling?

Sumdog Spelling boosts your pupils’ literacy engagement and confidence with exciting spelling activities. Our questions draw from a huge bank of carefully chosen words and skills; providing comprehensive coverage of several leading spelling schemes and word lists. Pupils work at their own pace, giving them the confidence to make progress and improve.

Sumdog Spelling also provides perfect literacy catch up activities to address gaps in learning. The activities can be easily personalised to meet the specific needs of your pupils, deliver targeted practice and accelerate progress.

- Over 16,000 spelling words that we’re adding to all the time
- Over 30 fun and varied games for pupils to practice spelling in
- Set work with our custom word list, spelling challenge and low-stakes assessment tools
- Accompanying audio for all words with sentences so pupils can hear words in context
- Core words read aloud by a real human voice for clarity
- Automarked questions which provide instant feedback to pupils
Coverage

Our bank of spelling words provides 99–100% coverage of word lists from the following sources:

- England National Curriculum (statutory word lists)*
- Single Word Spelling Test*
- North Lanarkshire Active Literacy Common Words
- Jolly Phonics*
- GL Assessment Single Word Spelling Test
- Fry’s Sight Word List
- Dolch Sight Word List

With over 16,000 words at your fingertips, you should have no problem tailoring Sumdog to fit your teaching. However, if you can’t find a word that you’re looking for on our site, please do let us know and we will release the word within five weeks or less so you can use it to set work.

*Although we aimed for 100% coverage of word lists from these sources, to avoid confusion over correct spelling we have not released several names, hyphenated words and words with apostrophes, and therefore offer 99% coverage.
In August 2022, we released a brand new spelling curriculum of over 3,700 carefully chosen words divided into around 260 ‘skills’. This curriculum was designed to:

1) give you and your pupils a clear, comprehensive and progressive spelling framework to follow when using our advanced adaptive practice functionality

2) reduce the amount of time spent creating custom word lists to set work that matches your in-class teaching.

Our spelling curriculum offers 100% coverage of the English National Curriculum Spelling Appendix for Years 1-6, as well as covering essential high frequency, common exception and wider vocabulary words. The skills have been divided into 9 intuitive strands to help teachers find the words that match their in-class teaching; ranging from digraphs and trigraphs to thematically grouped vocabulary words on topics from Ancient Rome to Religious Festivals. You can find more information on our new curriculum in our new schemes of learning and word lists, in our Resource Hub.

“The new spelling curriculum clearly matches National Curriculum statutory expectations. Coverage is strong and should facilitate children doing well in strengthening their spelling skills effectively.”

Primary School Head of Learning & Teaching

Our new spelling skills have been designed to mirror National Curriculum terminology and progression, and cover every requirement and statutory word list for Years 1–6.

Set work on individual skills, strands or whole year groups to suit your needs.

Use our strand and year group filters to quickly find which of our spelling skills matches your in-class teaching on a given week and set perfectly corresponding in-game practice.
Custom Word Lists

Creating your word list(s)

If you are however unable to find a skill within our curriculum with your chosen words, our spelling platform enables you to easily create and save custom word lists; choosing practice words for your pupils that perfectly match your teaching. Once your lists have been created, you can then use them to set in-game challenges for your pupils to practise new words or revisit words they might be struggling with. This functionality is particularly useful when teaching vocabulary relating to other subjects or books that you’re reading with your class, and your lists are shared with your colleagues so there’s no need to create the same lists multiple times.

Create word lists that align with teaching topics.

No need to enter the entire word – just type in part of the word and our search engine will find all the words which contain that part for you.

Search for your chosen words from our bank of over 16,000 words.
Setting practice with your custom word list(s)

Spelling questions that are set using the custom word list functionality are presented to pupils in games, so your pupils can choose their favorite games to play whilst also practicing their words for the week! We recommend setting at least 10 words in each list because, on average, pupils will answer 10 questions within a game. You can choose fewer than 10 words, but this may cause some of the words to repeat during the game. Over the course of the entire challenge however, your pupils will be asked to spell each word in your list 3 times. Once you’ve created your custom word list(s), you just need to select the class and give your challenge a name and time frame to set the practice for your pupils. Pupils will be able to see where they’ve misspelled words and correct spellings at the end of each game.

Set different word lists for different groups within your class, ensuring that all pupils can practice spelling words at an appropriate difficulty.

Reduce your workload by reusing or sharing lists with colleagues to save time.
Gamified spelling challenges

You can also set challenges using our new curriculum of skills, covering a diverse range of sounds and topics. Once a challenge or custom word list activity has been set, pupils can then choose which engaging games they would like to play, and spelling questions covering words from the assigned skill(s) or list(s) are integrated into that game. Finally, when your pupils have answered all the selected words correctly within the given time frame, the activity will be listed as completed and their results can be viewed through the teacher dashboard and reports. Once again, pupils will be able to see where they’ve misspelled words and correct spellings at the end of each game.

“Even in their spare time the pupils are picking to play Sumdog Spelling rather than play other games.”
- Sumdog Spelling user

“Overall the detail and specificity of the new curriculum is great. The focus on foundational language in KS1 all the way to the specific subject vocabulary in UKS2 enables the progression of the language. The revision section in the younger years is great and allows teachers to gauge their children’s needs right from the start of the year.”
- Primary School Class Teacher
To assess and reassess your pupils’ progress as they complete spelling practice, you can also create and set customisable low-stakes tests. Your custom spelling tests can be used as part of your spelling teaching cycle, to help identify where children may need additional support and to demonstrate progress from previous Sumdog spelling practice activities.

**Assess**
Set as an informal test to check pre-existing understanding

**Reassess**
Reassess and use our assessment report to demonstrate pupil progress and plan next steps

**Practice**
Set Sumdog practice to help pupils improve their spelling whilst having fun

**Analyse**
Analyse results quickly using our easy-to-read report to identify areas of strength and areas for development
When creating your test, you can give it a name and timeframe, and choose whether you would like to select the words in the test yourself or have Sumdog choose a sample of words for you from your chosen curriculum skills. Questions will be presented to pupils outside of games but still in the familiar environment of Sumdog, and they’ll earn even more coins than in games for each correct answer which they can spend on their house, garden or avatar. Once the assessment has been completed, whole class and individual results can then be viewed to diagnose common gaps and inform future teaching.
Fancy trying Sumdog Spelling?
Get in touch with sales@sumdog.com for a free trial.