

*Grammar is a set of rules on how to use the English language correctly.*

Spelling is an important part of any language and for you to improve your spelling you need to use a good dictionary. Dictionaries contain a wealth of information and should take preference on any bookshelf. A good dictionary will tell you, how to spell a word, what a word means, how to use it, where it comes from and pronunciation. A recommended dictionary is the 'Collins Concise English Dictionary'.

All dictionaries are in alphabetical order, so it is easy to find the word you are looking for. The word alphabet comes from the name of the first two letters in the Greek language: alpha, beta. Although the written alphabet of English has only twenty-six letters, the spoken alphabet contains forty-three sounds.

- *If you can't find a word in the dictionary, try:*

Checking the consonant sound for another spelling. "s" as in snap can be spelt: "ce" as in mice - "sc" as in scene - "ss" as in kiss.

Checking the vowel sounds for another spelling. Vowels are a e i o u and sometimes the letter "y" is used as a vowel depending on its position in a word. When placed at the beginning of a word (yoyo) it acts as a consonant. When placed at the end of a word (valley) it acts as a vowel.

Checking for silent letters as in gnaw, honest, wrong, know, psalm, lamb, bomb, debt, subtle, thumb, weigh, hour, gnome, gnat, half, island, solemn, autumn, castle, listen.