

APPS FOR GPAS

Best for progressive learning

Mr Thorne's Spellbook, £1.99, Apple

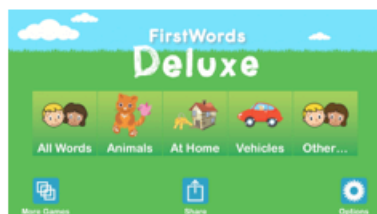
Teacher Mr Thorne has become a [YouTube sensation with his educational phonics videos](#). His Spellbook app has 101 spelling tests based on [the order in which children learn phonics sounds](#), starting with words beginning with s, a, t, i, n, p and leading onto two- and three-letter sounds.



In each spelling test, your child listens to the word and then has to type it in correctly. Some tests also include tricky high frequency words with irregular spellings.

Getting 10/10 on a spelling test unlocks the safe and reveals a hidden treasure. Can your child collect all 101 artefacts and fill the empty shelves of the museum?

Best for early learning



First Words Deluxe, £4.99, Apple

Ideal for children who are just beginning to master letter sounds, First Words Deluxe teaches them to spell over 150 words in four categories: animals, at home, vehicles and other words. Many of these are short [CVC \(consonant, vowel, consonant\) words](#) of the type they'll learn in pre-school or [Reception](#), like 'bee' and 'jet.'

Each word, with a corresponding picture, appears on screen and is read aloud. Your child then needs to drag the letters below into the right places. Once they're all in place, they're rewarded with a short animation.

You can opt whether the voiceover refers to letters by their name or their phonics sound. You can also specify the minimum and maximum length of words your child can play with, and whether they appear in length order or randomly.

Best for rewards



Squeebles Spelling Test, £3.99, Apple and Android

This app lets you create [spelling tests](#) with your choice of words: great for practising weekly spellings. You can record the words in your own voice, and choose how long your child gets to study them before attempting to spell them.

You can set up different profiles so you can test each child on their own words.

Your child earns stars and cute creatures (Squeebles) for getting words right. They can then use these to play Squeeberang!, a boomerang game where they can compete against siblings or friends, or try to beat their own highest score.

You can also download a range of ready-made tests tailored to your child's age and stage, such as [high frequency words](#) and [tricky words](#) for confident readers.

Best for following the National Curriculum

Twinkl Spell & Pop, 99p, **Apple**

Study the word that appears on screen and is spoken aloud, then click to 'pop' the letter balloons that float up from the bottom of the screen in the right order to spell the word. Points are scored for each correct answer – but you lose a life if you pop the wrong balloon.

The words featured are taken from the Department for Education's 100 high frequency words and the next 200 most common words, tying in with the **KS1 National Curriculum**. Your child has three lives to complete each test.

You can choose the speed of the balloons to increase difficulty as your child becomes more proficient, and can opt for the word to be spoken but not seen, as an extra challenge.



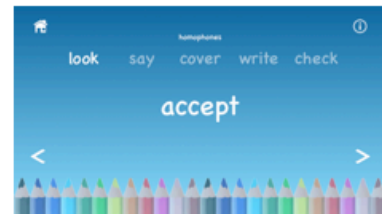
Best for using primary school methodology

Spelling Whizz, £1.99, **Apple**

This app uses the 'look – say – cover – write – check' method used in many primary schools. Each word appears on screen and is spoken aloud; when your child has had a chance to study it, they can cover it up and write it from memory before checking their answer.

Words are divided into six sets that increase in difficulty and replicate the sort of tests often set by schools: for example, 'ai' and 'ay' words (Set 1), **suffixes** and **prefixes** (Set 3) and **homophones** and **silent letters** (Set 6). You can also create your own lists of your child's spellings.

The downside is that there are no rewards or incentives for getting spellings right, but if you're looking for an app that closely follows the National Curriculum, Spelling Whizz does the trick.



Best for themed spellings



Word Wizard for Kids, £4.99, **Apple**

Word Wizard has three different ways for children to learn spellings: Word Practice, where a word appears on screen for them to copy by dragging and dropping letters; Scrambled Letters, where they have to arrange a jumble of letters into a word; and Spelling Quiz, where they need to spell words that are read aloud.

There's also a Talking Movable Alphabet function, where kids can experiment with writing their own words and sentences.

There's a range of built-in lists, covering everything from common words to food, sports and nature, and you can add your own lists to test your child on their spellings.

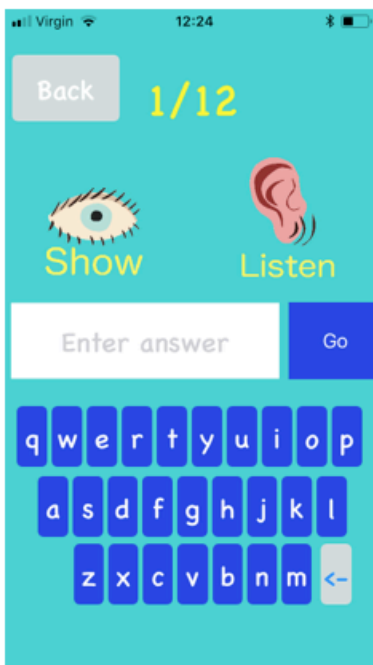
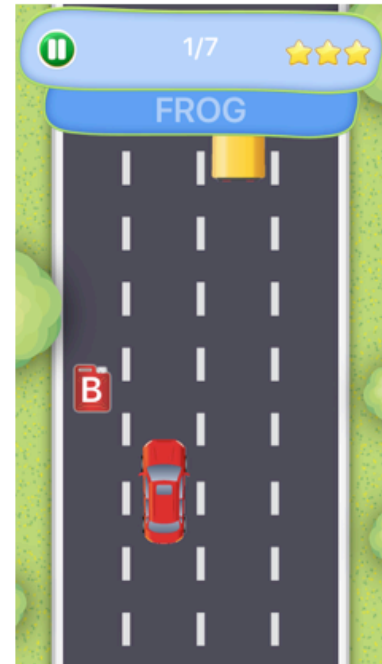
This is an American app, but you can change to British English in the settings.

Spelling Monster, 99p, [Apple](#) and [Android](#)

If your child is mad about computer games, this will help them master their spellings without even realising.

You input lists of words for your child to spell, then they can choose from seven different games, each with its own friendly monster, to practise their spellings.

These include Letter Pop, where they need to pop the letter bubbles in the correct order; Letter Catch, where they have to catch letters on leaves falling from a tree; Missing Letter, where they're given the word with a blank and have to fill in the correct letter; Lighthouse Letters, where they guide boats with letters on into the harbour in the right order; and Word Traffic, where they have to run over letters in the correct order using a car.



Your Spelling, Ages 5-11, £2.99, [Apple](#)

Designed by teachers, this app focuses on the words children need to know for [KS1 SATs](#) and [KS2 SATs](#). There are three separate apps: KS1, KS2 Age 7-9, and KS2 Age 9-11. They can be bought individually or as a bundle.

Your Spelling reads each word aloud to your child; they then need to spell it correctly. If they need help, they can ask to see the word and it pops up on screen.

Overall, it's a fairly dry app, although children can unlock characters for each list they complete correctly, but it's good for drilling down the words they're expected to learn under the National Curriculum.

£3.99

SPAG BRONZE for KS1 to support SPAG. Written by Headteacher and best-selling writer Ali Dakin, SPaG Bronze is ideal for introducing your child to key spelling, punctuation and grammar concepts and phonics.



SPAG SILVER Suitable for Lower KS2 - SPaG Silver is ideal for helping your child learn key words and concepts.

This resource maps to the National Curriculum for Years 3, 4 and 5, but may also help older children to consolidate their learning.



SPAG GOLD Suitable for KS2 AND KS3 SPaG Gold is ideal for helping children prepare for the Key Stage 2 government tests in English grammar, punctuation and spelling.



£0.99 Focus is for KS2 SATs has revision aspects and tests.

