

School And Your Child

By JOHN COREY

Research reveals that 500 words with their repetitions comprise nearly 84 per cent of the total used in ordinary correspondence.

This finding explains why modern schools teach fewer words than were taught years ago but teach them more thoroughly, reports Dr. Ernest Horn of the State University of Iowa, a national expert on teaching spelling.

No longer do teachers throw the entire dictionary at pupils, says Dr. Horn. He thumbed through Webster's 1803 "The American Book" and found lessons calling for primary kiddies to spell such words as chub, lappet, asp. Later lessons required punctilio, ichtyology, amaranth, armigerous. Even adults seldom use such words, much less youngsters.

Today, children are taught words of current and future usefulness. Chosen on the basis of scientific evidence, the words are those written most often both in and out of school.

Dr. Horn offers some typical ones for each grade:

Grade 2: letter, school, good, why, dinner, big.

Grade 3: third, name, winter, rain, visit, friend.

Grade 4: radio north, sorry, received, surprise, minute.

Grade 5: picnic, truck, paid, telephone, busy.

Grade 6: success, terrible, important, excitement, necessary.

Students learn to spell many words outside the spelling class, Dr. Horn points out, through their reading and through written composition. One should not depend, however, on such incidental learning. Special periods should be devoted to learning to spell. A test given before study in these periods shows each child which words he has not learned through his reading and writing.

Beyond grade eight spelling isn't usually taught as a separate subject. But good teachers continually emphasize frequently misspelled words, even through college. Examples are believe, definitely, government, its, lose, their, judgment, disappointed.

In fact, Dr. Cratis Williams, graduate studies dean and veteran spelling teacher at Appalachian State Teachers College, reveals that one-third of college freshmen frequently misspell these simple words, losing, writing, dropped.

Two hundred of each 600 fresh put two o's in losing, two t's in writing, but delete one p from dropped.

Children who are taught phonics

spell somewhat better than those who are not, states Dr. Horn. Phonics in relation to spelling may be defined simply as the teaching of the principal ways in which sounds are spelled.

Pronouncing a word may help a student to spell it correctly, but it may also lead to misspelling. In fact, the most frequent errors in common words are caused by spelling the sounds in ways that correctly spell the same sounds in other words. For example, busy may be spelled btzy.

While an aid, phonics is not enough, says the Iowa professor. Certain sounds are spelled in a great variety of ways. For example, one can spell the long e sound in 14 ways. The sound of sh as in shop can be spelled 17 ways—more often with ti than with sh.

Since the English language is far from being strictly phonetic, the pupil must, unfortunately, learn by more complex methods, states ASTC's Dr. Williams. He must pay attention to how the word "listens," "looks," "speaks," and "feels." And especially how it looks, emphasizes Dr. Williams.

SPANKED WIFE WITH SHOE
Lexington, Ky. — It's hard enough for a woman to wear high-heeled shoes without being spanked with one, a judge says.

Circuit Judge Chester D. Adams granted Mrs. Katherine D. Schwartz a divorce from Irvin Schwartz, the letter having admitted striking his wife with a shoe.

FHA Offers Loans To Farmers Who Cannot Get Full Credit

Resources, skill, imagination and hard work are basic requirements for any successful farm operation. Yet, many farm families having all these, have found themselves unable to make necessary improvements, expand their business or purchase labor saving equipment because of lack of capital.

Many farmers as well as other businessmen use borrowed money to obtain goods and services, with the prospect that they will be able to improve their production and increase their long term income.

The Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture is set up to provide financial assistance to farmers who cannot get adequate credit at reasonable rates and terms from conventional credit sources. This credit is backed with advice and technical assistance which is provided to borrowers on the basis of individual problems and needs. Assistance is given in analyzing problems and progress, planning a sound farming operation, establishing efficient farm management practices and making wise use of credit.

One of the important phases of the supervision provided borrowers is the year-end analysis. At the end of each crop year, the county supervisor and the family analyze the past year's operation and discuss its strong and weak points. The plan of operation for the next year is based on this analysis.

The recently completed year-end analysis for Watauga-Caldwell county unit reveals substantial gains, for the borrowers using the agency's credit. It was noted that the average value of productive livestock owned by these families had increased \$635. The average value of workstock and equipment owned had increased \$200, this past year. The average net cash farm income had increased \$145, and the average net worth of each farm family was up \$230.

The major portion of the Farmers Home Administration credit furnished these families was used to purchase better livestock, more suitable machinery, and equipment, establishing pasture and improving farm buildings, fences and water supplies.

PALMPRINTS TOO
Nashville, Tenn.—Palmprints as well as fingerprints will be used to catch moonshiners in Tennessee.

Herman O. Bomar, State supervisor of the Federal Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit, outlined the new technique here.

Bomar explained that palmprints are found on moonshine containers where legible fingerprints are not. If the palmprints lifted match those of the arrested party, "this is indisputable evidence that the man was at the scene of the crime."

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