Spelling Words Correctly

Learning the Skill

When you write, always strive for correct spelling. Spelling words incorrectly makes your writing look sloppy and careless. Misspellings also distract the reader from what your words are trying to convey. To help you identify misspelled words and to spell words correctly in your own writing, use the following techniques:

- Remember common spelling rules (for example, i before e except after c).
- Look for missing letters (for example, spelling correct as corect), extra letters (for example, spelling funny as funny), or reversed letters (for example, spelling milk as milcZ).
- Watch for homophones—words that sound the same but are not spelled the same (to, two, and too are examples). Sometimes a word can be spelled correctly but be used incorrectly in a sentence.
- Carefully read over (proofread) what you have written before handing it in. Do not assume your work is perfect.
- Notice if the same word is spelled differently within the same passage. If so, one of the spellings is incorrect.

Practicing the Skill

Directions: The information below about Russia contains several misspelled words. Read it, and then answer the questions that follow.

Most of European Russia lies on the Northern European Plain. This fertile area has Russia’s mildest climate, and about 75 percent of Russians live here. Moscow, the capital, and St. Petersburg, a large port city near the Baltic Sea, lie in this region. Much of Russia’s agriculture and industry are found on the Northern European Plain.

Good farmland also lies farther south, along the Volga and other rivers. This area consists of a nearly treeless grassy plane. To the far south in European Russia are the rugged Caucasus Mountains. Located near a fault line, the Caucasus area is prone to destructive earthquakes. Other mountains—the Urals—mark the boundary between the European and Asian parts of Russia. Worn down by erosion, the Urals are not very tall.

East of the Urals is Asian Russia, or Siberia. Northern Siberia has one of the coldest climates in the world. It is a vast treeless plain where only the top few inches of the ground thaw during the summer. The few people who live here make their living fishing, hunting seals and walruses, or herding reindeer.

To the south of the northern plains area is a region of dense forests where people make their living by lumbering or hunting. Plains, plateaus, and mountain ranges cover the southern part of Siberia.
Writing Skills Activity
continued

1. **Identifying** What are three misspelled homophones in the story?

2. **Listing** What are two examples of reversed letters in the story?

3. **Identifying** What are the two ways that *Siberia* was misspelled?

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**Applying the Skill**

**Directions:** Use the space below to rewrite the paragraphs about Russia from the previous page, correcting all misspelled words. (Hint: There are 17 misspellings.)

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**Assessment Checklist**

Assess your rewrite using the checklist below:

- Rewrote the information carefully
- Correctly rewrote incorrect spellings
- Added missing letters
- Rewrote homophones according to their correct usage
- Proofread the rewritten paragraphs carefully