

Max's Magnificent Spelling Detective Log

Learning objective: To accurately apply Year 4 spelling rules, including prefixes, suffixes, and homophones, while proofreading written work.

Max the monkey has spotted some tricky words that need careful checking! Use this log to investigate your own writing. Choose a piece of your recent work, identify three words you found challenging, and use the sections below to justify your spelling choices using your knowledge of Year 4 rules.

Word bank: prefix · suffix · root word · homophone · vowel · consonant · syllable

1. The Investigation: Write down a word you found tricky to spell. Explain the root word and identify any prefixes or suffixes you added to it. (3 marks)

2. The Rule Check: Explain the spelling rule you used to spell this word correctly. Why does this rule help you avoid common mistakes? (3 marks)

3. The Homophone Challenge: Identify a homophone for your chosen word. Compare and contrast their meanings. How can you ensure you use the correct one in a sentence? (3 marks)

4. Justify: If a friend thought the word was spelled differently, how would you use your knowledge of patterns or etymology to explain the correct spelling to them? (4 marks)

5. What might happen if we did not have consistent spelling rules in the English language? Predict the impact on how we share information. (4 marks)

6. Create: Invent a new word using a Year 4 prefix (e.g., mis-, sub-, inter-) and define it. Explain why you chose that specific prefix for your new word. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Choose one of your tricky words and write a short, creative paragraph of at least four sentences where you use the word correctly in context, alongside a homophone used in a different sentence to demonstrate your mastery of the word's meaning.