

The Great Spelling Expedition

Learning objective: To identify and apply knowledge of spelling rules, including prefixes, suffixes, and common homophones, while demonstrating reading comprehension.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Ensure you check your spelling and use full sentences for your responses.

Pip the bookworm caterpillar was busy organising the library archives. 'Spelling is like a secret code,' Pip explained to his friends. 'If you learn the patterns, you can unlock any word!' Pip pointed to a shelf where he kept tricky words that often cause confusion. He reminded everyone that adding a prefix like 'un-' or 'dis-' to the beginning of a root word can change its meaning entirely. Meanwhile, Kit the fox was helping with the digital catalogue. Kit insisted that accuracy was essential, especially when dealing with homophones—words that sound the same but have different spellings and meanings, like 'stationary' and 'stationery'. Pip showed them his favourite word, 'accommodation', noting how the double 'c' and double 'm' often trick even the best writers. 'Don't feel discouraged by a misspelling,' Pip cheered, munching on a leaf. 'Every mistake is just a chance to learn the structure of our language.' With Pip's encouragement, the group continued their task, turning the library into a place where words were not just stored, but truly understood and appreciated by all.

Word bank: etymology · homophone · suffix · prefix · misspelling · accuracy

1. According to the text, what two words are given as examples of homophones? (2 marks)

2. What does Pip suggest you should do if you make a misspelling? (2 marks)

3. Why might Kit the fox be particularly interested in the correct spelling of 'stationary' versus 'stationery'? (3 marks)

4. What does the author mean when they describe spelling as a 'secret code'? (3 marks)

5. Do you think Pip is an effective teacher? Explain your answer using evidence from the passage. (4 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the caterpillar sitting on a giant book in a library, surrounded by floating letters and words that he is helping to sort into alphabetical order.



Extension challenge: Choose three words that you find difficult to spell. Research their etymology (the origin of the word) and write a short paragraph explaining how understanding their history helps you remember how to spell them.