

# How to help at home - Y2 English

*There are lots of simple things you can do at home to support your child's English skills.*

1. Practising phonics with your child as much as possible – all your child's English skills are underpinned by their reading skills. Make sure you pronounce the sounds correctly.

[Phonics: How to pronounce pure sounds | Oxford Owl](#)

2. Read to your child as often as you can, or listen to books read aloud. This will increase your child's vocabulary and comprehension skills, particularly if you talk about the book. Get your child to follow a story you are reading with their eyes – this will help them to absorb grammar, punctuation and spelling rules without realising it.

3. Encourage your child to read as much as possible – seeing words in print really helps children to absorb correct spelling and grammar. Try to read their school reading book as well as other books they have chosen for themselves.

Occasionally, without slowing the story too much, point out words with suffixes (such as *-less*, *-ness*) or prefixes (such as *un-*).

4. Practice spellings. Play games with your child to help them learn their weekly spelling words. You could play hangman, make up silly sentences for your child to write, 'hide' the spelling words in a string of letters, play pairs using two word cards for each word, or make a set of bingo cards for the words.

5. Create writing opportunities, such as writing notes or lists. Make up stories orally together. Draw stories with captions. Get your child to write their own simple stories, such as cartoons, and information books.

6. Encourage your child to talk to you. Gently correct any grammar mistakes, and help them to extend what they say with conjunctions such as 'because'. Challenge them to use new vocabulary and to retell stories to you or tell you anecdotes about their life.

7. Use interesting vocabulary when talking to your child. Try to use precise nouns and descriptive adjectives.

8. Keep practising handwriting – create lots of opportunities to get those good habits in place. If helpful, provide your child with handwriting practice lines.