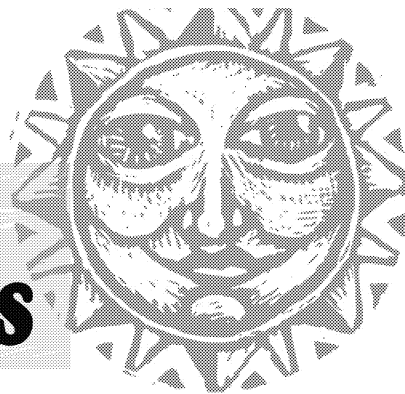


Daily *warm-ups*



CRITICAL THINKING

J. WESTON
WALCH
PUBLISHER
Portland, Maine



The *Daily Warm-Ups series* is a wonderful way to turn extra classroom minutes into valuable learning time. The 180 quick activities—one for each day of the school year—practice critical-thinking skills in English, Math, Social Studies, Science, and Life Skills. These daily activities may be used at the very beginning of class to get students into learning mode, near the end of class to make good educational use of that transitional time, in the middle of class to shift gears between lessons—or whenever else you have minutes that now go unused. In addition to providing students with structure and focus, they are a natural path to other classroom activities involving critical-thinking skills. As students build their critical-thinking skills, they will be better prepared for standardized tests, such as the PSAT and SAT.

Daily Warm-Ups are easy-to-use reproducibles—simply photocopy the day's activity and distribute it. Or make a transparency of the activity and project it on the board. You may want to use the activities for extra credit points or as a check on the critical-thinking skills that are built and acquired over time.

However you choose to use them, *Daily Warm-Ups* are a convenient and useful supplement to your regular lesson plans. Make every minute of your class time count!



English

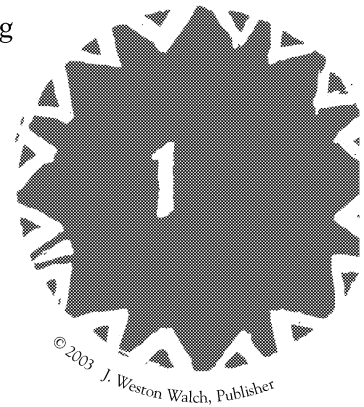
A Spelling Rule Worth Learning

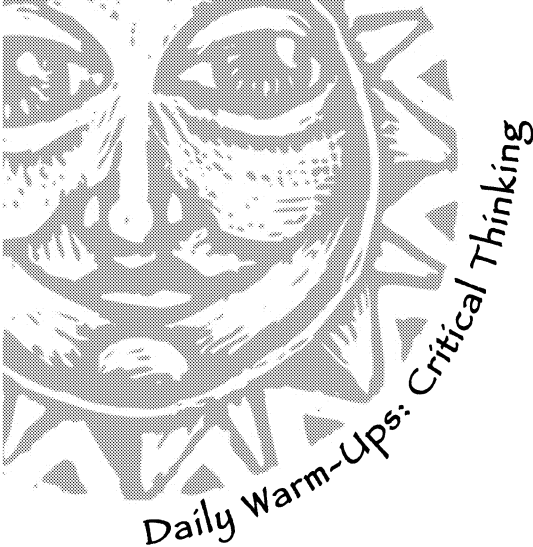
English spelling is often irregular. However, there is one spelling rule that covers a great many words and is almost 100 percent reliable.

The rule has to do with whether a word's stressed vowel is long or short. So, if you know how to pronounce a word, the rule will help you spell it correctly. All of the words in the list below follow the rule.

ban	boggle	hidden	pinning	tip
bane	bogus	hide	tap	tipping
bet	den	pin	tape	
better	dentist	pine	tapping	
bog	hid	pining		

What is the rule? Can you think of other words not on the list that follow the rule? Can you think of any English words that do not follow the rule?





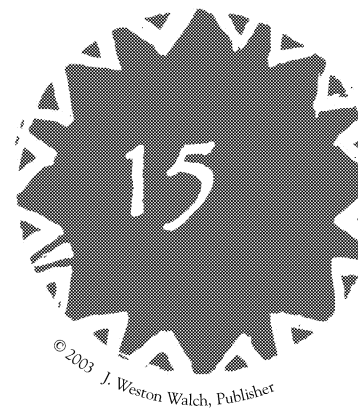
English

Places, Great and Small

No two words mean exactly the same thing, but words that have similar meanings are called synonyms.

Sort the words in the list below into groups of synonyms.

abode	huge	novel	trivial
big	hulking	petite	vast
dwelling	immense	piddling	voluminous
enormous	large	puny	whopping
fresh	little	recent	
great	major	residence	
heap	mound	sizable	
hill	mountain	small	
home	new	tiny	



Arriving at Moral Perfection

Daily Warm-Ups: Critical Thinking

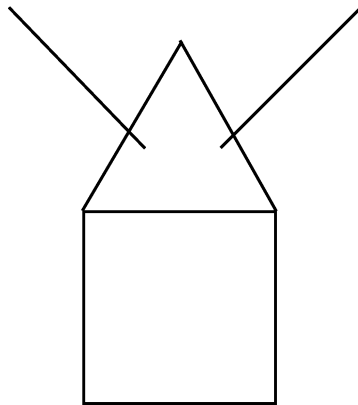
“I conceiv’d the bold and arduous project of arriving at moral perfection. I wish’d to live without committing any fault at any time; I would conquer all that either natural inclination, custom, or company might lead me into. As I knew, or thought I knew, what was right and wrong, I did not see why I might not always do the one and avoid the other. But I soon found I had undertaken a task of more difficulty than I had imagined. While my care was employ’d in guarding against one fault, I was often surprised by another; habit took the advantage of inattention; inclination was sometimes too strong for reason. I concluded, at length, that the mere speculative conviction that it was our interest to be completely virtuous, was not sufficient to prevent our slipping...”

—from *The Autobiography* by Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

Recall and write about a time in your life when you had the same kind of difficulty Franklin had.

Toothpick Geometry

Write a set of directions to tell a classmate how to make the geometric figure below using eight toothpicks. The classmate is not allowed to see the figure.



Life Skills

Wild Ride

You are out with a group of friends. A boy whom you don't know, but others in your group do, offers to give you all a lift in his car. You get in but soon notice that the driver is driving too fast, steering erratically, and sipping from a pint of whisky.

What, if anything, do you do?

