

**1. With your groups, define each word, correctly pronounce it, explain the meaning and / or usage, and offer an example sentence.**

**emphasize**

**established**

**consistent**

**imply**

**proper**

**consequence**

**clarify**

**2. Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the following words:**

emphasize	established	consistent	imply
proper	consequence	clarify	

- a. In my class, my teacher really [ ] clear pronunciation.
- b. She said that she was busy, but she [ ] that she didn't like him.
- c. Communication is easier with [ ] spelling.
- d. It is necessary to learn the [ ] rules of English.
- e. It is difficult to read this email as my cousin doesn't spell [ ].
- f. There will be [ ] if you miss class.
- g. I'm not sure I understand your opinion. Could you [ ] what you said?

### 3. Read the following article:

How important is spelling? One British **academic** thinks it may not be so important. He claims English teachers, scholars, and **linguists** have been wrong to **emphasize** the need for correct spelling. He has suggested that various spellings of words should be **acceptable** if everyone can easily and **effectively** communicate. Is there any **harm** if "occasion" were spelled with two s's? Or would the world end if the i and e were reversed in such words as "foreign," "weird," or "neighbour?"

Not everyone agrees, however. Even if English may have many **exceptions** to **established** rules, those rules still exist for a reason. Communication is easier with **consistent** spelling. Good spelling goes hand in hand with good writing, which **implies** that the reader shouldn't have to re-read sentences to understand the meaning of the writer. Most **academics** agree that spelling is just as important as good grammar.

With the popularity of text messaging, in which people ignore proper spelling and grammar for speed, it's become more important than ever to follow spelling rules. What would your **impression** be of an official letter from the bank or local government with words spelled strangely? Or how would you feel about a glossy business pamphlet which introduced you to a company's products and services, but with **numerous** spelling mistakes? Equally important, yet also more troublesome, would be a poorly-written business letter or email. What might the **consequences** be then?

It all comes down to communication. In face-to-face conversations, it proves

**relatively** easy to **clarify** or explain an idea. Visual clues and tone of voice also help. But written emails and letters require rules for quick **comprehension**. Despite one academic's wish, spelling can't be ignored.

**4. Decide if the following sentences are true or false, according to the article:**

- a. One British academic thinks that other scholars and linguists are wrong about spelling.
  - True
  - False
  
- b. Many academics are angry about how words are spelled now.
  - True
  - False
  
- c. Spelling words correctly is part of writing well.
  - True
  - False
  
- d. It's important to spell words correctly because it makes communication easier.
  - True
  - False
  
- e. According to the article, face-to-face communication needs rules, too.
  - True
  - False

**5. Answer the following comprehension questions:**

- a. What does the British academic think about spelling?
- b. What has been the general reaction from other academics, scholars, and linguists?
- c. According to the article, why is good spelling important?
- d. Why does the article ask several questions about official letters and pamphlets?
- e. What does the article say about face-to-face communication?

**6. In a group of 3-4, discuss the following follow-up questions:**

- a. What would you think if you received an email with many abbreviations and spelling mistakes? What about a letter?
- b. Some linguists say that mistakes in English are okay, as long as the other person can understand. Do you agree?
- c. How would you feel if your teacher didn't correct your spelling mistakes? How about mistakes with grammar?
- d. How would you feel if your teacher often spelled words incorrectly? How about if he or she had poor grammar?
- e. Why do you think there are grammar and spelling rules? Please explain.
- f. Should an international form of English follow American rules, British rules, or something different? Why?