



What Really Matters in Spelling: Research-Based Strategies and Activities (What Really Matters Series)

By Patricia M. Cunningham

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Based on the active and innovative approach of making words that teachers and their students have grown to love from Pat Cunningham, *What Really Matters in Spelling* presents teachers in grades kindergarten through eighth grade with a clear approach to what really matters in spelling. Pat reminds teachers how much spelling matters, how complex teaching spelling is, and how critical word walls and reading are to strengthening spelling skills. Her experience as a classroom teacher, researcher, scholar, and innovator gives readers a unique opportunity to learn from the best as Pat identifies the 100 most common words and patterns, and examines ways to develop sophisticated, independent spellers. Paired with Pat's book *What Really Matters in Vocabulary*, educators have the best tools to help every student become good spellers and communicators.

Written by the authors you know and trust, each of the books in the *What Really Matters* series offers a succinct presentation of what matters most when teaching different aspects of the reading process. With a thought-provoking, rich presentation, Pat Cunningham, Dick Allington, and others explore complex issues teachers of reading face in today's classrooms and bring each of the topics to life. These brief and inexpensive books are written in a lively narrative with clear organization, exceptional pedagogy, and special features. Their friendly design and compact size make the books accessible, convenient, and easy-to read.

What Teachers Are Saying...

"Cunningham explicitly outlines the necessary steps for introducing 100 key words per school year and offers engaging activities for classroom teachers to help all of their students become great spellers. This is exactly what classroom teachers are looking for: step-by-step spelling instruction that is meaningful and relevant to their students' needs."

- Shanalee Cannon, K-5 Literacy, Southern Nevada Regional Professional

Development Program, N. Las Vegas, NV

"As a classroom teacher I know first hand how students' spelling in written work seems to becoming increasingly problematic. Students often spell words phonetically which are not always spelled correctly. It seems as if students who continue to misspell these words in their writing do not move forward, as a matter of fact very little progress is made. I think with [Pat's] approach students will have a better grasp on the tricky word patterns and help them to make a connection to other word patterns rather than just spelling one word and then moving on to the next."

- Karen Berecsky, Second Grade Teacher, Mill Lake, Monroe, NJ



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Editorial Review

Review

"Cunningham explicitly outlines the necessary steps for introducing 100 key words per school year and offers engaging activities for classroom teachers to help all of their students become great spellers. This is exactly what classroom teachers are looking for: step-by-step spelling instruction that is meaningful and relevant to their students' needs."

- Shanalee Cannon, K-5 Literacy, Southern Nevada Regional Professional Development Program, North Las Vegas, NV

"The book was very interesting! I have already shared some of what I read with colleagues. I really like how the spelling is based on patterns and appreciate that the most common word patterns are broken down into lists (1st 100: 1st grade, next 100: grades 2-3, etc.). This is very helpful. The book makes a lot of sense!"

"Many spelling assessments concentrate on giving a list of words. In my classroom, I have given the "list" assessments, only to see students not writing words correctly in their daily writing. It is a wonderful idea to break these words down into 4 groups of 25. It's great that [Pat] included the paragraph assessment with bolded/italicized words and the key to what these words mean."

"I liked the point on page 62 about if your student can spell the first 100 words, they should really be able to spell over 600 based on those patterns. This is very interesting and useable information for a classroom teacher and would be great information to share with students learning to spell."

-Mary Schroepfer, McKinley Elementary, Owatonna, MN

"As a classroom teacher I know first hand how students' spelling in written work seems to becoming increasingly problematic. Students often spell words phonetically which are not always spelled correctly. It seems as if students who continue to misspell these words in their writing do not move forward, as a matter of fact very little progress is made. I think with [Pat's] approach students will have a better grasp on the tricky word patterns and help them to make a connection to other word patterns rather than just spelling one word and then moving on to the next."

"Yes, I would recommend this book for professional development as well because in speaking with many of the teachers it seems that students' writing has become a sore spot in the classroom. It seems that no matter how much writing you incorporate in your classroom, students are still misspelling common words that make their writing difficult to read. There is definite need for this program and if it proves to be successful I am sure the books will fly off the shelf."

- Karen Berecsky, Second Grade Teacher, Mill Lake, Monroe, NJ

From the Back Cover

Patricia Cunningham

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In their well-known and much welcomed thought-provoking style, Pat Cunningham, Dick Allington, and others bring you the best research-based instructional advice available. Each of the brief and inexpensive books in the **What Really Matters** series features what Pat and Dick know about one aspect of teaching and learning to read independently with understanding. To learn more about the series see the inside front cover.

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Patricia M. Cunningham is a Professor of Education at Wake Forest University. She has over 30 years of experience, taught in various elementary grades and remedial reading, and was a curriculum coordinator and director of reading. Pat is the author or coauthor of *What Really Matters in Vocabulary*, *What Really Matters in Writing*, *Classrooms That Work*, *Schools That Work*, *Phonics They Use*, and the **Making Words** series. Her major professional goal is promoting literacy for all children. Pat currently engages in staff development across the United States.

About the Author

Patricia Cunningham grew up in Rhode Island. For seven years, after graduating from The University of Rhode Island, she taught a variety of elementary grades in Florida and Indiana. She received her Ph. D in Reading Education from the University Of Georgia in 1974. After teaching at Ohio University and serving as Director of Reading for Alamance Co., North Carolina Schools, she came to Wake Forest University to

direct the Elementary Education program in 1978. Pat's particular interest has always been in finding alternative ways to teach children for whom learning to read is difficult. *Reading and Writing in Elementary Classrooms*, first published in 1978, is currently in its fourth edition. In 1991, She published *Phonics they Use: Words for Reading and Writing*, which is currently available in its fourth edition. Along with Richard Allington, She published *Classrooms that Work and Schools that Work*. Along with Dorothy Hall, she developed the Four Blocks Literacy framework, which is currently used as the balanced literacy framework in thousand of classrooms throughout the country. She and Dorothy Hall are co-directors of the Four Blocks Literacy Center, which is housed at Wake Forest University.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Chris Hernandez:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading routine give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book this improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of reserve you read, if you want have more knowledge just go with training books but if you want really feel happy read one using theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. Often the *What Really Matters in Spelling: Research-Based Strategies and Activities* (What Really Matters Series) is kind of guide which is giving the reader unforeseen experience.

Edward Baca:

This *What Really Matters in Spelling: Research-Based Strategies and Activities* (What Really Matters Series) is great book for you because the content that is full of information for you who also always deal with world and still have to make decision every minute. This particular book reveal it facts accurately using great coordinate word or we can point out no rambling sentences inside it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole data in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but difficult core information with splendid delivering sentences. Having *What Really Matters in Spelling: Research-Based Strategies and Activities* (What Really Matters Series) in your hand like finding the world in your arm, data in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world in ten or fifteen minute right but this guide already do that. So , this really is good reading book. Hello Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt that?

Byron Hiebert:

As we know that book is significant thing to add our knowledge for everything. By a guide we can know everything we wish. A book is a group of written, printed, illustrated or even blank sheet. Every year has been exactly added. This e-book *What Really Matters in Spelling: Research-Based Strategies and Activities* (What Really Matters Series) was filled in relation to science. Spend your time to add your knowledge about your science competence. Some people has diverse feel when they reading a book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can experience enjoy to read a reserve. In the modern era like right now, many ways to get book which you wanted.

Christopher Rangel:

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