

Spelling Ninja: Level Twenty One Words

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|-----------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| | | | |
| happen | happened | happening | |
| whisper | whispered | whispering | |
| certain | certainly | uncertain | |
| curtain | | | |
| obey | disobey | disobeyed | disobeying |
| whistle | whistled | whistling | |
| recent | recently | | |
| success | successful | successfully | unsuccessful |
| soldier | | | |
| suggest | suggested | suggesting | suggestion |
| century | centuries | | |
| million | billion | trillion | |
| breathe | breathed | breathing | |
| mountain | fountain | | |
| grammar | grammatical | ungrammatical | |
| beginning | | | |
| guard | guarded | guarding | guardian |
| answer | answering | answered | |
| opposite | | | |
| colour | colourful | colourfully | |

A few ideas that may help:

- 1) Use the spelling strategies tips explained in the “Guidance for Parents” pages.
- 2) Play games as explained in the “Games Ideas” page.
- 3) Try the following

certain and **curtain**: These two words are commonly confused. It is important to remember **c** followed by **i**, **y** or **e** makes a **sss** sound; **c** followed by any other letter makes a **kkk** sound. So **cer-**, where the **c** is followed by **e**, is soft **sss**; **cur-**, where **c** is followed by **u**, is hard **kkk**.

recent, **century**: Remember the soft **c** in these words.

success: See back to level 20, **accident**. **Success** has double **cc** because the first is hard, the second soft. **suc-cess**

obey: The **ey** makes an **a** sound, as in **they**. It might help to say
“**they obey!**”

whistle: In this word the **h** and **t** are silent, but for spelling, it might help to pronounce them. See **castle** in level 19 for **-stle**.

breathe: Be careful not to confuse breath and breathe.

soldier: Two little words, **old** and **die**, are hiding in **soldier**. It might help to remember that

“**old soldiers die**”

grammar: Use spelling speak for this, pronouncing the **ar** very clearly.
gramm-ar