

Spelling Words in Action

Why might people enjoy bonsai trees?

Tiny Trees

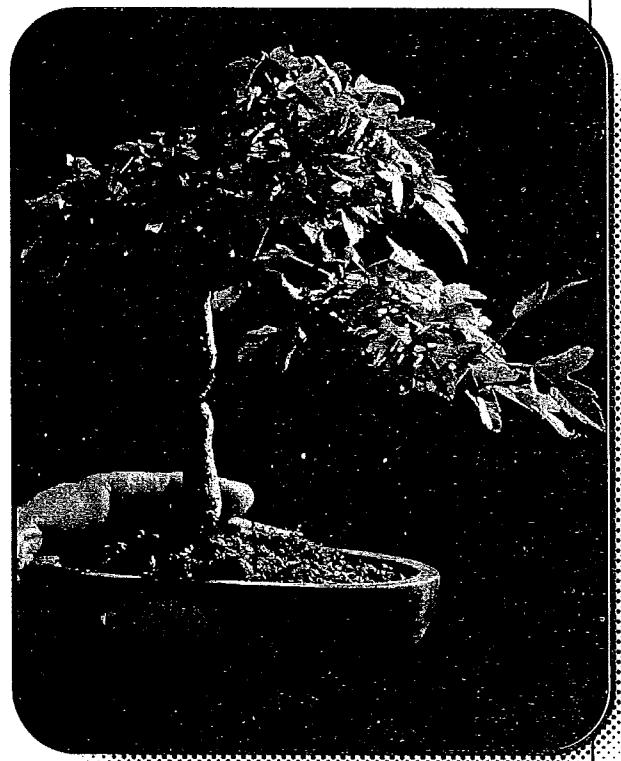
Growing bonsai trees is an **ancient** art that comes from Asia. The word “bonsai” means “tray planting.” Gardeners train their plants to look like miniature and very beautifully shaped trees.

The art of bonsai began in China over a thousand years ago. It spread to Japan about 800 years ago. More and more people have **seized** this beautiful and unusual form of gardening.

A picture of a bonsai tree on a plain background might be **perceived** to be as large as a giant oak. It is perfectly formed. Yet, a bonsai tree is usually no more than a few feet in **height**. A bonsai maple tree, for example, might reach three feet tall and **yields** very small leaves.

The life span of these tiny trees is **unbelievable**. One tree can live in a small pot for 200 years or more. Some are handed down in families from parent to child. Each generation takes its turn bending and pruning the branches to keep the tree from growing larger. It isn't surprising that growers are **fiercely** proud of their art.

If you're looking for a hobby to pursue **briefly**, growing these tiny trees is not for you. Keeping a bonsai plant looking its best takes time and energy. If you are interested in this long-term pastime, you'll be **relieved** to know that classes are available. You can **retrieve** information from the Internet or at your local library.



Look back at the boldfaced words. Notice the vowel sounds made by the letters ei and ie. How many different sounds do you hear?

Spelling Practice

TIP

The vowels ie and ei can be vowel pairs as well as vowel digraphs. Vowel pair ei can spell the long e sound (ceit). Vowel digraph ie can also spell the long e sound (diesel). Vowel digraph ei can spell the long a sound (veil). Here's a helpful rule:

I before **E** except after **C**
or when sounded like **A**
as in neighborly or sleigh.

There are exceptions to this rule,
as in weird and height.

LIST WORDS

1. *conceit*
2. *sleigh*
3. *height*
4. *veil*
5. *seized*
6. *yields*
7. *weird*
8. *mischief*
9. *neighborly*
10. *reindeer*
11. *fiercely*
12. *unbelievable*
13. *briefly*
14. *pierced*
15. *diesel*
16. *perceived*
17. *relieved*
18. *protein*
19. *ancient*
20. *retrieve*

Words with ei and ie

Write each list word under the correct heading.

ie as in thief

ei as in weigh

1. _____ 11. _____

2. _____ 12. _____

3. _____ 13. _____

4. _____ 14. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

ei after c

9. _____

10. _____

ie or ei—no rule

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

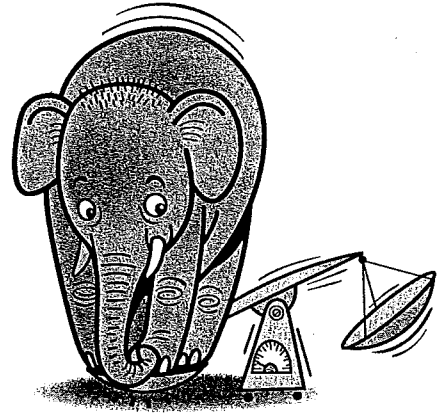
19. _____

20. _____

Comparing Words

Study the relationship between the first two underlined words or phrases. Then, write a **list word** that has the same relationship with the third underlined word or phrase.

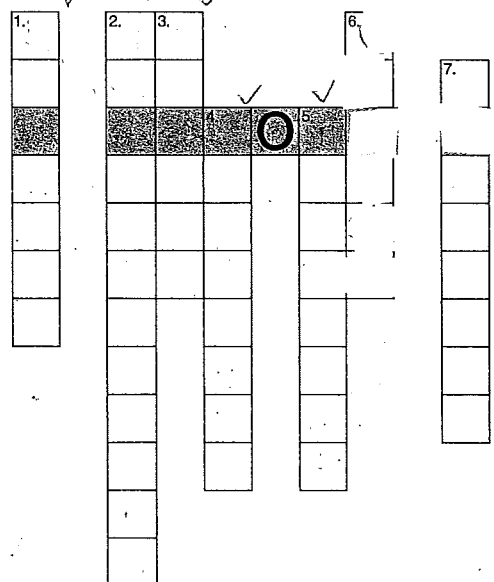
1. orange is to vitamin C as cheese is to _____ ✓
2. gave is to provided as took is to _____ ✓
3. water is to rowboat as snow is to _____ ✓
4. heavy is to weight as tall is to _____ ✓
5. new is to young as old is to _____ ✓
6. friend is to neighbor as friendly is to _____ ✓
7. knife is to sliced as arrow is to _____ ✓
8. generosity is to stinginess as modesty is to _____ ✓
9. happy is to content as strange is to _____ ✓
10. causing problems is to trouble as playing pranks is to _____ ✓
11. tusk is to elephant as antler is to _____ ✓
12. hear is to heard as perceive is to _____ ✓
13. furniture is to chair as covering is to _____ ✓



Puzzle

Fill in the puzzle by writing a **list word** to answer each definition clue. Then, read across the shaded boxes to find out how these **list words** are spelled.

1. for a short time
2. incredible
3. type of engine
4. wildly
5. fetch
6. gives way to
7. eased



Spelling and Writing



Proofreading

This myth has eleven mistakes. Use the proofreading marks to correct them. Then, write the misspelled **list words** correctly on the lines.

“Your pointy leaves are wierd,” said Oak Tree.

“That’s not very naighborley,” said Pine Tree.

Mine are ever so much more beautiful, said Oak Tree.

I’d be relived if you found another forest to live in.

North Wind did not like Oak Tree’s conseit. She blew feersely, causing all of Oak Tree’s leaves to fall. Oak Tree tried desperately to retrieve his leaves, but he couldn’t.

That is why oak trees lose their leaves every autumn.

Proofreading Marks



spelling mistake



add quotation marks



indent paragraph

1. _____ ✓
2. _____ ✓
3. _____ ✓
4. _____ ✓
5. _____ ✓
6. _____ ✓

Writing a Letter

You and your neighbors have received a notice that a very old and beautiful tree in your neighborhood is about to be cut down. Write a letter to the City Council to protest the action. Use any **list words** that you can. Remember to proofread your letter and fix any mistakes.

BONUS WORDS

mischievous

receipt

freight

debrief

masterpiece