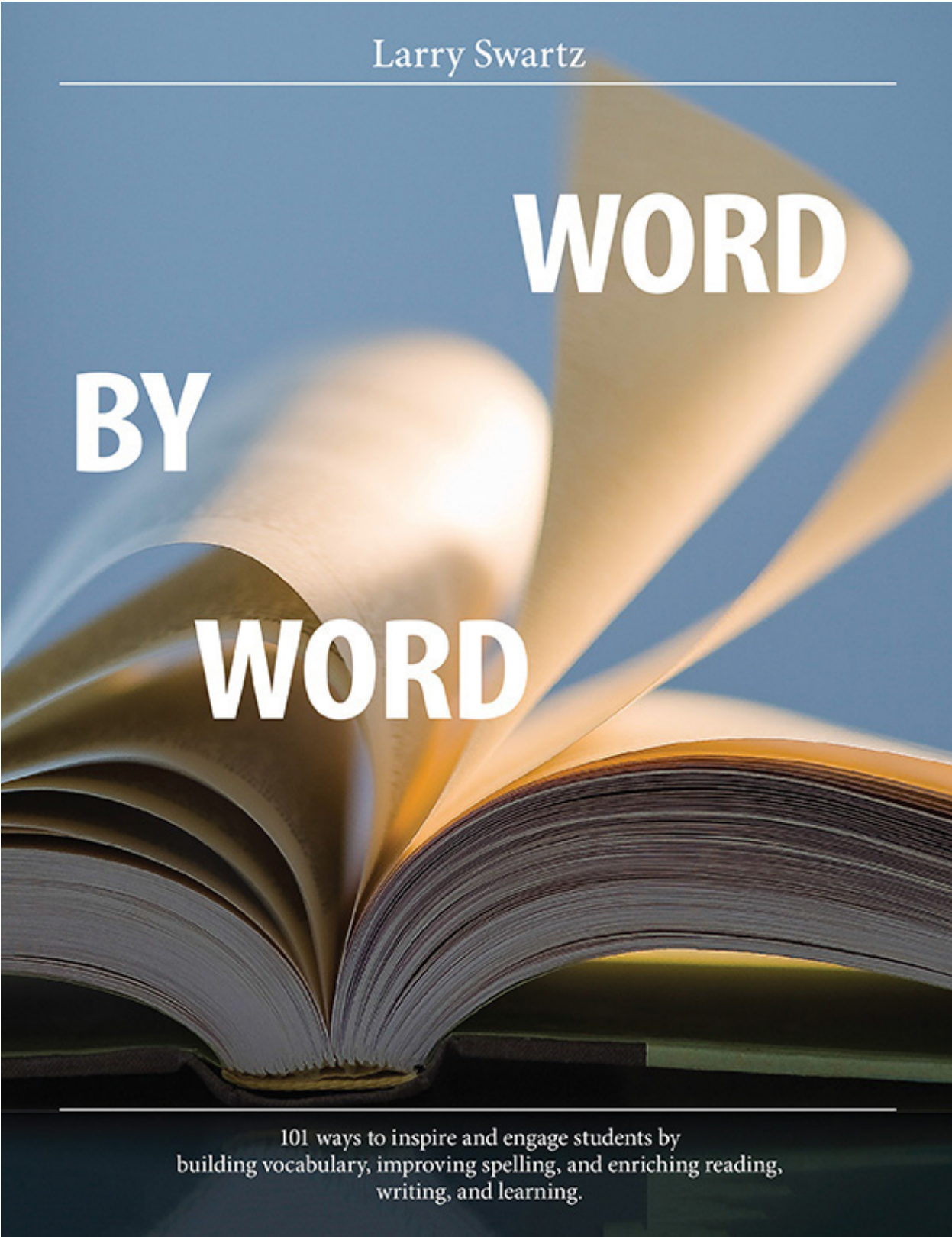


# A Month of Primary Word Puzzles

Larry Swartz

---



**BY**

**WORD**

**WORD**

---

101 ways to inspire and engage students by  
building vocabulary, improving spelling, and enriching reading,  
writing, and learning.

# A Month of Word Puzzles

## Twenty Primary Word Puzzles

Ten minutes can be set aside each day for one month for students to focus on spelling concepts and word patterns. Here is a framework of twenty suggestions for daily word puzzles for a month of twenty school days (not a calendar month). Including this event in the program gives attention to playing with words and provides students with a ritual routine for collecting and inspecting words. This event can be introduced on chart paper, a whiteboard, or an interactive whiteboard, and can take place when students enter the class in the morning, or after or before a recess or lunch period.

This routine, if presented consistently, can provide success for students for the following reasons:

- Each puzzle is designed to focus on a pattern or spelling concept.
- In many cases, there is more than one solution for the word puzzle.
- Many students enjoy the challenge of solving problems in a game-like way.
- The activities are rather short. Students are not challenged to study or memorize the words in any puzzle.

### Teaching Tips

- Review instructions carefully, using examples as suggested.
- Encourage students to work independently or with a partner to solve the word puzzles.
- It is important to review the spelling concept introduced with each puzzle, perhaps asking for further examples to reinforce the concept.
- The activity can be repeated at different times of the year (perhaps with a week of spelling puzzles or perhaps after an interval of a month) with individual students assigned to create the puzzle for their classmates.
- Puzzles can be modified by having students reduce the number of items that have been presented.

## Alphabet

Arrange these words in alphabetical order:

wind	rain
snow	sun
ice	blizzard
cloud	hurricane

*Or*

Arrange these vegetables in alphabetical order to help make an alphabet soup.

peas	turnips	zucchini
cucumbers	onions	beans
carrots	mushrooms	yams
squash	tomatoes	peppers

## Capitalization

Give a name to each of these pets:

dog, cat, hamster, rabbit, goldfish, parrot

*Or*

Write the answer to each of these questions.

Who is your friend?

Who is your favorite author?

Who is your favorite singer?

Who is your favorite story character?

What is your favorite book?

What is your favorite TV show?

What is your favorite movie?

## Vocabulary

What are these baby animals called? *Example:* A baby dog is called a puppy.

A baby cat is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

A baby cow is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

A baby pig is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

A baby kangaroo is called a \_\_\_\_\_.

## Plurals

What are the plural words of these animals? *Example:* chicken/chickens

tiger	whale
horse	zebra
rabbit	snake
lion	mouse

## Syllables

Arrange these words in the chart:

strawberry	raspberry	melon	pomegranate
watermelon	pineapple	lemon	coconut
apple	apricot	blackberry	banana
cherry			

2 syllables	3 syllables	4 syllables

## Vowels

Add the letter **e** to the end of these words to make new words. *Example:*

*car/care*

bar	kit	mad
far	bit	tap
fin	hid	fad
pin	rid	cap

Add the word **ant** before or after these letters to make a new word.

*Example: pl/plant, ony/Antony*

gi	import
eleph	ique
eater	conson
ler	brilli
inst	onym

## Plurals

Change these nouns ending in **y** into the plural form. *Example: key/keys;*

*baby/babies*

party	toy
cherry	monkey
candy	donkey
city	turkey
raspberry	journey

## Vowels

Fill in each of these sentences with an animal word that rhymes. *Example:*  
What will you do today? "I will hug," said the bug.

*What will you do today?*

"I will plow," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

"I will dig," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

"I will bat," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

"I will plant," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

"I will jog," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

"I will pull," said the \_\_\_\_\_.

## Double Consonants

Each of these food words is missing one letter. Can you spell the word correctly? *Example:* peper/**pepper**

chery

buter

cabage

meatbal

strawbery vanilla

buble gum

spagheti

**Bonus:** peperoni piza

cotage cheese

## Syllables

Bobby likes to play only things that are two syllables. Which of these 6 things does Bobby like to play?

hockey

basketball

soccer

tennis

piano

Monopoly

guitar

volleyball

drums

hopscotch

## Compound Words

Match each word in Column A with a word in Column B to write a compound word.

snow

butter

pine

tooth

ear

eye

flash

rain

sand

fly

light

brush

ring

box

coat

ball

man

apple

## Consonant Combinations

Rearrange these store signs to name things found in a clothing store.

*Example:* sracf/scarf

betl

soksc

sdres

gloevs

shose

jakcet

irtsh

eatersw

## Word Recognition

These words have been squeezed together. Separate the words to read messages from The Three Little Pigs. *Example:* Buildyourhousewithbricks/  
**Build your house with bricks.**

Getsomesticks.

Carrythestickswithcare.

Benicetoyourbrothers.

Bewareofthemeanwolf.

Hehuffedandhepuffedandheblewthehousedown.

## Double-o Vowel Combination

The letters *oo* are missing from the middle of these words. Can you spell the words correctly? *Example:* ck/cook

hk

ndles

fd

bts

ckie

ftball

balln

snze

mse

bkmark

## Adjectives ending in *y*

Add the letter *y* to these words to help the weatherman give his weather report. *Example:* rain/rainy

snow

blow

wind

mess

frost

chill

cloud

Bonus: ice

storm

sun

## **-ing Ending**

Add *ing* to these things Samantha can be seen doing on her vacation.

*Example: eat/eating*

play

fish

paint

read

sail

rest

cook

Bonus: run

swim

skip

## **Consonant Combinations**

How many words can you think of that begin with the *th* sound? Time limit: two minutes

## **Vowels**

Replace ONE vowel in each of these words to a different vowel to create a new word. *Example: ship/shop*

son

sing

chop

shirt

message

wander

taken

store

share

thank

taken

Bonus: boot

deer

chair

creak

## **Vowel/Consonant Combination**

The word *on* is missing from the beginning, middle, or end of these words. Write the correct word by including the word *on*.

*Example: pd/pond*

lg

py

sg

ir

up

gg

wder

tgue

d't

belg

wrg

stati



**Word by Word** celebrates the power of words to help children become literate, effective, and compelling communicators.

This comprehensive guide explores key strategies for making words the core of classroom instruction and engagement. Based on the premise that knowing and using words is central to successful learning, this remarkable book shows you ways to ignite student interest in

- developing strategies for meeting new words in their reading
- seeing the humor in wordplay
- participating in discussions of all kinds
- enhancing their writing
- enriching communication skills when using social media
- investigating meanings of new words, building knowledge and understanding
- recognizing and understanding connections in spelling patterns
- demonstrating what they know in quizzes and/or standardized assessments

**Word by Word** offers a framework that goes beyond weekly spelling tests and vocabulary busywork. This practical book shows you how to encourage and motivate students to become passionate about words and develop strategies to help them grow in all their language and learning skills.

Ideal for new and experienced teachers, **Word by Word** is committed to helping students develop innovative ways to explore and make meaning with words.



Lisa Juan

**Larry Swartz** has explored literature-based learning with students and teachers for forty years in North America, England, New Zealand, and China. As a classroom teacher, consultant, and instructor with OISE–University of Toronto, he has inspired colleagues and children alike to learn in new and exciting ways. Larry is a well-known course instructor, speaker, and workshop leader who has been involved in the creation of numerous books for teachers. Active in promoting the use of the best children’s books in classrooms, Larry earned the Reading for the Love of It “Heart Award of Recognition” and was honored as a reading champion by Scholastic Canada. [Larryswartz.ca](http://Larryswartz.ca) promotes active, joyful learning, including a monthly list of books that “Dr. Larry Recommends.”

ISBN: 978-1-55138-338-5

