

# The TTRS Program.

## Spelling and Reading Development through touch-typing

### Course Objectives

Are to promote learning through:-

1. building confidence through measurable success.
2. immediate self correction of errors and feedback of results.
3. a multisensory approach, seeing, hearing and touch-typing.
4. a planned programme of learning that is finely structured and computerised.

### For whom is this course designed?

1. TTRS is for anyone who has reading, spelling, or writing difficulties.
2. TTRS helps both ADULTS and CHILDREN.
3. TTRS is especially helpful for those who are DYSLEXIC or who have SPECIFIC LEARNING DIFFICULTIES.

### What does it do?

TTRS is designed to do several things at one time

1. It teaches the student to TOUCH-TYPE.
2. At the same time it teaches SPELLING and READING.
3. It does this using PHONICS
4. It encourages students to 'SPELL WITH THEIR FINGERS'

### How does Touch-type, Read and Spell work?

1. Each student works through the course at *their own pace*.
2. The student *sees* the word written very clearly on the screen.
3. The student *hears* the computer say the word correctly.
4. The student *types* the word they have seen and heard.
5. U.K. English spelling and speech is used throughout.

### Touch-type, Read and Spell is multisensory.

1. SEEING  
A series of levels, each of 30 modules, is clearly presented to the student as words and sentences.
2. HEARING,  
The student hears the words as they are about to type them.  
Each course has at least 6 dictation modules based on the preceding exercises.  
These are typed by the student and monitored by the computer.  
Students are encouraged to SAY the words as they type them
3. TOUCHING  
This is the kinaesthetic approach, a sensation of movement is perceived by the student: "*Talking with my fingers*".  
"*When I want to spell a word, I just think where my fingers would go.*"

Touch-type, Read and Spell has a phonetic structure.

1. The words used are presented in phonetic groups.
2. The order in which the words are presented has been carefully considered.
3. The order is loosely based on the progression found in Alpha to Omega.
4. The words on the screen are in large clear type.
5. This helps to focus the student's attention on the structure and spelling of the word.

The Read and Remember option

1. This is a version of Look, Cover, Spell, Check and Write
2. The student types the word, and it then *disappears* and the student has to *type it from memory*.
3. The student learns how to type and spell groups of words in the LEARNING MODULES.
4. They are then tested on the accuracy of their learning in the fifth or DICTATION MODULES.
5. The student can 'internalise' the spellings using the Read and Remember option.

Practice, Repetition and Correction.

1. The course gives a great deal of practice without the tedium of writing.
2. Mistakes are shown instantly, and the pupil quickly puts them right.
3. This means that they see, and type, the correct spellings MANY MORE TIMES than they see or type the incorrect ones.
4. Some students report that their fingers come to 'know the spellings' as they think the word.

Touch-typing.

1. The program shows the student how to work from the 'home keys'
2. Each finger has its own keys to work on.
3. Each letter is always struck by the same finger.
4. Fingering can become automatic.
5. The student can learn to 'spell with their fingers.'
6. The course teaches the student how to touch-type in a logical and realistic way, because it uses real words in a phonetically structured order.
7. The increasing use of word-processors and lap-tops makes touch-typing an essential skill.
8. For many students it can make the real quality of their work visible for the first time, with a consequent marked improvement in their confidence.

**Touch-type, Read & Spell is designed to:-**

- teach reading, writing and spelling through touch-typing
- it uses REAL words, in groups with the same spelling patterns
- progress from simple to complex groups of words in a structured way
- increase awareness of how words sound and are spelled
- encourage 'spelling with the fingers'

**Touch-type, Read & Spell also:-**

- has been designed to help those who find reading, writing or spelling difficult.
- enables students to learn to write quickly and accurately using a keyboard.
- has its content order loosely based on the well known book 'Alpha to Omega' (with the author's permission.)
- has been used successfully by many students.

## Comments made by parents and students who have been on the course.

### Touch-Typing

" Nine months after beginning a course of one hour per week, my son Ian has fast and accurate keyboard skills. The repetition of spelling patterns used in the program is certainly helping to improve his spelling. The course does all that it aims to do. It is helping Ian to succeed " *Avril Newman, University of Greenwich Centre*

### Sequencing and Memory

" To my surprise the biggest area of improvement has been with Nicky's sequencing and memory which on a scale last year was a very poor 7 and this year has shot up to a fairly average 11. I can only put this down to the repetition of using the course and to make this sort of improvement in 1 year I find quite amazing." *Sharon Whiting, University of Greenwich Centre*

### Writing and Spelling

" His history of progress on the computer shows the improvements he has made. Both his spelling and writing are better but most importantly his confidence is now greater. He has an interest in using computers and the course is easy to use and to follow." *Stuart Cass, father of Peter, Bexley LEA*

### Confidence

" My daughter Victoria is 10 years old and first started the course in 1993. The repetition of the course has helped her sound out words. She has enjoyed the course and it has given her more confidence in her capabilities." *Mrs Smith, University of Greenwich Centre*

### Motivation and Enthusiasm

" All of the children aim to achieve 95% or more on each module. All children are encouraged to carry on with the next module even if they are disappointed with their score as they will always improve on it. The enthusiasm of the children is overwhelming." *Assistant Teacher, Gray's Farm Primary School*

### Use of a word-processor.

" Learning to touch type has been a very big help to me, as I do nearly all my English and Sociology homework on my computer and have been achieving very high grades compared with last year. For example I was mainly getting 3-4 as attainment target marks for English last year but this year for my course work I have had a 7-8 and all the rest of the marks have been grade 7. In Sociology I am getting mainly grade A and I am enjoying it very much." *Alex Martin, Home Learning Student.*