*Teacher Perspective:*

# Spelling Support in CO:Writer Universal

Students can use CO:Writer Universal's word prediction and word banks to improve spelling and boost their writing confidence. Spelling can be difficult for many students, including those with disabilities. Students can experience frustration with spelling and may give up on a writing task.

Elementary students spend time working on spelling lists and have class time devoted to direct instruction for spelling. However in upper elementary grades and beyond, the focus shifts to vocabulary instruction, and students don't have the opportunities for direct instruction to improve spelling skills.

Students may be poor decoders of words, struggle with determining letter-sound relationships, or try to spell new words phonetically. Many poor spellers are not strong independent readers and have limited experience with text and a variety of words.

The word prediction feature in CO:Writer Universal gives struggling spellers possible words they might be trying to write. It allows students to see the spelling of the word and select the word they feel is correct.

The text-to-speech feature allows students to hear the word to check if it is correct. This process of seeing, hearing, and selecting words gives students multiple means for learning the correct spelling of a word.

The word lists used to generate the word banks for word prediction in CO:Writer Universal can be tailored to specific topics to ensure that students are getting words that match what they are looking for. Many words that students spell phonetically may not be caught by spellcheck, but with CO:Writer's specialized lists, a student can readily see the word they want to write.

# Co:Writer Universal Quick Start

**What is Co:Writer Universal?**
Co:Writer Universal is a set of writing tools that aides with phonetic spelling, grammar, and topic-related vocabulary. The tools can be used with many different computing devices in a consistent and reliable way.

**Why do I need to login to use Co:Writer Universal?**
Co:Writer Universal will automatically save display settings and topic vocabulary anywhere you use Co:Writer to write. In addition, if you are writing within an iOS device or Google Chrome Applications, Co:Writer will save your document automatically.

**Options and Settings:**
Co:Writer allows you adjust speech and display options. It will also allow you to supply topic specific vocabulary as well as personal words like family and pet names.

**Speech Options:**
Co:Writer has tools available to adjust voice, volume, pitch and rate for text to speech. These settings are device specific.

**Word Prediction Options:**
You can now adjust font, background and foreground colors, size and number of guesses for prediction box. Co:Writer also allows you to adjust the font size, background and foreground colors for writing environments within the iOS and Google Apps.

**Co:Writer writing environment::**
When writing with Co:Writer within the Chrome or iOS applications, your writings will be saved automatically, and can be accessed from any Co:Writer enabled device with an internet connection.

**Home Page:**

🗑 Click on trash to select writings to be removed.

↪ Click on export to export to places like Dropbox or Google Drive.

New Click on the word "New" to create a new writing. Otherwise, click on a writing you have already started to continue to write.

**Writing Page:**

🏠 Home is used to return to the home page.

🔊 Speak selected text related to cursor placement.

📚 Specify Vocabulary Dictionaries and Topics.

🖼 Insert pictures with the camera, from your computer, or from personal online picture sites.

⚙ Adjust prediction and speech settings.

↪ Export a selected document to places like Dropbox and Google. Use Export to Print or Copy too.

💭 Turn on/off prediction window.

*A* Document formatting options.

⊕ Create a new document with the same dictionary settings.

Technology Summary