

18 traps that catch children out

Spelling, times tables, number, SPaG and verbal reasoning: the specific mistakes children actually make, with a one-line fix for each. Print what you need.

Spelling · KS1

Times tables · KS2

Spelling · Upper KS2

SPaG · Upper KS2

Number · Upper KS2

Verbal reasoning · 11+

How to use it. One sheet is about ten minutes. Let them attempt it before you show them the fix — the mistake is the useful part, and a child who has made it once remembers the correction far better than one who was told.

The answers are on the last page, with the fix for each.

AGES 6-8 · KS1

Spellings that trip children up

There is a smaller word hiding in each one

SPELLING 1 OF 3

chare

chiar

chair

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

.....

SPELLING 2 OF 3

clud

cloud

clowd

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

.....

SPELLING 3 OF 3

friend

freind

frend

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

.....

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

AGES 8-11 · KS2

Times tables that trip children up

One trick that works on every table

TIMES TABLE 1 OF 3

7×8

54

48

56

Circle your answer:

.....

TIMES TABLE 2 OF 3

6×7

48

42

36

Circle your answer:

.....

TIMES TABLE 3 OF 3

8×9

72

63

81

Circle your answer:

.....

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

AGES 9-11 · UPPER KS2

Spellings that trip children up

And the trick that fixes each one

SPELLING 1 OF 3

necessary

necesity

necessary

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

SPELLING 2 OF 3

garantee

guarantee

gaurantee

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

SPELLING 3 OF 3

foreign

foriegn

foreignn

Circle the correct spelling, then write it out:

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

AGES 9-11 · UPPER KS2

SPaG traps that catch children out

And the one-line fix for each

TRAP 1 OF 3

The dog wagged ____ tail.

it's

its

Circle your answer:

.....

TRAP 2 OF 3

____ going to be late.

You're

Your

Circle your answer:

.....

TRAP 3 OF 3

I would ____ told you.

of

have

Circle your answer:

.....

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

AGES 9-11 · UPPER KS2

Number traps that catch children out

And the fix for each one

TRAP 1 OF 3

Bigger: $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{1}{5}$? $\frac{1}{5}$ $\frac{1}{2}$

Circle your answer:

TRAP 2 OF 3

2, 6, 18, ?

30

54

24

Circle your answer:

TRAP 3 OF 3

XCIX = ?

99

109

111

Circle your answer:

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

AGES 9-11 · 11+

Reasoning traps that catch children out

Nobody teaches these at school

TRAP 1 OF 3

Glove is to hand as shoe is to ?

sock

lace

foot

Circle your answer:

.....

TRAP 2 OF 3

Hidden word: The chef ate quickly.

CHEF

FATE

FEAT

Circle your answer:

.....

TRAP 3 OF 3

If FROG is GSPH, what is BIRD?

CJSE

AHQC

CJSD

Circle your answer:

.....

Only one option in each row is right. The wrong ones are the answers children most often give — they are here on purpose, because spotting why a wrong answer looks right is most of the lesson.

Answers, and the fix for each

Every answer here is checked against its source data before this sheet is printed.

QUESTION	ANSWER	THE FIX
Spellings that trip children up · Ages 6-8 · KS1		
chare / chiar / chair	chair	You sit on a chair with your hair
clud / cloud / clowd	cloud	A cloud says it out loud
friend / freind / frend	friend	A friend stays to the end
Times tables that trip children up · Ages 8-11 · KS2		
7×8	56	$7 \times 4 = 28$, then double it → 56
6×7	42	$6 \times 6 = 36$, then add one more 6 → 42
8×9	72	$8 \times 10 = 80$, then take one 8 off → 72
Spellings that trip children up · Ages 9-11 · Upper KS2		
neccessary / necesary / necessary	necessary	One collar, two sleeves → 1 c, 2 s
garantee / guarantee / gaurantee	guarantee	It starts like GUARD → g-u-a
foreign / foriegn / foreighn	foreign	There's a reign in fo-reign
SPaG traps that catch children out · Ages 9-11 · Upper KS2		
The dog wagged ___ tail.	its	Try it is. Doesn't fit → its
___ going to be late.	You're	Try you are. It fits → You're
I would ___ told you.	have	Never of. would've = would have
Number traps that catch children out · Ages 9-11 · Upper KS2		
Bigger: $1/2$ or $1/5$?	$1/2$	5 pieces are smaller than 2 → $1/2$
2, 6, 18, ?	54	Each one is $3 \times$ the one before → $18 \times 3 = 54$
XCIX = ?	99	XC is $100 - 10 = 90$, IX is $9 \rightarrow 99$
Reasoning traps that catch children out · Ages 9-11 · 11+		
Glove is to hand as shoe is to ?	foot	A glove goes on a hand, so a shoe goes on a foot. A sock is worn there too, but it is not the body part.
Hidden word: The chef ate quickly.	FATE	It has to run across the gap: chef ate → FATE
If FROG is GSPH, what is BIRD?	CJSE	Every letter moves one forward: B→C, I→J, R→S, D→E → CJSE

Where these come from. These are real questions from The Revision Wizard — five subjects from KS1 to 11+. If your child found these useful, the app has rather a lot more of them, and it adapts to what they get wrong.

14 days free at therevisionwizard.com — no card needed. New subscribers only. From £4.99 a month after the trial. Full terms at therevisionwizard.com.