

# Visual learners



We each take in information in many ways: through our eyes, our ears, our touch, our sense of smell and even taste. Most of us, however, have a dominant channel that is our preferred learning mode. If your child has a very strong visual channel, this can be exploited when they are learning something new.

## Ideas for visual learners

- Present material in a distinctive visual way using colour, shape, size, even glitter!

Eg a sight word they always find tricky such as 'because' encourage your child to create a visual aid using a different colour for each chunk of a word

be c au se

Stick the visual aid somewhere where it will be seen regularly and encourage your child to look at it carefully before closing their eyes and recalling the image in their mind's eye (see below).

- Use visualisation techniques  
eg to learn an awkward spelling pattern such as 'igh'

Get your child to create a colourful visual of the pattern igh and to look at it carefully. Then ask your child to close their eyes and envisage a blank television screen. Ask them to imagine they are turning the TV on and a picture of the spelling pattern is appearing on the screen. Ask them to read the pattern out to you, still with their eyes closed.

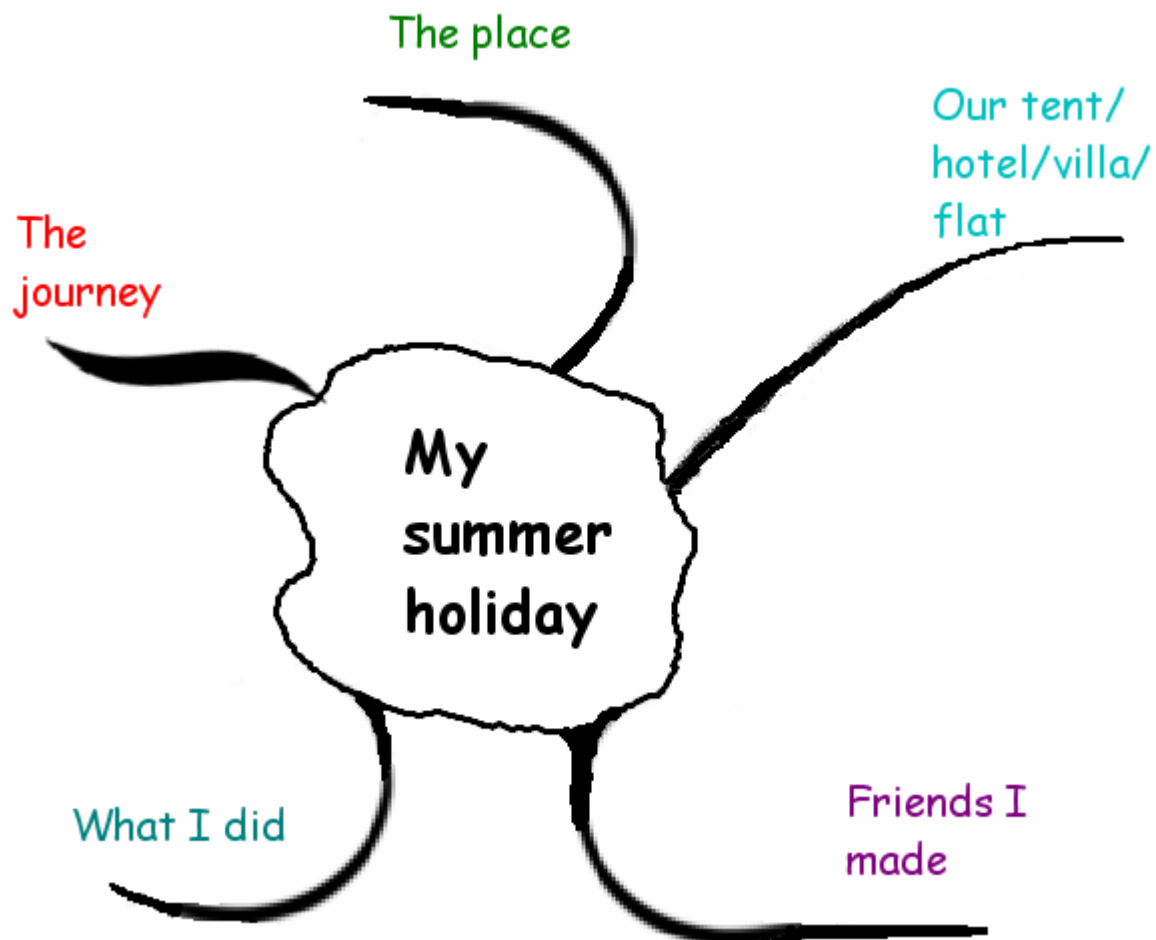
This visualisation technique can be used for whole words as well as spelling patterns within words.

- Use highlighters or underlining to analyse text

eg when reading text visual learners can be encouraged to pick out words that share a particular spelling pattern such as the 'ar' in scarf and part with highlighter or coloured underlining (as long as it is not a school or library book!). At the end of the passage then can then read each highlighted/underlined word and hear the shared sound as they read it.

- Mind maps

As pupils progress at school they will be asked to produce pieces of work that stem from their own thoughts and research. It can be very hard for some children to organise their own thoughts. Many visual learners respond well to the use of mind maps. These are visual diagrams of thoughts that do not need the thoughts to be generated in order. You start with a central phrase that gives the theme and draw branches coming from this phrase that link to aspects of the main theme. These can be added as they are identified. Then the child can think about each aspect at a time and draw on smaller branches that relate to it. See example:



Visual learners may like to use cartoons, pictures and other visuals to illustrate some of their thoughts. Mind maps are especially helpful in secondary school when used to help with revision as the visuals make a pupil's notes much more memorable to visual learners.