

Spelling Perception

You might wish to do this exercise when your students return from a holiday to wake them up and get their brains in gear. Explain that you will spell a group of words and you want them to tell you what they spell. You should get a lot of hands and you can call on a student for each of the first four words.

M A C d o n a l d

M A C g r e g o r

M A C m i l l a n

M A C n e a l

“You are doing very well. Let’s do the last one together”

M A C h i n e r y

Normally you will receive a shouted answer of MacHinery. Say nothing but go to the board and write “machinery”.

When the students see the trick you have pulled on them, ask, “Why do you think you did not know how to pronounce ‘machinery’?” After they finish their reasons, tell them that this exercise was to remind them that we often see and hear what we expect to see and hear and not reality. “Stay alert!”