

The Power Of One

In this sort, the students will explore two of the spellings for the sound of /er/. These two spellings are *er* and *ir*. This is an area where we must memorize the spelling as there is no rule that controls the choice we make.

To begin the lesson talk about what kind of a person Mrs. Gutierrez is. Discuss her characteristics. Then write the word **person** on the board. Talk about the spelling of the /er/ sound. Give students the following sort and provide them with many opportunities for spelling these words to each other.

er	ir
person	dirty
merchant	sirloin
kernel	thirsty
merger	twirler
nervous	virtue
jersey	circuit
gerbil	circle
herbal	firmly
thermos	confirm
hermit	whirlpool

Colorful Words!

Have students write their words on black paper using a gel pen. Tell them to leave a space where the letter combinations *er* and *ir* should be. They can then trade papers with another student and use a different color gel pen to add the combination letters that will spell the word correctly.