How to Learn a Word

The quickest way to learn words that are "new to you" calls for the same degree of attention achieved by dolphins when they learn a new trick. Perhaps you are not aware that dolphins' brains weigh seventeen grams less than human brains. These mammals are able to focus all of their attention on the task to be learned and master it in two or three repetitions. By the same token, if you "rivet" all your attention on a word, three repetitions with a review within twenty-four hours should suffice.

I. Write the word, making absolutely certain that it is spelled correctly, copied from your text. Note: It is twenty-five times more difficult to relearn a word, if it is learned wrong the first time. Therefore, do not reinforce incorrect spelling; learn it right the first time!

II. It is essential that you learn to pronounce the word.

III. Once you have written the word correctly, you are ready for the following steps.

   A. **SAY** the word.
   B. **COVER** the word with your hand.
   C. **WRITE** the word (say it again, as you write it).
   D. **CHECK** with your original word to see if you are correct.

   If you are correct, repeat the above procedure three times. If you are incorrect, start all over, breaking down the word again.

IV. To learn the meaning, print the words you are learning on vocabulary cards and carry them with you for frequent review. In order to assure learning, review the words you have learned within 24 hours. Review again toward the end of the week. Test yourself several times during the week in which primary learning is taking place.

V. Tape-record the words. Use them in phrases and sentences. Play them back to yourself at least three times a week.