The “No Excuse” Fifty

Taken from the National Council of English Yearbook for Secondary Education.

1. accept  26. omit
2. across  27. peculiar
3. all right  28. perhaps
4. always  29. pleasant
5. among  30. Principal (of a school)
6. beginning  31. probably
7. believe  32. quiet (a quiet motor)
8. business  33. realize
9. coming  34. really
10. criticize  35. receive
11. description  36. separate
12. disappear  37. similar
13. disappoint  38. surprise
14. doesn’t  39. than (more than Mary)
15. finally  40. their (in their house)
16. forty  41. therefore
17. hoping  42. truly
18. immediately  43. too (too hot / too cold)
19. its (in its nest)  44. until
20. library  45. usually
21. literature  46. weather (rainy weather)
22. losing  47. Wednesday
23. minute  48. who’s (who is)
24. necessary  49. women (several women)
25. occurred  50. writing

How To Spell: The Five-Step Method

Know the meaning of the word. If not sure, look it up.

I. Look carefully at the word as a whole and pronounce each syllable. Look at the letters.

II. Close your eyes and recall how the word looks. See the word as a whole. See the letters.

III. Look at the word again to check your memory.

IV. Write the word from memory and then check your spelling.

V. Repeat the writing and checking twice. If at any point you misspell the word, go back to step one and begin again. You might circle, enlarge or underline the part(s) of the word which gives you trouble: sep(er)ate, privil(age), calend(er).