Mastering Irregular Words: Train Your Brain to Notice

Irregular words are the ones that don't play by the rules. But you can train your brain to spot them using pattern recognition and memory tricks.
This lesson teaches you how to notice strange spellings, sort confusing word endings into simple categories, and use your natural instincts to remember tricky words more easily.

# 🔍 What Are Irregular Words?

Irregular words often have unexpected spellings—extra letters, odd endings, or unique patterns. The key to remembering them is to NOTICE them. When something looks strange, it sticks in your memory more easily.

# 🧠 The Secret Weapon: Pattern Recognition

When you see a word like 'colonnade', and the double 'n' jumps out, that moment of awareness helps cement the correct spelling in your brain.

# 🧱 Build Memory Bridges with Categories

Instead of memorizing every word, group them by endings and patterns. For example:
- ize (common): organize, realize
- ise (only about 31): advertise, surprise
- yse (super rare): analyse, paralyse

When you run into:
- franchise → 'One of those rare -ise verbs!'
- paralyse → 'That’s one of the very few -yse words!'
You save brainpower for learning other things.

# 🧩 Memory Tip: Connect the Unknown to the Known

Spotting patterns like 'ea' instead of 'e' in words like 'head' and 'great' helps form memory shortcuts. You connect the strange spelling to something you already know.

# 🗣️ Sound It Out (But Smartly)

Saying a word like 'paralyse' slowly—par-a-lyse—helps you glue the letters in place. Clear pronunciation supports strong spelling.

# ✅ Practice: Identify the Pattern!

Instructions: Write each word below, then note what kind of irregularity or pattern it fits into.
Example: analyse → Ends in rare -yse pattern

1. analyse

2. colonnade

3. surprise

4. great

5. head

6. franchise