ICANSPELL LESSON
4/13

The ICANSPELL WORDS on this page contain the consonant team **ph,** as in the word you might use when you smell something awful—phooey! Sometimes **ph** is found at the beginning of a word, as in Philip and photo. Sometimes it is found in the middle of a word, as in orphan and phosphate. And sometimes it is found at or near the end of a word, as in telegraph. In most words containing **ph**, these letters say the sound of **f**. Phone sounds like fone, but we do not spell it that way!

Once in awhile the two letters **p** and **h** keep their own sounds even when they are together, as they are in shepherd. They do not say **f**. What in the world would a sheferd be? The word shepherd is broken into two syllables, shep + herd, and it means sheep herder. You need to say the first syllable as it sounds and then say the second syllable (though the **h** almost disappears), so you cannot combine the **p+h**. In words like this, you cannot say **ph** like **f** because the **p** belongs to a separate syllable from the **h**.

Draw a picture of a teeter-totter. On the left end of the teeter-totter print **ph** and on the right end print an **f**. Make sure the teeter-totter is level, because the **ph** = the **f**. Now study the first eleven words while keeping the picture of the teeter-totter in front of you. When you get to the **ph** part of each word, point to the **ph** on the teeter-totter and then slide your finger to the **f**. Remember that **ph** says **f**, but is spelled **ph**. In the last three words the **p** and **h** are in separate syllables. To illustrate this, draw a knife cutting between the **p** and the **h** of each one. That's where the syllable break is, so **ph** cannot say **f**. To prove that the **p** and **h** in the first eleven words cannot be broken into separate syllables, try saying them as if they were!

ICANSPELL WORDS

1. geography

2. phonics

3. phone

4. dolphin

5. telephone

6. orphanage

7. apostrophe

8. nephew

9. paragraphs

10. graph

11. autograph

12. haphazard

13. loophole

14. shepherds

ICANSPELL TEST

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

6._____

7._____

8._____

9._____

10._____

11._____

12._____

13._____

14._____