Spelling Volleyball

**Introduction:** By the fifth grade, the usual ways to practice spelling words have become somewhat boring to students. During this activity, students will get a chance to bat around some balloons as they spell words correctly. Fun will be had by all!

**Grade Level and Subject:** Fifth Grade Spelling and P.E.

**TEKS:** Spelling 17A, 17B  
P.E. 1C, 1K, 2C, 3A, 7A

**Materials:** 12–15 balloons, chalk

**Resource:** *The Ultimate Playground & Recess Game Book* by Guy Bailey. ISBN: 0-9669727-2-4

**Activity:** This lesson can be a part of any spelling unit as it gives the children a chance to practice spelling the words on a spelling list.

Before the activity, the teacher will need to go to the concrete portion of the playground or to the gym. He or she should randomly draw approximately 5–7 lines (the number of lines depends on the number of groups that will be created), each about 5 feet long. The lines should be placed far apart from one another, as they will be the “net” between two teams of students during this activity. Also, the teacher (or someone with strong lungs) should blow up between 12–15 balloons to be used during game play.

The teacher will divide the class into teams of two students each. The class will move to the gym or playground where the chalk “nets” are drawn. A team should position itself on one side of a drawn chalk line, while another team should position itself on the opposite side of the chalk line. Each chalk line (or “net”) will end up with a team on each side of it, making a total of two teams (four students) per line. The teacher has the option of placing certain teams together at his or her discretion, or the students on the teams can place themselves in the game area. When all teams are in place, the teacher will hand a balloon to one of the four students at the “net.”

The teacher will call out a spelling word from the current spelling list or a review word from a previous list. At the count of 3, students will start hitting the balloon back and forth across the line while spelling the word called out by the teacher. For example, suppose the spelling word called out by the teacher is “separate.” At the count of 3, the student with the balloon in his or her hands will hit the balloon across the “net” to a member of the opposing team while all students on that “court” (all four students) call out the letter “s.” The student who received the balloon will hit it back to the opposing team, and all of the students on that “court” will call out “e.” Play will continue in this manner until the word has been spelled by the students. Any questions or doubts about how the word is spelled will be handled by the teacher. Once the word has been spelled at each “court,” the teacher will call out another word and play will continue as described above. The teacher can have the students continue this activity until all of the words have been spelled, or he or she can stop the activity at any time.

**Evaluation:** The teacher will listen for any student who needs help with spelling the words, and assistance will be given to any student needing it. Also, the teacher will monitor game play to ensure that all students get a chance to hit the balloon to the opposing team.