

# Spelling Matters!

12 CEUs!

A two-day\* seminar with LEX Author Gina Cooke, MA

Presented by the **Academic Language Therapy Association® (ALTA)**

**Dates:** Friday-Saturday, June 14-15, 2013 **Registration:** 8:30am **Seminar:** 9:00am to 4:00pm

\*Choose a Friday-only or Friday-Saturday seminar!

**Location:** Grace Church of Powell ★ 7600 Liberty Road ★ Powell, OH

Reading gets all the credit. In name and in practice, legislators and educators stress **reading**: *Reading First, Read by Grade Three, The National Reading Panel* — even Ohio's new dyslexia legislation targets “reading instruction,” “reading intervention services,” and “reading assistance programs” (HB96§1), but only mentions spelling once. But it's **spelling** that is the most conspicuous literacy problem associated with dyslexia, as well as a significant difficulty for even proficient readers. For most any learner, reading is a stronger skill set than spelling, and even as reading improves, spelling often lags behind.

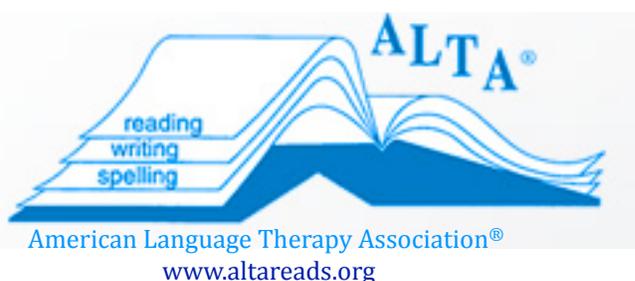
**Spelling Matters!** Current research has linked structured, linguistically-informed spelling instruction to improved scientific inquiry (Bowers & Cooke 2012), vocabulary gains (Bowers & Kirby 2009), increased comprehension skills (Mehta et al 2005), reading growth (Weiser 2009), and writing ability (Moats et al 2006).

**Spelling Matters!** Culturally, spelling is often treated as a shorthand for intelligence or a good education. Internet posts, political blogs, popular movies, novels, and Internet memes frequently reference spelling as an indicator of the soundness of one's intellect or argument. Why are people judged based on their spelling?

**Spelling Matters!** Technology has always had an impact on our writing system, and today is no exception. Digital technologies like spellcheckers, texting, and social media are all contributing to real linguistic change right before our eyes. Lamenting these changes won't stop them, and it won't help students to succeed in navigating the multiple literate worlds in which they operate.

**Spelling Matters!** English orthography is a highly ordered, rule-based system that can be studied in a structured, sensible way. The job of the spelling system is to represent **sense and meaning**. Studying spelling means far more than just memorizing and quizzing — it means discovering and investigating *human thought made visible as text*.

**Gina Cooke** is a linguist in education, a PhD Candidate, author of LEX, and a certified Orton-Gillingham trainer with the Children's Dyslexia Centers. For more information, contact [altaohiochapter@gmail.com](mailto:altaohiochapter@gmail.com) or [ginarama.lex@gmail.com](mailto:ginarama.lex@gmail.com).



Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about English orthography with a true expert, Gina Cooke. As a linguist in education, Gina strives to bring logically sound, linguistically accurate information and strategies to English language teachers of all stripes. As a certified trainer with the Children's Dyslexia Centers for more than a decade, Gina has trained hundreds of teachers and supervised the instruction of thousands of children. Currently pursuing a PhD in English Studies at Illinois State University, Gina studies orthography with linguists and educators on six continents. She is a popular speaker at state and national conferences, and her educational materials and TED-Ed spelling videos are in use in classrooms and clinics around the world. Gina has taught students about written and oral language from preschool through graduate school, and has a long-range view of literacy development. Her funny, dynamic presentation style is a good match for the compelling facts of orthography. This seminar will leave you inspired by English and better equipped to study and teach it.

### Spelling Matters! participants will

- ◆ question traditional views of English spelling, including cultural and pedagogical perspectives
- ◆ learn to assess spelling *knowledge* and *understanding*, not just spelling *correctness* and *memorization*
- ◆ discover the visible structures of the English writing system
- ◆ practice investigating the historical forces behind Modern English spellings
- ◆ understand phonology better and more accurately
- ◆ explore both print and online resources for ongoing learning and consultation
- ◆ acquire tools and strategies to implement the next day
- ◆ take vigorous and robust spelling knowledge and strategies back to their classrooms
- ◆ be captivated by the *why* of spelling as well as the *how*

*Handouts included. Additional materials will be available for purchase.*

Fax, mail, or email your registration form by 5/20/13 to:

**Gina Cooke (LEX)**, 516 Grimm Road, Eureka, IL 61530  
(760) 454-3639 (fax) or [ginarama.me.com](http://ginarama.me.com)

*Registration will be confirmed via email.*

### Spelling Matters!

Friday only Registration Fee: \$100.00     Friday-Saturday Registration Fee: \$150.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

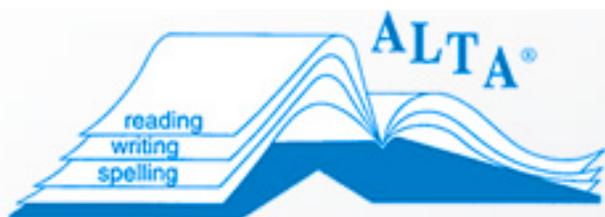
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_

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Check (payable to LEX)     Purchase Order Attached # \_\_\_\_\_     Credit Card (Visa, MC)

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